



# **COVID-19 Response + Recovery**

***Cross-Functional Team Update***

**1.31.22**

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**Presentation and discussion by the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Cross-Functional Team providing information on key activities, efforts, and processes.**

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## **d)Community Vulnerabilities and Human Services**

**1. Discussion and Action authorizing the City Manager or his designee to establish appropriations in the amount of \$9,000,000.00, whereas the City of El Paso is the recipient of the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) grant funds in the amount of \$154,365,135, the City Council approves the appropriation of the grant funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in accordance with the requirements stipulated by the American Rescue Plan Act and federal guidelines in the Final Rule to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.**

## **4. City Manager Wrap-up (Tommy Gonzalez)**





# 1. Overview

Tommy Gonzalez

# 2. City Attorney Overview

January 31, 2022

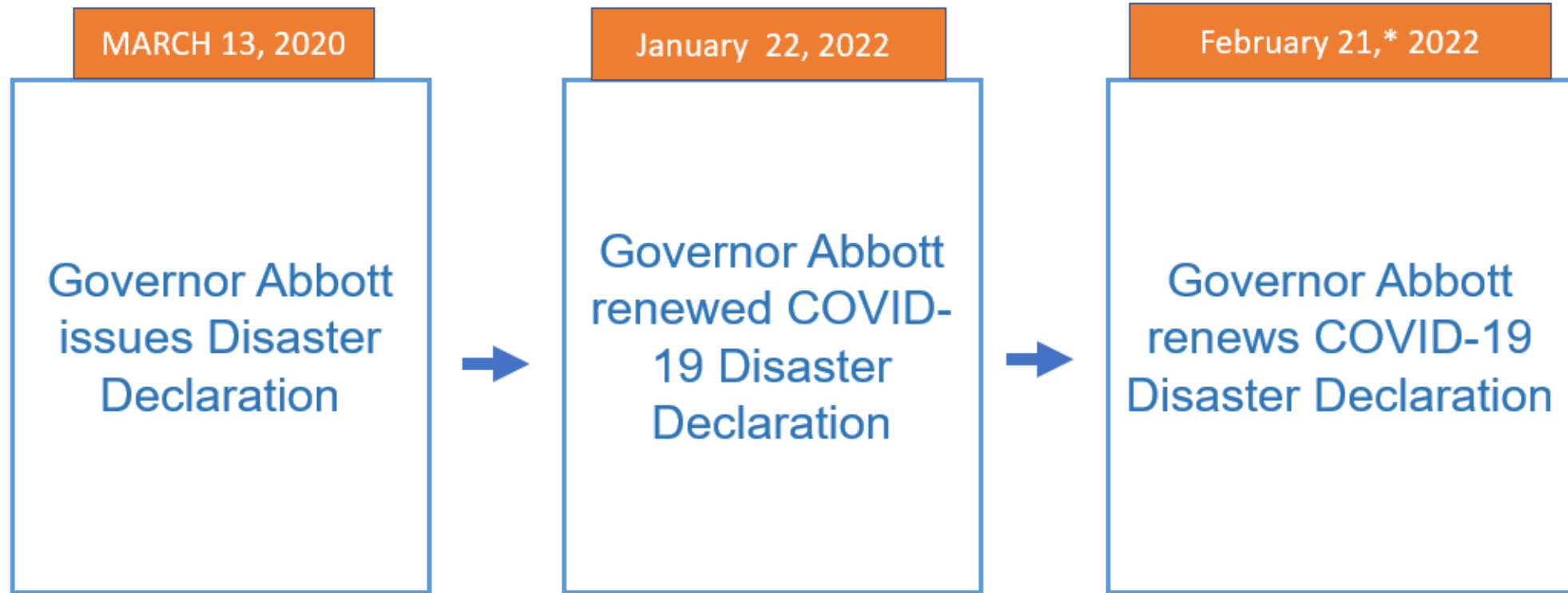
Overview

1. State Disaster Declarations
2. Emergency Ordinances
3. Greg Abbott, in his official capacity as Governor of Texas v. City of El Paso & Statewide Mask Mandate Litigation
4. Additional Updates

Karla Nieman



# State Disaster Declarations



\*Anticipate Governor Abbott will renew his Disaster Declaration between February 20-21 .

