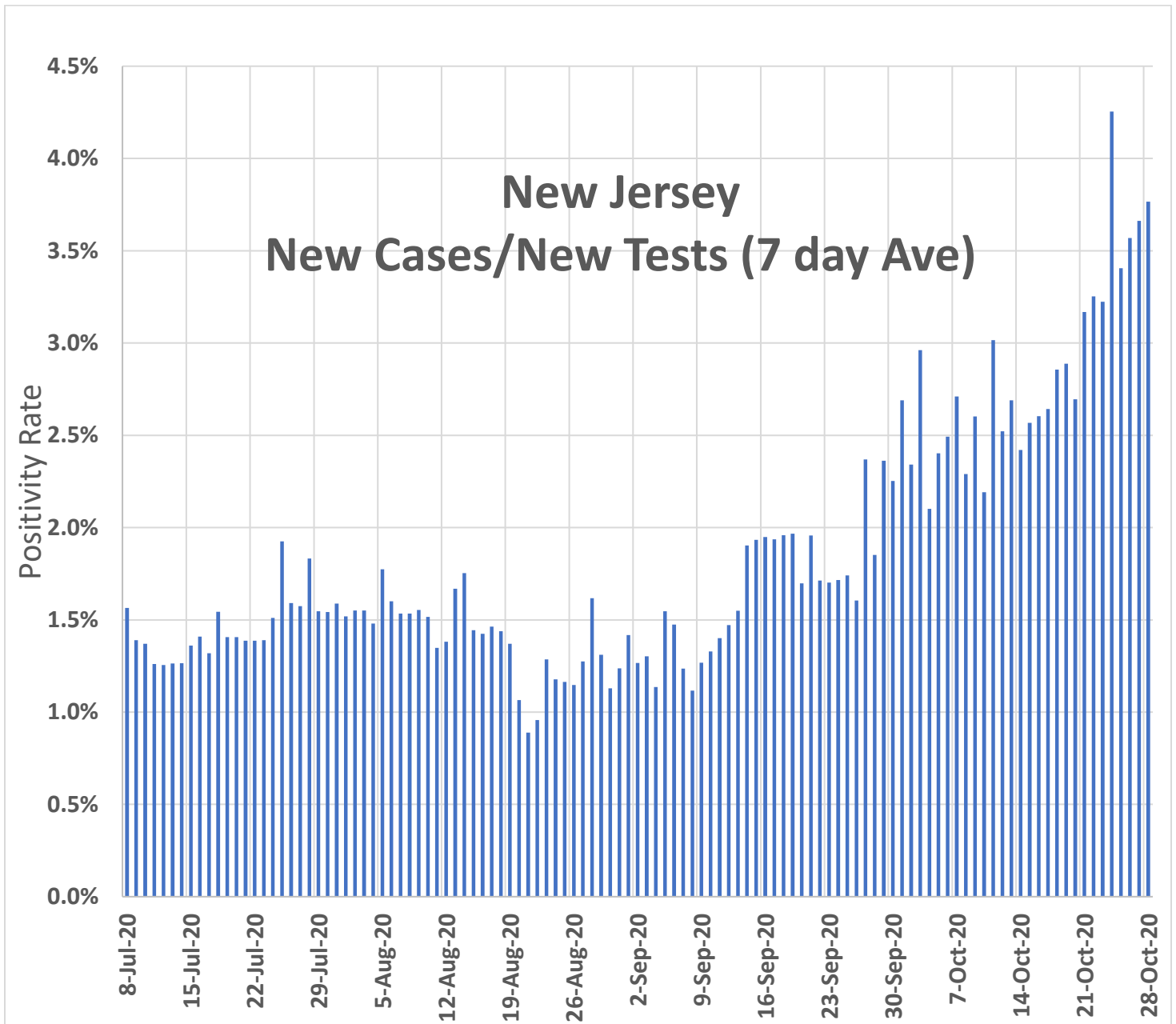


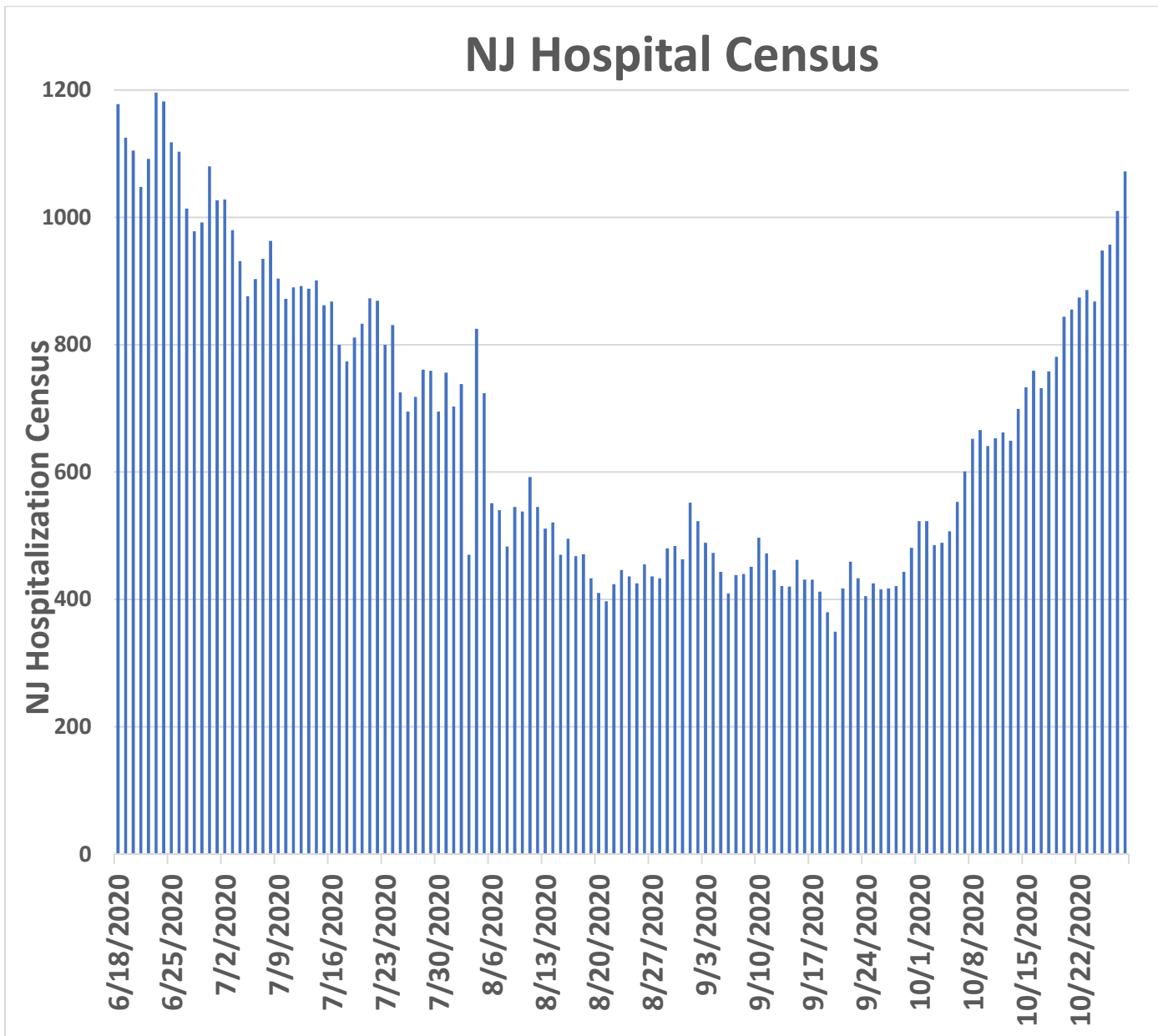
Infections are Increasing 10/29/2020.

I've noticed claims that the increase in the number of cases in NJ is due to increased testing. Indeed, increased testing would increase the number of positive tests. Increased testing, however, cannot account for the magnitude of the increase in the number of positive tests.

For instance, if there was no increase in total infections then one would not expect the positivity rate (New Cases/New Tests) to increase. Unfortunately, the positivity rate has increased from a post peak low of 0.9% on August 21st to 3.8% on October 28th. A fourfold increase. Somerset County is at 3.1%. Peak infection rate in was 50% but at that time only symptomatic cases were tested.



If there was no increase in total infections, then one would not expect hospitalizations to increase from a post peak low of 349 on September 14th to 1072 on October 28th. A threefold increase. (Hospitalizations lag infections.) The peak was 8293 on April 14th.



Cases are increasing. You hate it. I hate it. Unfortunately, it's real.

Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Keep your distance. Get tested. If sick stay home. If positive cooperate with contact tracing. These are the tools we have now. They can work. We can beat this if we work together. Please!

Sources

<https://covidtracking.com/data/state/new-jersey>

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_dashboard.shtml