

# A Comparison of EMS Patients Diagnosed with COVID-19 Before and After Reopening in the United States of America

Authors

Antonio R. Fernandez, PhD, NRP; Remle P. Crowe, PhD, NREMT; Scott Bourn, PhD, RN, FACHE; J. Brent Myers, MD, MPH, FACEP, FAEMS  
 ESO, Austin, TX, USA.



## INTRODUCTION

- Demographic shifts in COVID-19 diagnosed patients following the easing of stay-at-home orders and the opening of economies have been reported.
- Characteristics of patients with COVID-19 encountered by EMS have not been thoroughly explored.

### OBJECTIVE

- Compare EMS encounter and demographic characteristics of patients diagnosed with COVID-19 before and after reopening.

## METHODS

### DESIGN

- Retrospective Observational Study

### POPULATION & DATA SOURCE

- All 9-1-1 patients, from the national ESO Data Collaborative (Austin, TX), who had a hospital ICD-10 diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Patient demographics were compared during two time periods.
- For the analysis, March 15, 2020 to April 30, 2020 represented before reopening while May 1, 2020 to June 15, 2020 was considered after reopening.

### OUTCOMES & MEASURES

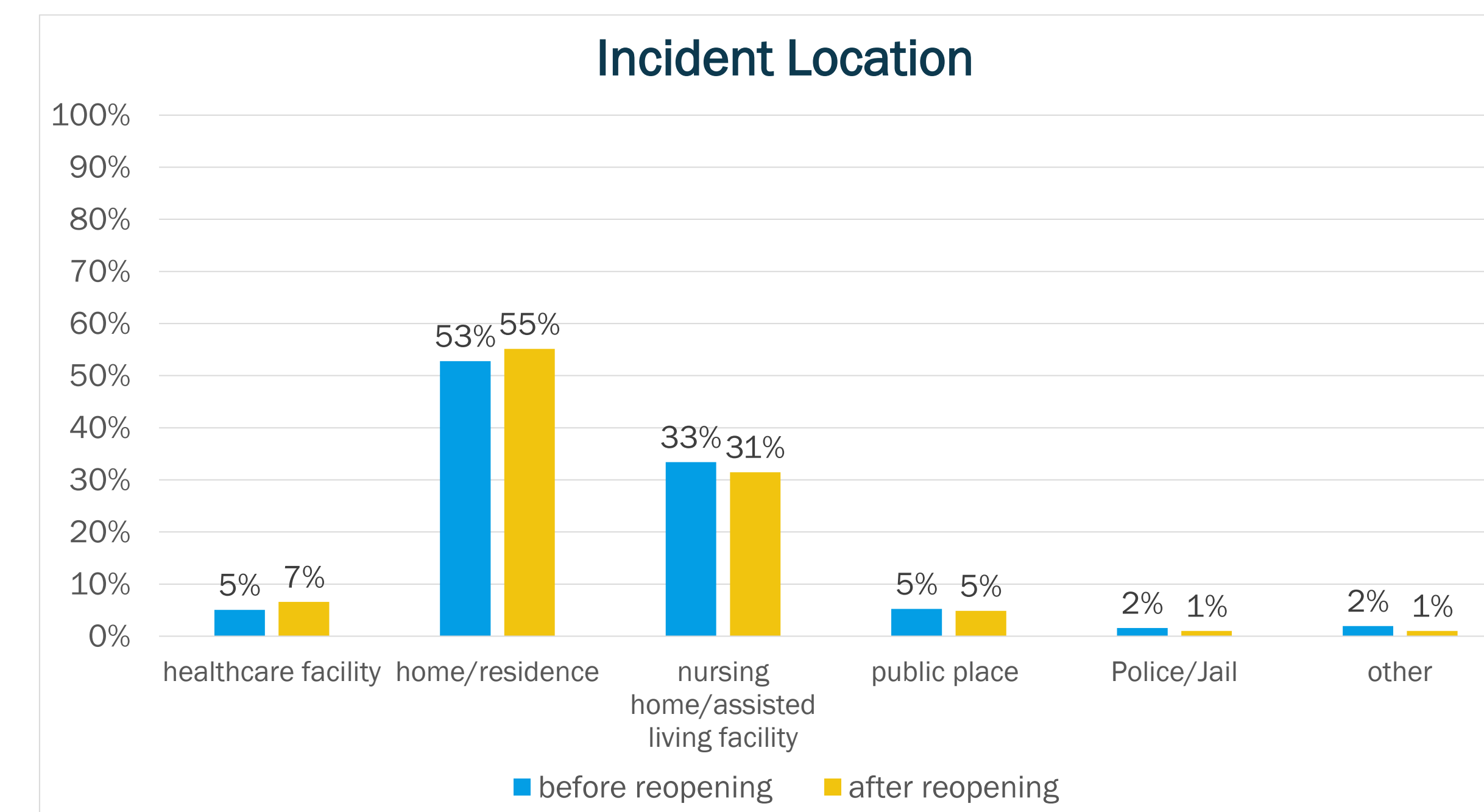
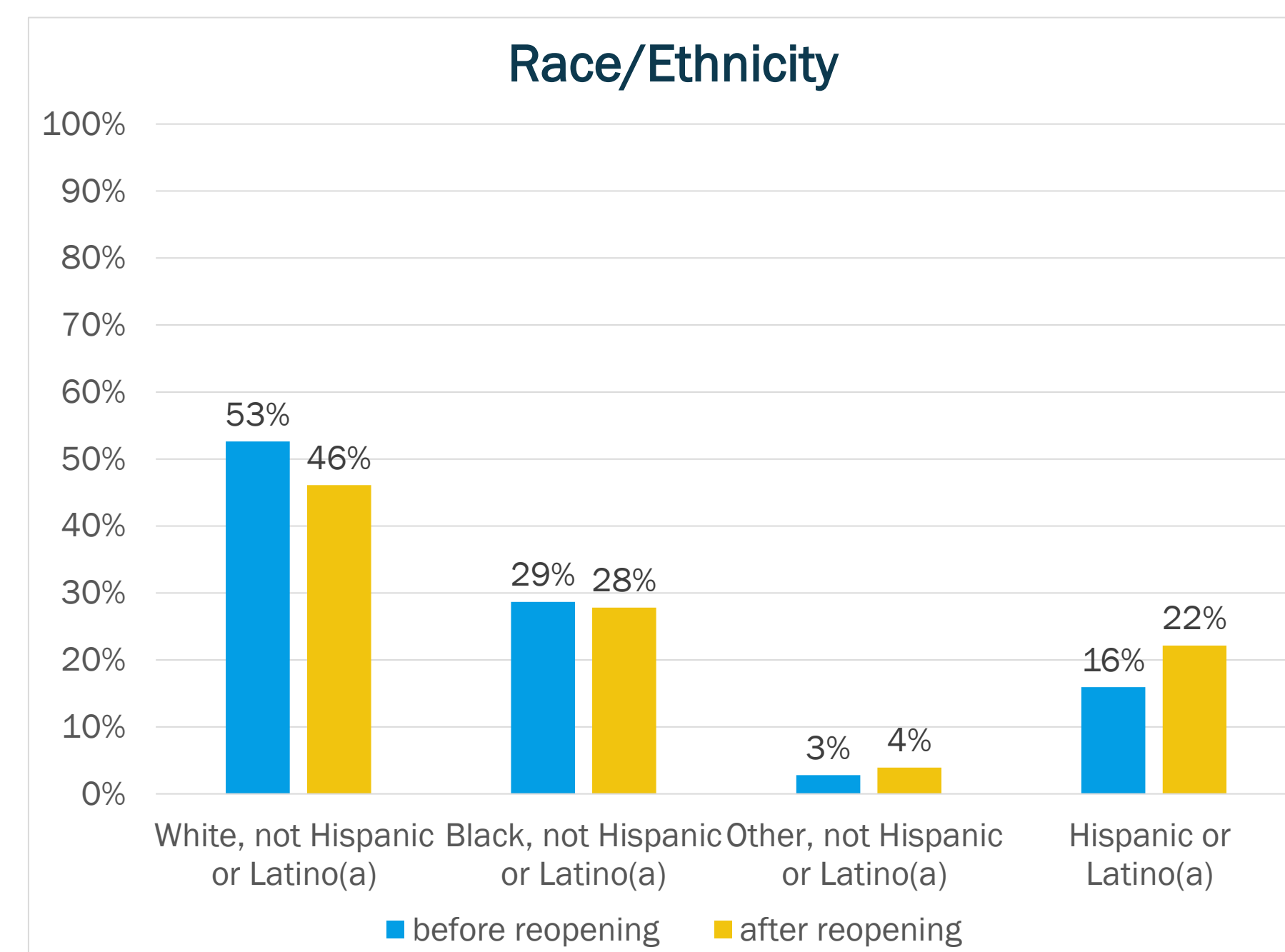
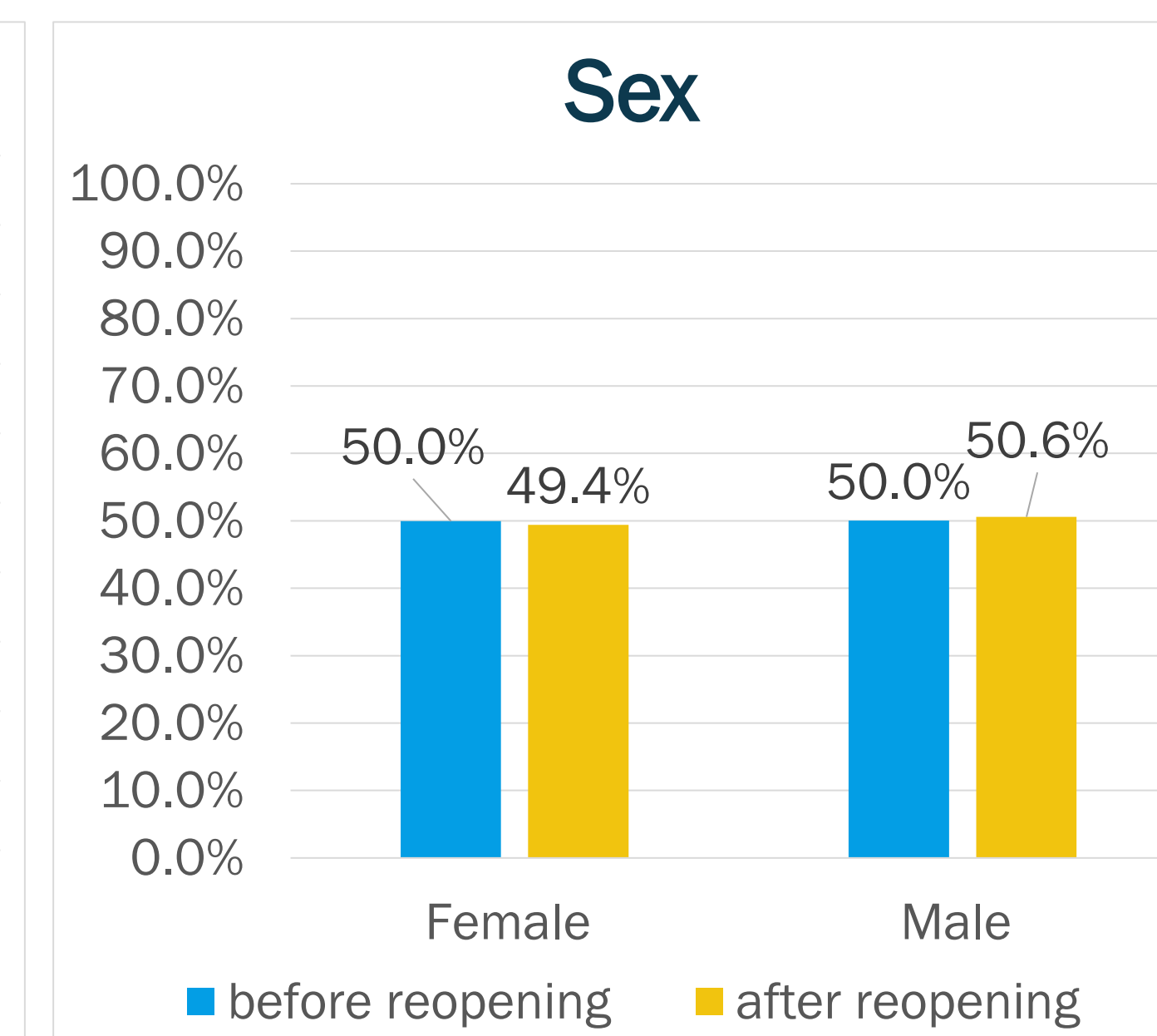