# Emergency Ordinances

Ordinance	Adoption Date	Most Recent Re-enactment	Expires
<b>Disaster Declaration</b> Ord. No. 019035	3/17/2020	1/4/2022	2/4/2022
<b>Emergency Measures</b> Ord. No. 019036	3/17/2020	1/4/2022	2/4/2022
<b>Public Right of Way</b> Ord. No. 019241	10/11/2021	1/4/2022	2/4/2022

# Statewide Mask Mandate Litigation

- Greg Abbott, et al. v. Clay Jenkins, et al.
  - 1/25/2022 Governor filed Petition for Review to overturn 5<sup>th</sup> COA ruling & dissolve the temporary injunction
- Greg Abbott v. City of San Antonio
  - 1/25/2022 Governor filed Petition for Review to overturn 4<sup>th</sup> COA ruling & dissolve the temporary injunction



# Additional Updates

## ❖ Texas Supreme Court Emergency Order

### ❖ 47th Emergency Order Regarding COVID-19

- ❖ Effective January 19, 2021- April 1, 2022

- ❖ Allows municipal courts to suspend or modify trial and pretrial related deadlines through March 1, 2022

- ❖ Continues authorizing all courts to require or allow remote hearings

- ❖ Municipal Court presiding judge can mandate compliance with minimum standard health protocols adopted for their courtrooms

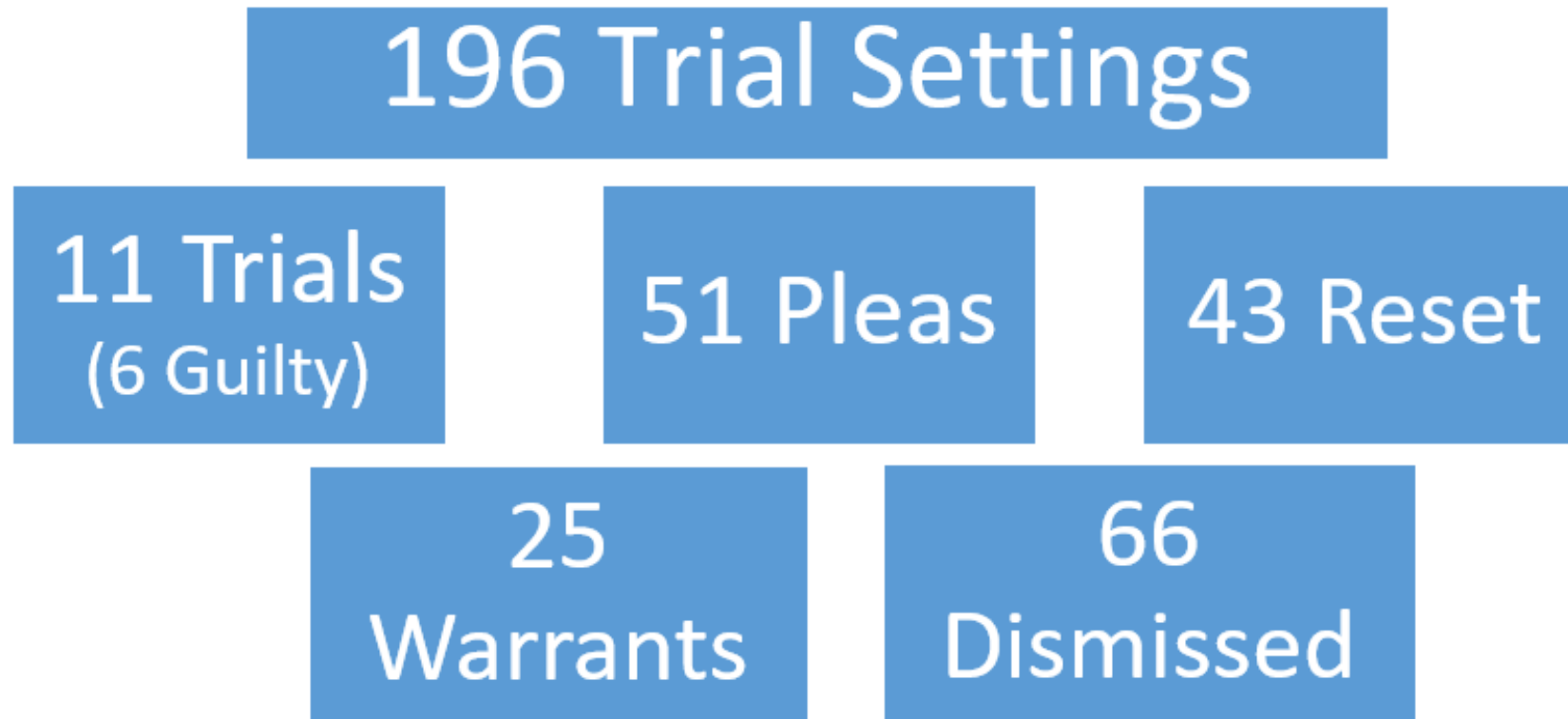
- ❖ Municipal Courts to return to regular procedures by March 1, 2022

