

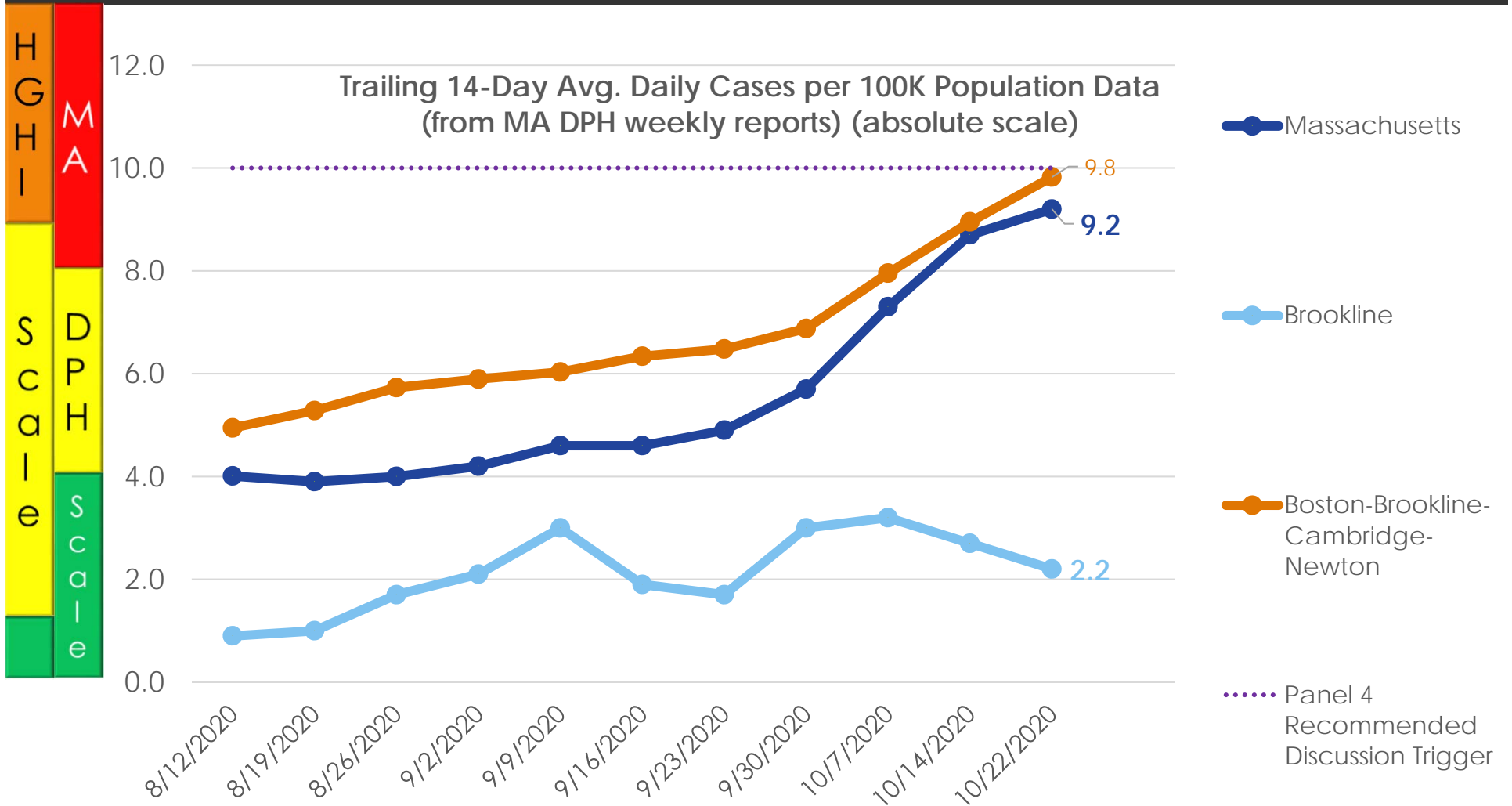


Advisory Panel 4:
Public Health, Safety, & Logistics

Metrics Review

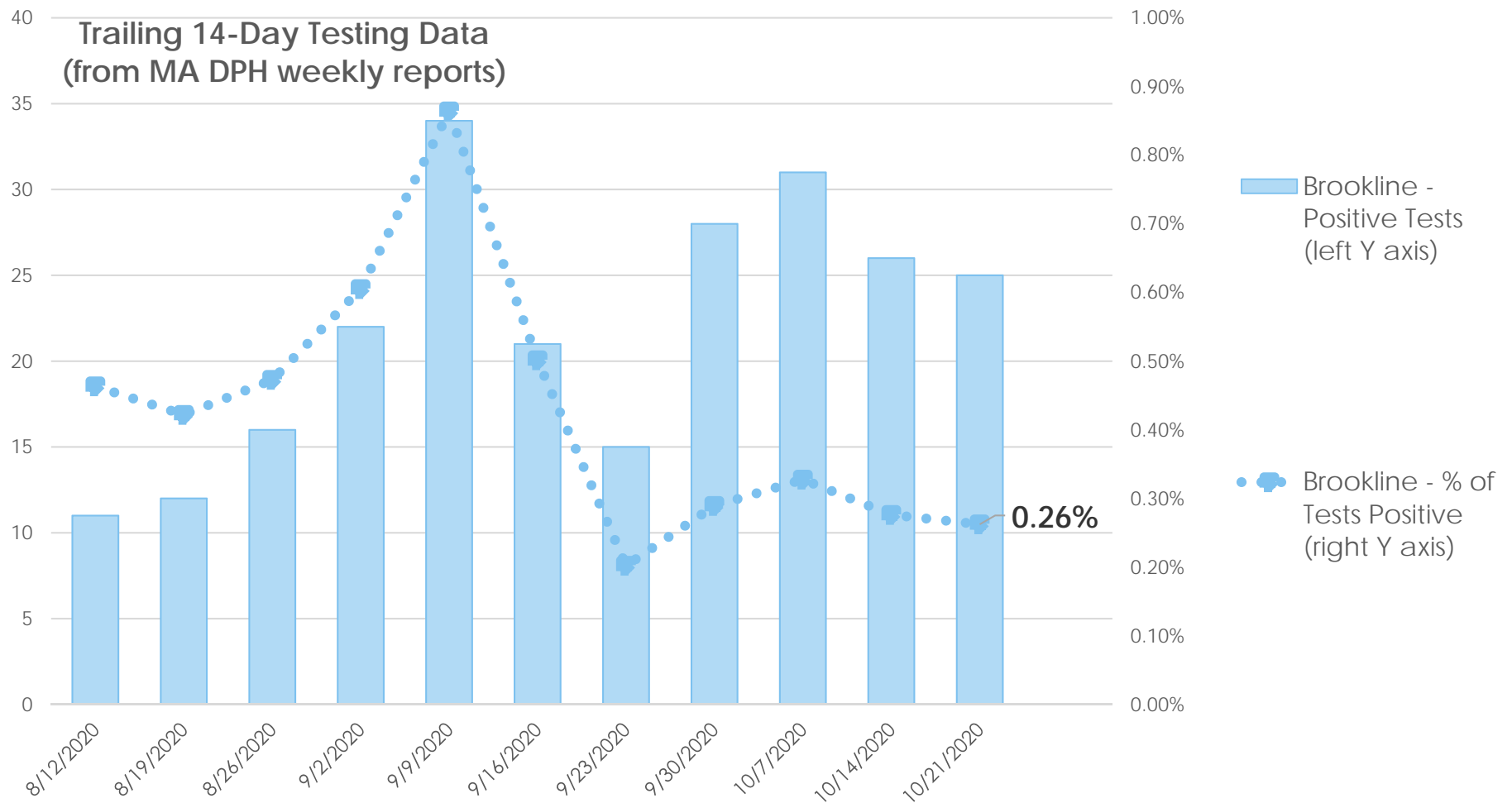
October 23, 2020

