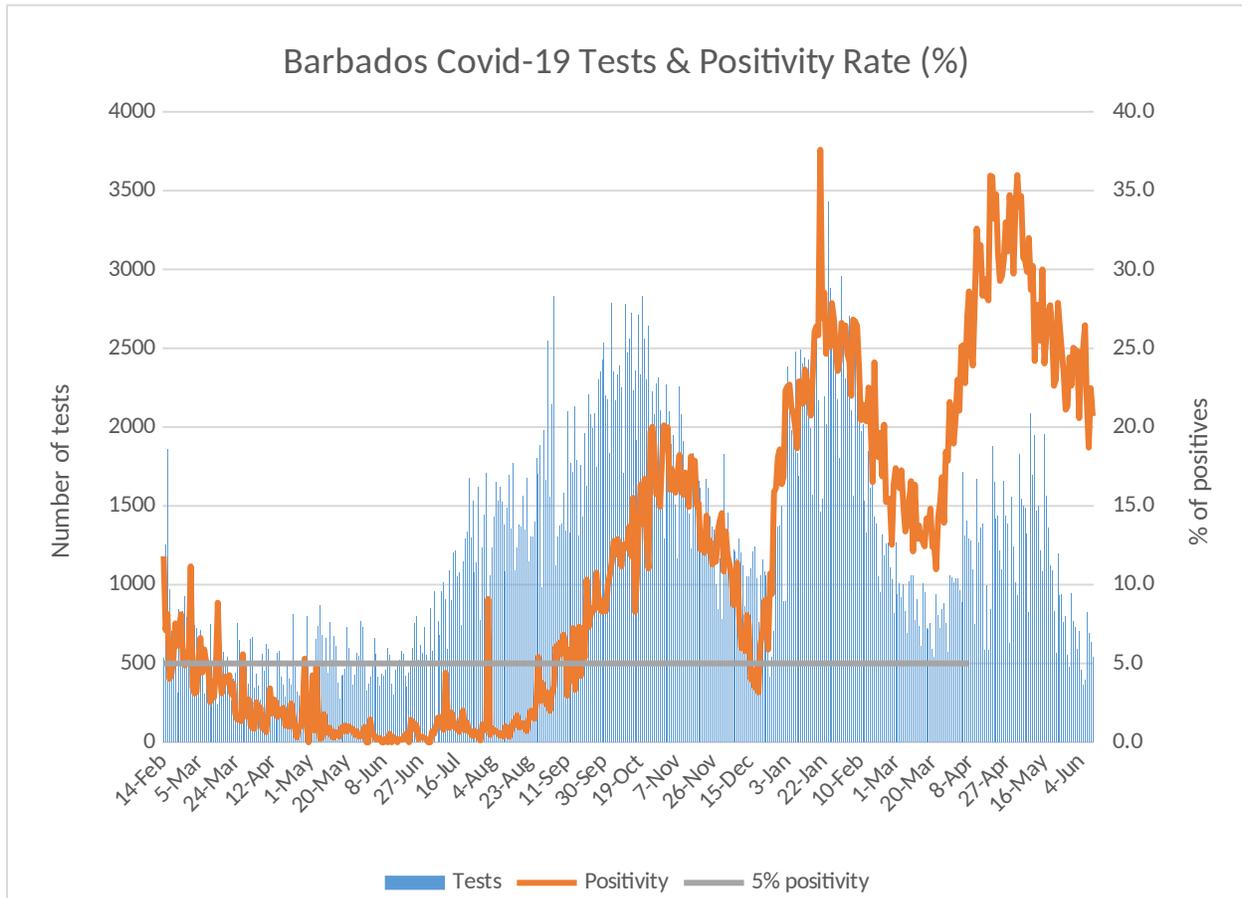


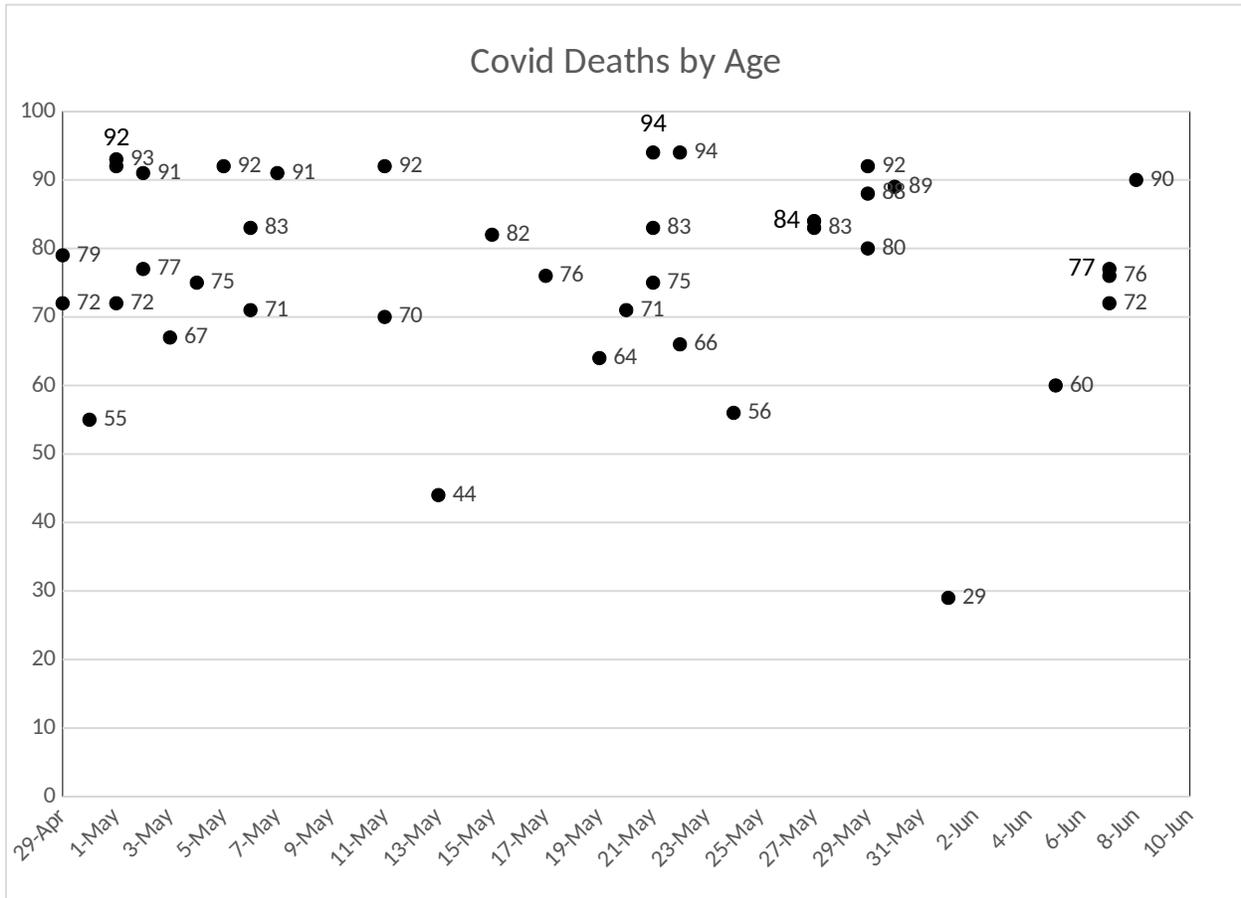
## Covid-19 in Barbados: Tests, Positives and Deaths



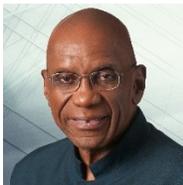
At mid-June the fourth wave of Covid-19 infections in Barbados had fallen away from a peak between April 11 and May 5, when one in every three persons being tested was turning up positive. That is the highest sustained positivity rate to date. At the peak of the third wave, between January 17 and February 8, the sustained rate of persons testing positive was one in four; there was only a single day, January 20, when the positivity rate rose as high as 36 percent, more than one third of those tested. Each successive wave of the virus has produced a higher rate of infection than the previous one. At the peak of the second wave, between October 24 and November 14 last year, the rate was about one in five.

After each peak the rate has fallen off as quickly as it had risen, but it never falls quite as far as the level before the surge began. After the first surge, from late December 2020 to January last year (not shown on the chart) the rate fell below five percent by mid-March, and remained at low levels until late August, including several days when there were no positives in 500 tests or thereabouts. After the second wave, the rate of positives fell below five percent just briefly, between December 13 and 20 last year, before the onset of the third wave. After the peak of the third wave, the rate fell, but only to 11 percent, for a single day (March 21), before shooting back up again. On the downside of the fourth wave, the rate has fallen to 18 percent at mid-June.

Many fewer tests are conducted nowadays than during the second and third waves of the spread of the virus. At the peak of infections during those surges, over 2,000 tests were being conducted daily, compared with daily tests ranging between 400 and 900 most recently.



Senior citizens are the majority of those dying from Covid-19. Of the recorded deaths from the pandemic since the end of April, just four were aged below 60 years, according to data made available publicly. (There were several deaths of people infected with Covid-19, where their infection was discovered only at autopsies; their ages were not reported.) One of these four victims was just 29 years old; the others were aged 44, 55 and 56. Another four persons in their sixties died of the virus. The remaining Covid-related deaths, the majority, were of persons 70 years or older.



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