# Jury Trials

- El Paso County Council of Judges
  - Courts are not holding any jury trials through April 1, 2022
- Federal Courts
  - Proceeding with trials as scheduled

# Additional Updates –COVID-19 Prosecution Update

**Trial Settings on COVID-19 Citations through 1/21/2022 in all 5 Municipal Courts**



# 3. Team Lead Report





# a. Health Focus

Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D.

# COVID-19 Summary



COVID-19  
SITUATIONAL  
MONITORING

January 26, 2022



Positive Tests

1740 215,236

New

Cumulative

COVID-19 Deaths

17 3178

New

Cumulative

Active

31,372

Recovered

180,492

Hospitalized

511

In ICU

140



COVID-19  
Community  
Scorecard

Stage 2



Infection  
Rate

1



Testing

3



Investi-  
gations

4



Healthcare  
Readiness

1



At-Risk  
Population

4

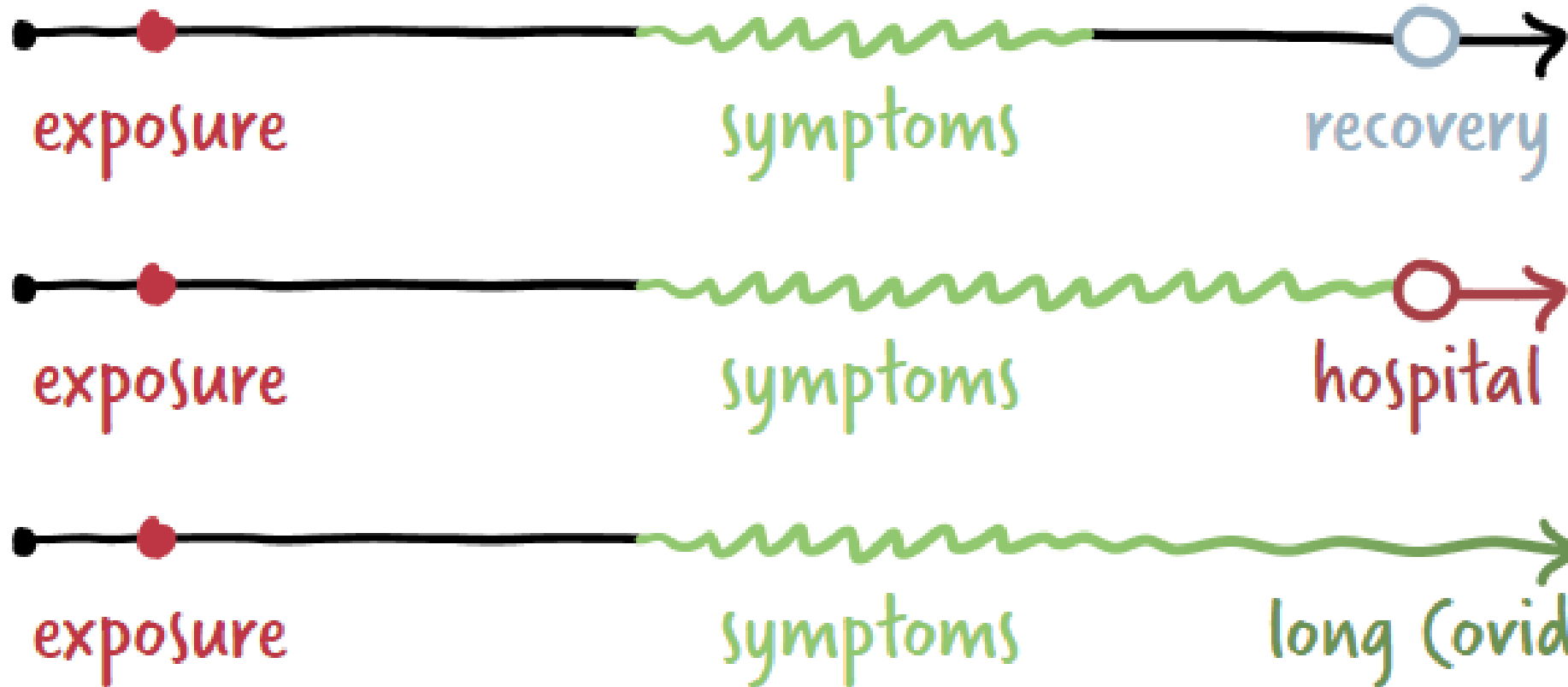


COVID-19  
Vaccinations

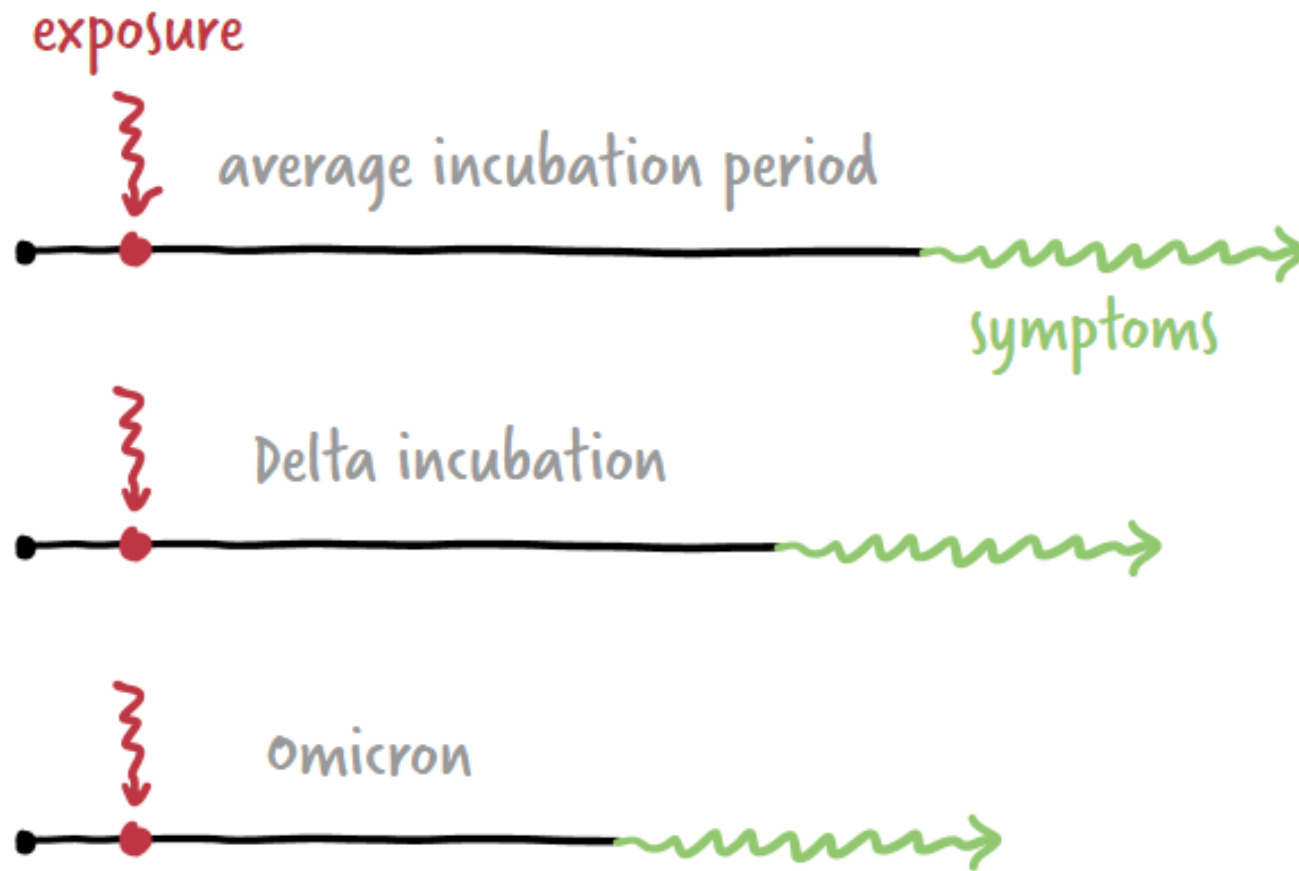
- ❖ New Cases per 100,000 (7-day Avg) grew 400% in 3 weeks
- ❖ Federal government launch free at-home test on January 19, 2022  
<https://www.covidtests.gov/>
- ❖ Hospitalizations grew 58% in 3 weeks. Now are still high but stable for now
- ❖ Strongly recommending people to receive booster dose of vaccine for better protection against Omicron
- ❖ We STRONGLY continue recommending practicing prevention with vaccination and non-pharmacological interventions