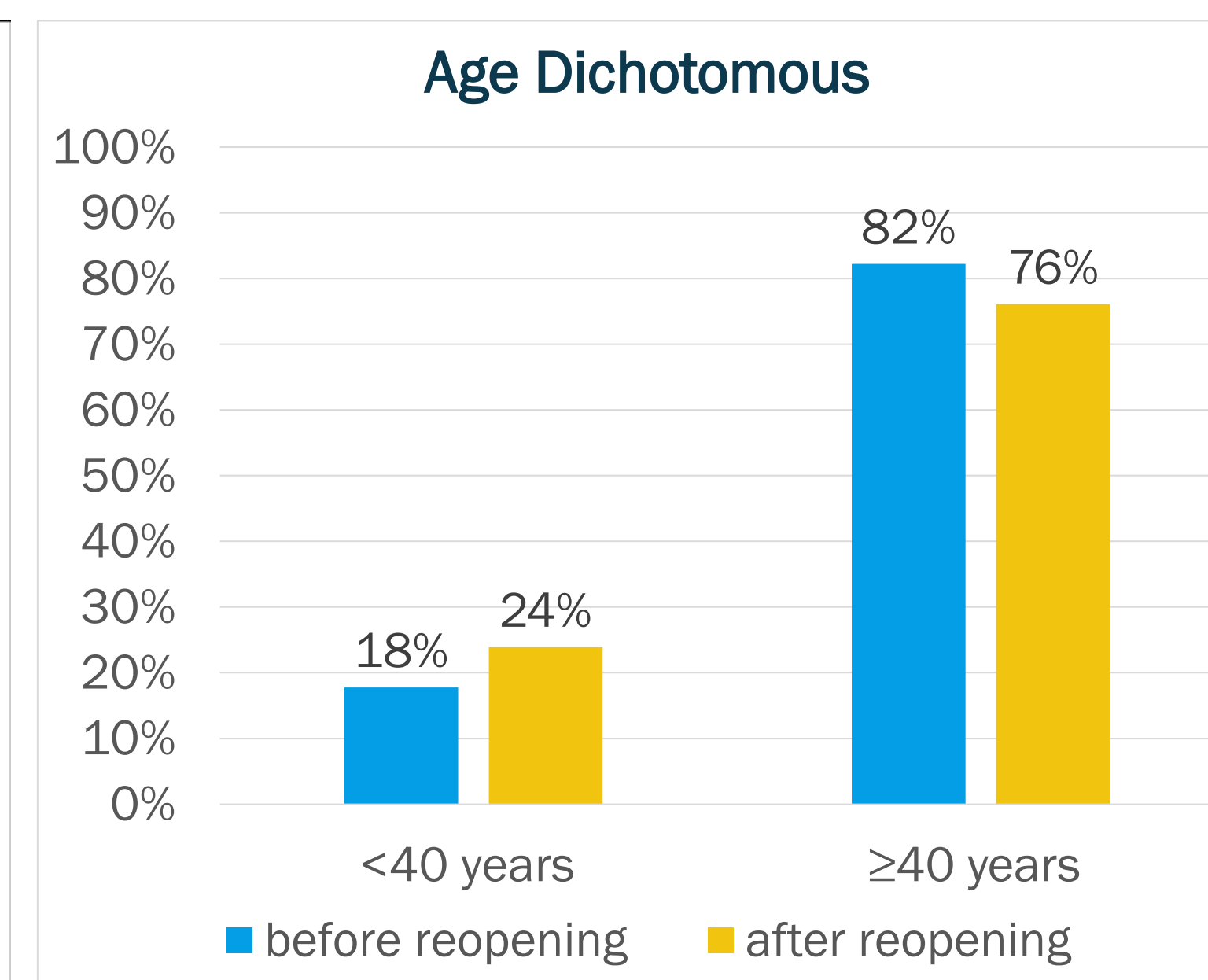
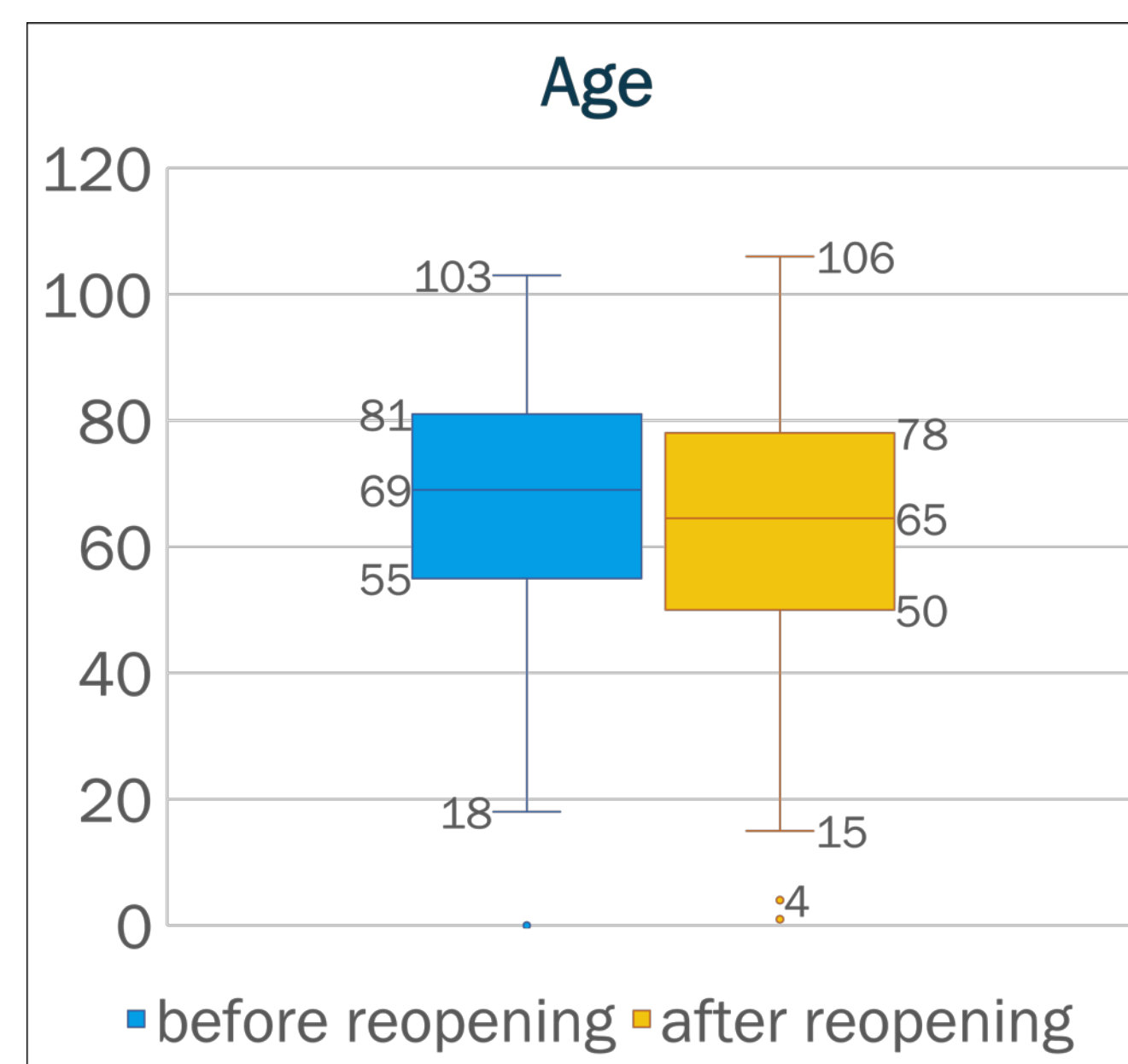
- Patient demographics including age, race, and sex were examined. Age was examined as both a continuous variable and dichotomized (<40/≥40).
- Incident location type was also examined.

### ANALYSIS

- Chi-Square and Wilcoxon Rank Sum Tests were performed.

## RESULTS

- There were 1,844 COVID-19 diagnosed 9-1-1 patients before reopening and 1,765 after reopening.



## CONCLUSIONS

- EMS patients diagnosed with COVID-19 were younger after the easing of stay-at-home orders.
- There were more patients reported to be Hispanic/Latino(a) and less reported to be White, not Hispanic or Latino(a).
- Slightly more patients transported from home/residence and healthcare facilities. Slightly less from nursing homes or assisted living facilities.