

# Hibbs Brief

Hibbs Institute for Business & Economic Research

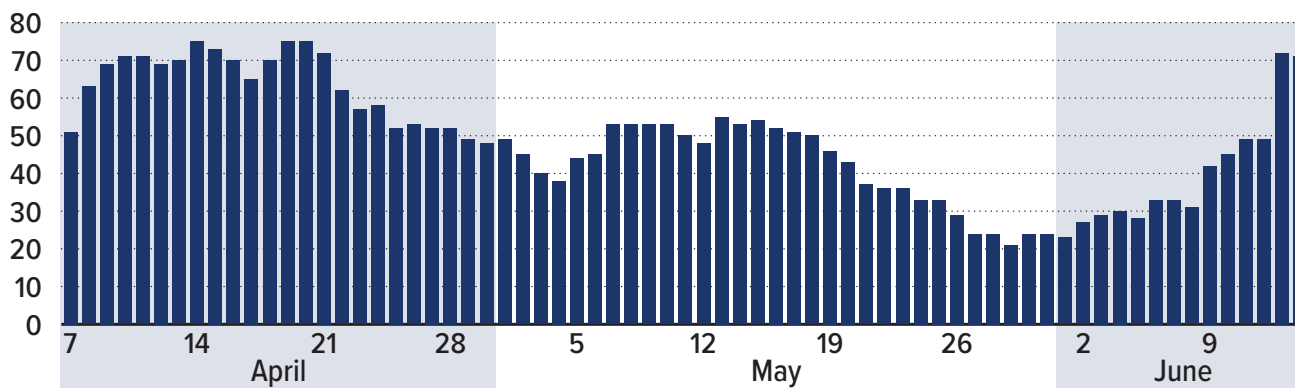
## COVID-19 Cases in Tyler MSA, East Texas and Overall Texas

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In this issue of the *Hibbs Brief*, the continued impacts of COVID-19 on Texas and East Texas counties are discussed. While the coronavirus pandemic surpasses 116,000 deaths in the U.S.,<sup>1</sup> the overall state of Texas in general and Tyler MSA,<sup>2</sup> in particular, have experienced a second wave of COVID-19 cases in May and June.

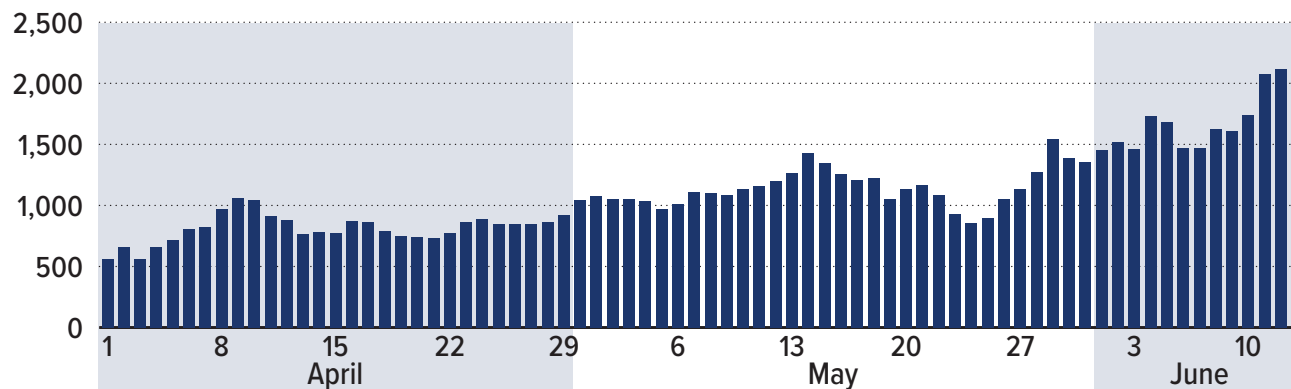
Tyler successfully managed the first stage of business reopening starting on May 1.<sup>3</sup> After two and a half months from the first confirmed COVID-19 infection on March 15, the metro-area barely surpassed 200 cases by the end of May, reaching a minimum number of 21 active cases on May 29 (Figure 1). However, a new wave of infections has been observed since the beginning of June, and more than 50 cases were reported in one week for the first time.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, a second spike of cases was observed in the overall state of Texas since the beginning of May (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Active Cases of COVID-19 by Day in the Tyler MSA (April 7 – June 15)



Source: Texas Department of State Health Services.