# COVID-19 Infection



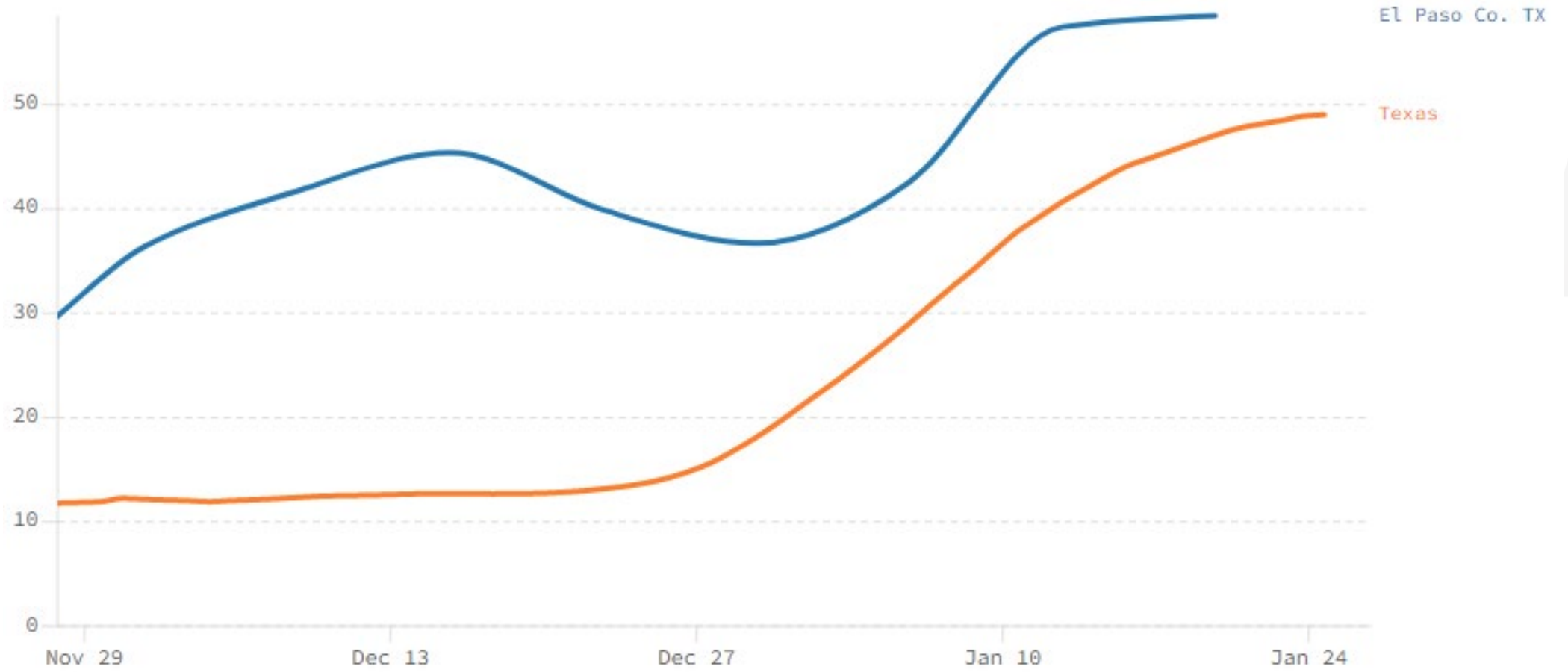
# Omicron Variant comparison



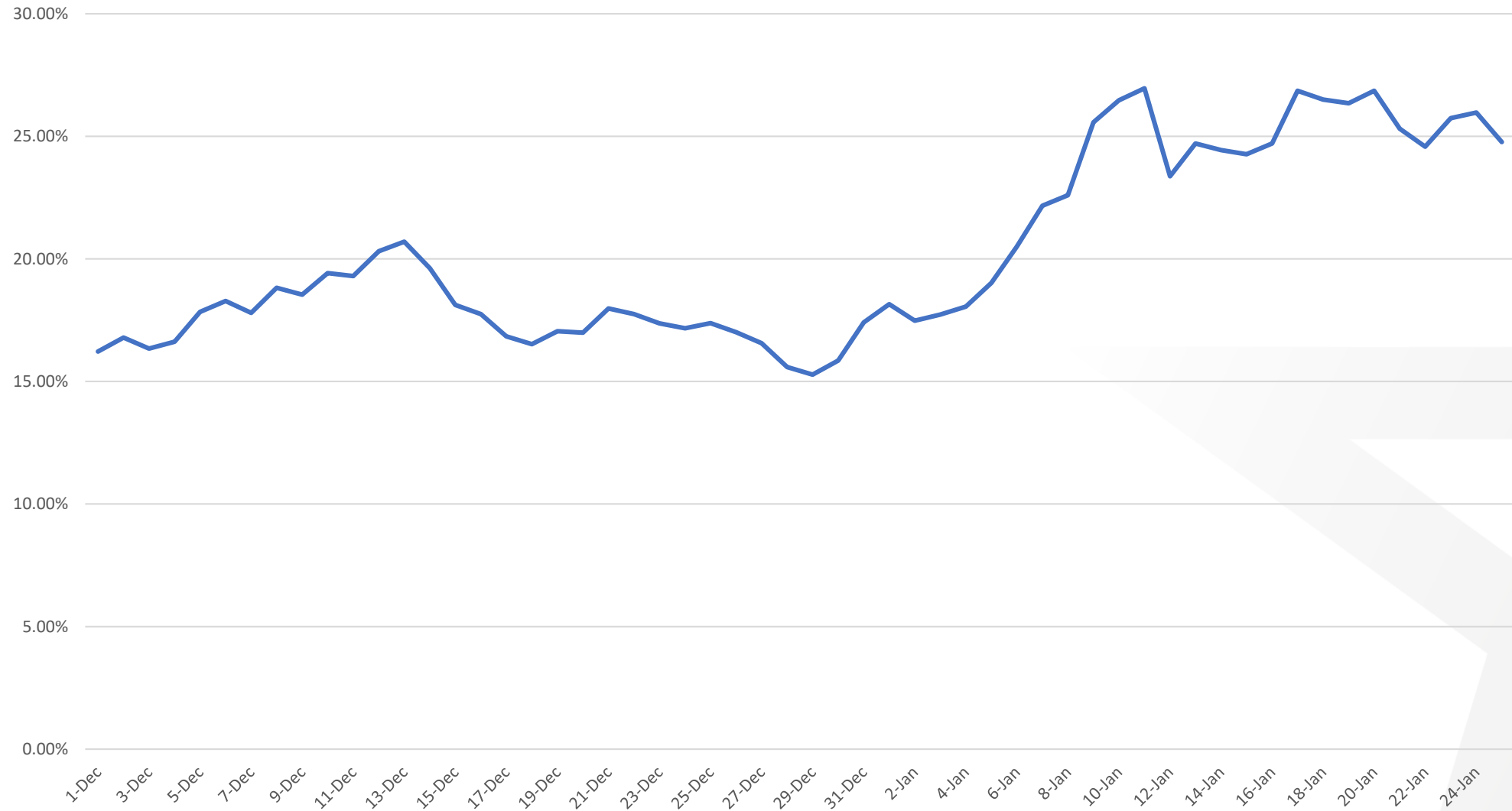
# Cases per 100,000



# Hospitalizations