Community Benchmarks - Status



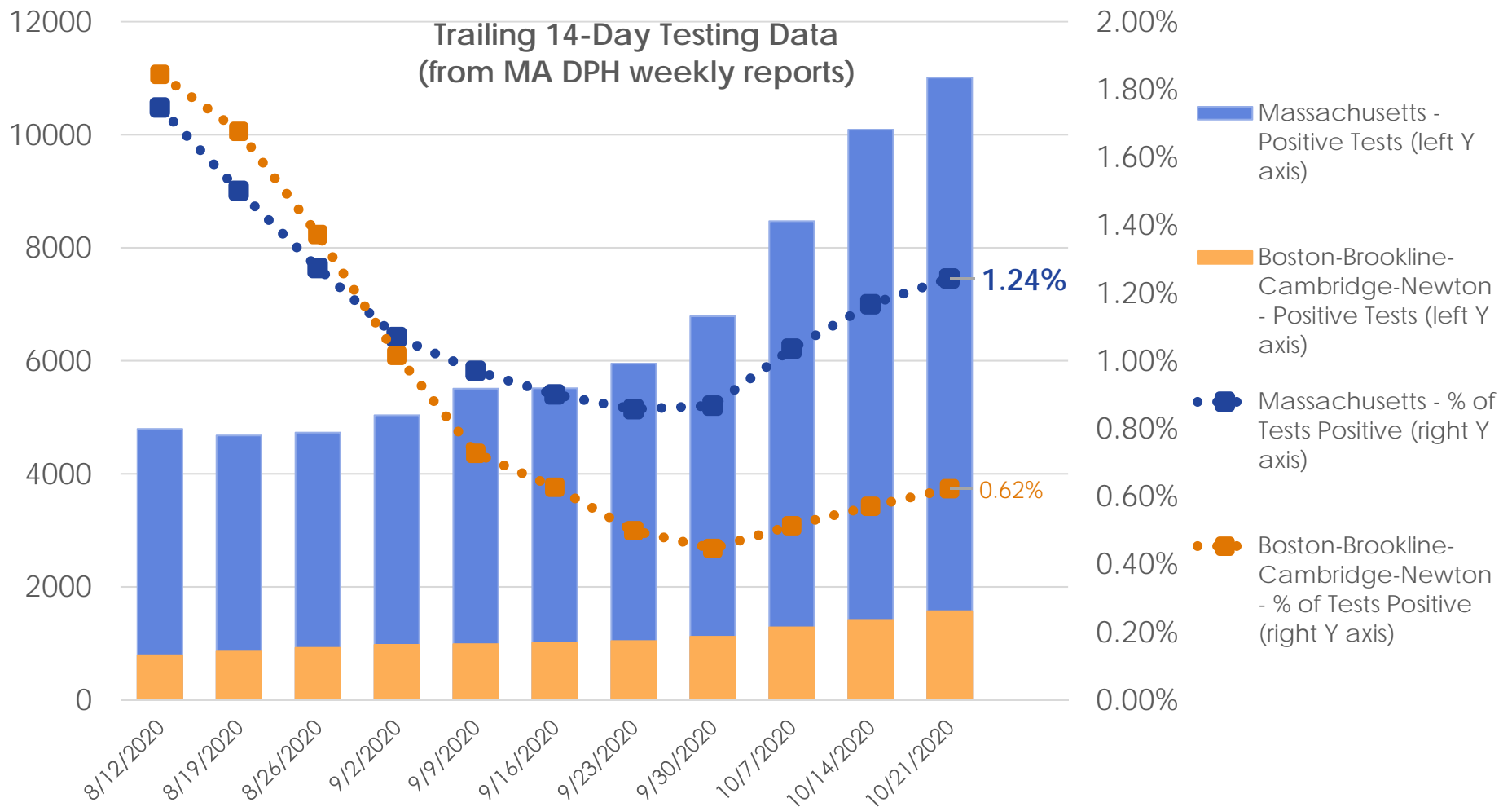
Sources: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting# covid-19-weekly-public-health-report->
<https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/>

Community Benchmarks - Status



Sources: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting# covid-19-weekly-public-health-report->