Figure 2. New Cases of COVID-19 by Day in the State of Texas (April 1 – June 14)



Note: Daily figures are adjusted with a five-day moving average. Source: Texas Department of State Health Services.

**Table 1** provides a general perspective of the COVID-19 pandemic in East Texas. Generally, most East Texas counties have experienced a relatively low number of cases to date compared to some counties in the state observing more than 1,000 cases.<sup>5</sup> In East Texas, Titus, Marion and Panola are the exception among Texas counties with the largest number of confirmed cases per 100,000 population (ranked 8th, 9th and 14th respectively). Cases and deaths per 100,000, in **Table 1**, illustrate the magnitude of the contagion considering county population. Dividing by total population or 100,000 people are common practices used to compare figures among locations with diverse populations. Remarkably, several of the top 15 counties with confirmed cases per 100,00 people (Moore, Potter, Parmer, Deaf Smith, Sherman and Donley) are located near the Amarillo MSA and its vicinity where the pandemic has been severe during the past few weeks. As of now, Harrison and Panola counties have the largest number of fatalities in East Texas with 28 and 23, respectively, and carry 46 percent of total deaths in the region. Currently, Titus County has the largest number of active cases in East Texas with 254.

Government officials remind everyone that in order to help decrease the spread of the disease, it is still important for people to practice wearing masks in certain public settings, be vigilant about washing hands and surfaces; and implementing personal spacing when applicable.

**Table 1. Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, Total Deaths, Active Cases and Ratios per 100,000 Population in East Texas (Ranked by Total COVID-19 Cases)**

County / (Largest City)	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Active Cases	Cases/100k Population	Deaths/100k Population	County Population
Titus (Mount Pleasant)	627	2	254	1,902.7	6	32,953
Bowie (Texarkana)	373	7	143	402.9	7.6	92,570
Gregg (Longview)	278	11	74	221.1	9	125,730
Smith (Tyler)	271	4	71	115.2	2	235,143
Harrison (Marshall)	269	28	28	394.2	41	68,247
Panola (Carthage)	219	23	43	891.1	93.6	24,576
Marion (Jefferson)	158	1	30	1,534.9	10	10,294
Camp (Pittsburg)	106	1	23	795.7	8	13,322
Anderson (Palestine)	102	0	34	175.3	0	58,199
Red River (Clarksville)	93	8	39	737.5	63.4	12,610
Henderson (Athens)	80	3	24	98.5	4	81,179
Rusk (Henderson)	70	2	18	132.7	4	52,767
Cherokee (Jacksonville)	54	2	13	103.5	4	52,178
Wood (Mineola)	53	5	23	117.0	11.0	45,292
Van Zandt (Canton)	46	1	17	82.9	2	55,469
Hopkins (Sulphur Springs)	41	0	19	110.7	0	37,040
Upshur (Gladewater)	37	0	13	88.8	0	41,655
Cass (Atlanta)	34	2	5	112.1	6.6	30,327
Morris (Daingerfield)	31	0	8	249.0	0	12,448
Franklin (Mount Vernon)	27	0	14	247.2	0	10,924
Lamar (Paris)	18	11	4	36.0	22	50,014
Rains (Emory)	5	0	2	43.9	0	11,378
Delta (Cooper)	2	0	1	37.3	0	5,367
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,994</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>258.2</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>1,159,682</b>

Note: Figures are updated to June 14, 2020.  
Source: Texas Department of State Health Services.

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<sup>1</sup> The Coronavirus Resource Center at the Johns Hopkins University of Medicine reports 116,090 deaths in the U.S. by June 15, 2020.

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>

<sup>2</sup> A Metropolitan Statistical Area, or MSA, is defined by the U.S. Office of Management Budget as a region in one or more counties with at least one urbanized area with a minimum population of 50,000 and other surrounding communities.

<sup>3</sup> Executive Order No. GA-18 from Governor Greg Abbott (Submitted on April 27, 2020) establishes the expanded reopening of services starting at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, May 1, 2020.

[https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-18\\_expanded\\_reopening\\_of\\_services\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-18_expanded_reopening_of_services_COVID-19.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Texas Case Counts COVID-19; Department of State Health Services.

<https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ed483ecd702b4298ab01e8b9cafc8b83>

<sup>5</sup> Confirmed cases of COVID-19 exceeded 1,000 in counties within the Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Amarillo and El Paso MSAs.