## % COVID Hospitalization TSA



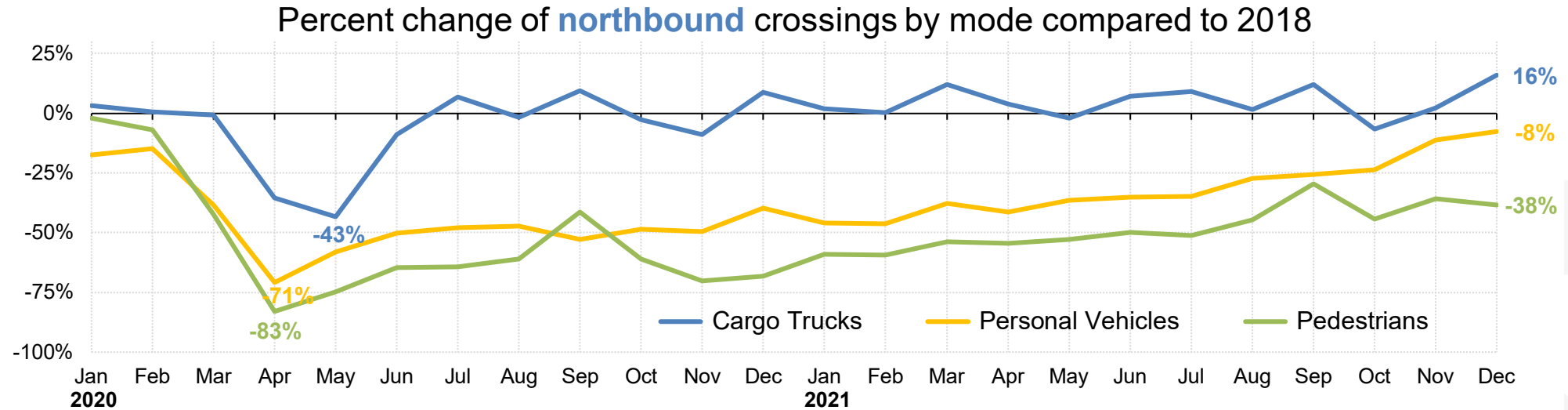


# b. Data Analysis

David Coronado



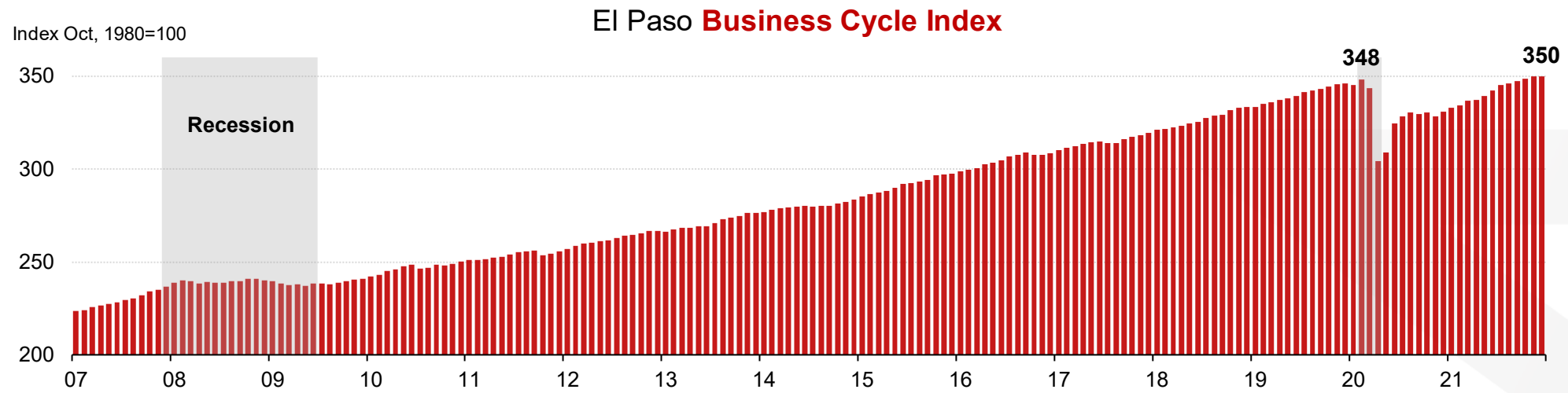
# International Bridge Crossings



Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection compiled by the City of El Paso International Bridges. Last observation: December, 2021