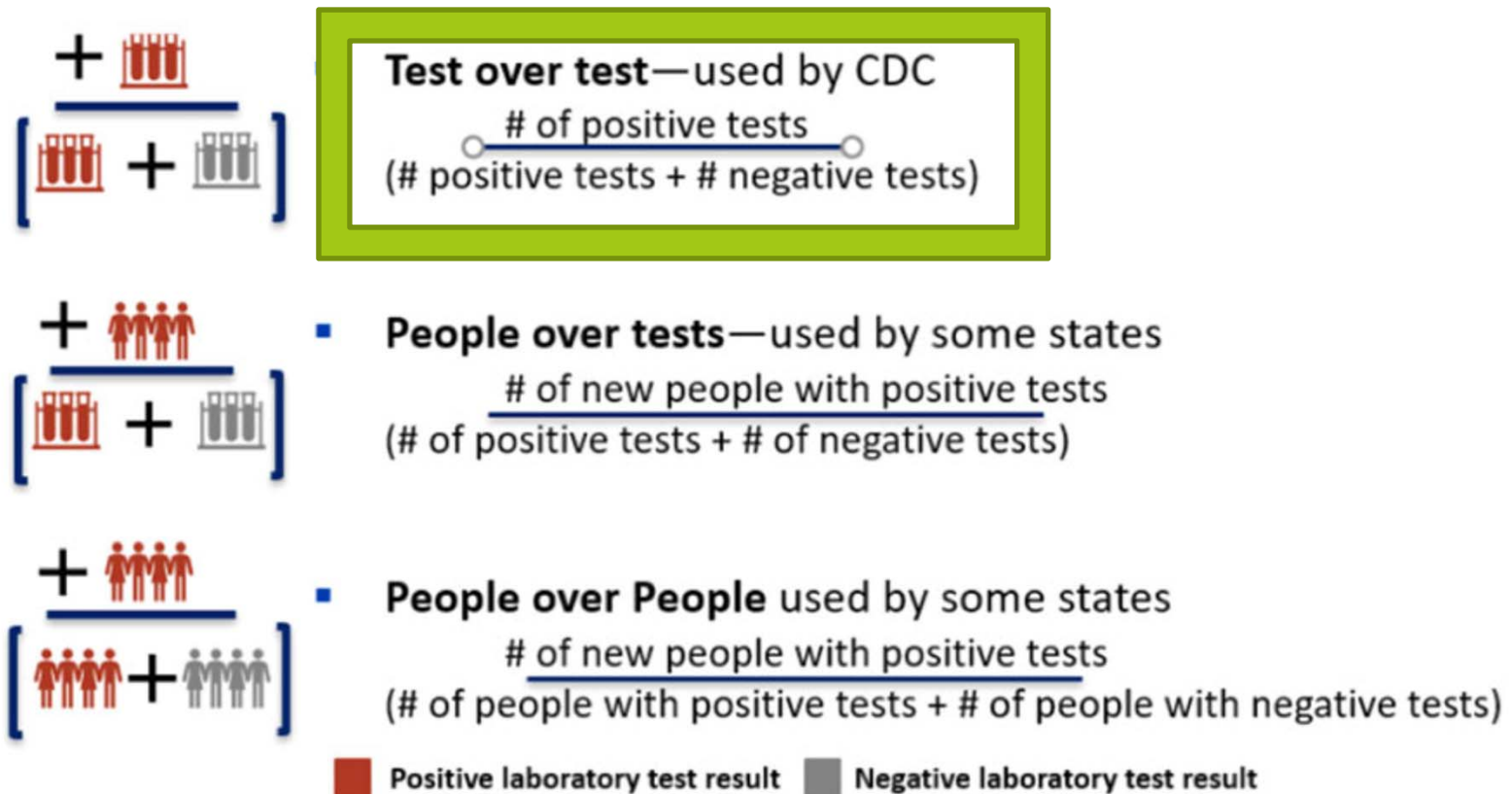
Community Benchmarks - Status



Sources: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting# covid-19-weekly-public-health-report->

Understanding Test Positivity

Figure 1: Three ways in which percent positivity can be calculated for COVID-19 laboratory tests



[Read Text Equivalent](#) (for Section 508 access).

Understanding Test Positivity

Challenges with “% of people positive”

- First, it's a metric where the 5% benchmark may no longer apply. That threshold came from multiple organizations' recommendations* for a different metric, the % positive tests. We have no reason to assume 5% is the relevant cut-point here, and it's unclear what it should be.
- More problematic is that the “% people positive” rate is no longer a snapshot in time – it either captures the long-term total effect of the pandemic, or only looks at new people being tested, who are likely quite different than the general population and people who are re-testing
 - Who hasn't been tested so far and decides to get tested now?
 - Likely someone with more severe symptoms, meaning higher positive test rates
 - We re-ran state numbers to see what this pattern looks like

* World Health Organization and American Federation of Teachers

Understanding Test Positivity

Example – statewide testing data for October 13, 2020

- 87,039 molecular test results
 - 68,883 repeat test subjects + 18,156 first-time test subjects
 - 939 positive tests (1.08% positivity)
 - 44,552 (51%) associated with higher education
 - 62 positive tests (0.14% positivity)
 - 42,487 (49%) not associated with higher education other
 - 877 positive tests (2.06% positivity)
- Mass. DPH daily dashboard reports for that date:
 - Percentage of all molecular tests that are positive = 1.1%
 - Percentage of first-time tested individuals who are positive = 4.3%
 - 790 “molecular positive new” / 18,502 “molecular new”

Sources: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting> (daily and weekly dashboard reports)