# Business Cycle Index

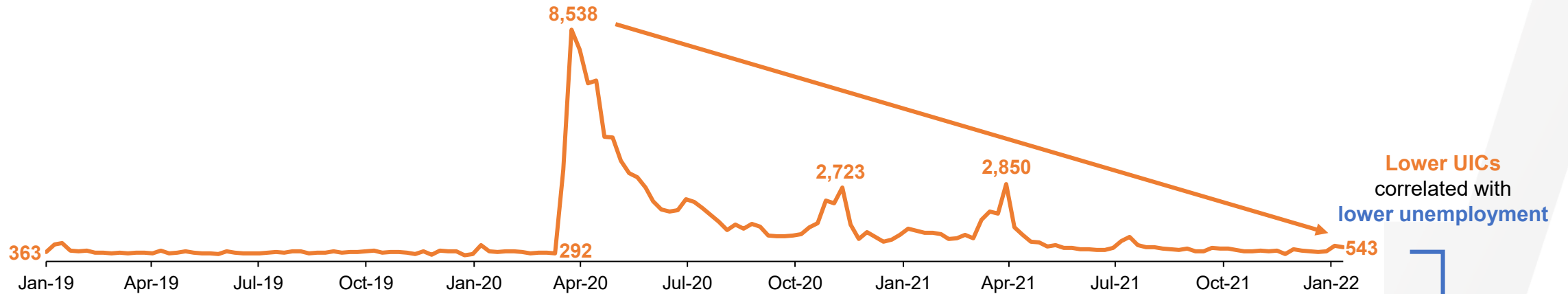
The path to economic recovery seems to be **gaining steam** driven by **lower unemployment**



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Last observation: December, 2021

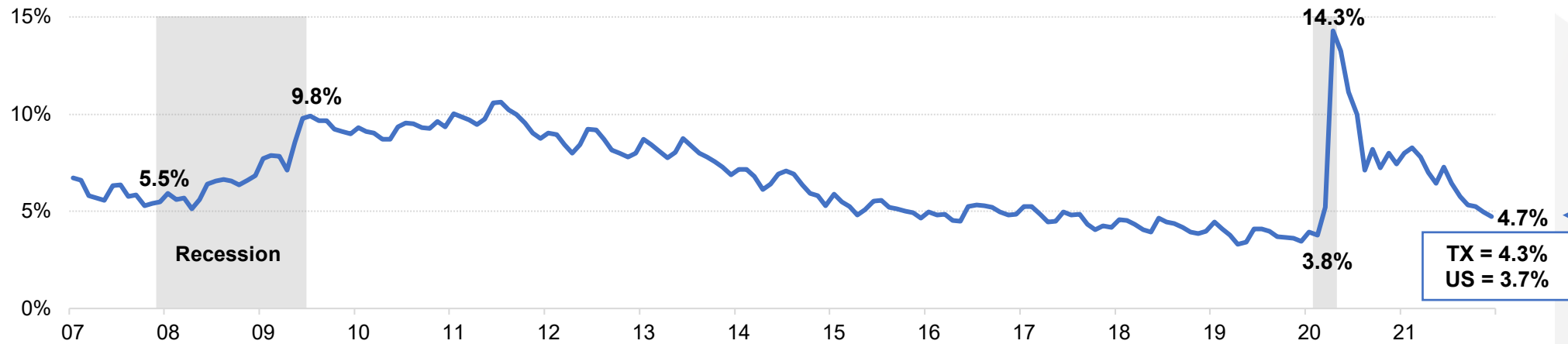
# El Paso County Unemployment

El Paso County Weekly **Unemployment Insurance Claims** (in thousands)



Source: Texas Workforce Commission. Last observation: January 15, 2022

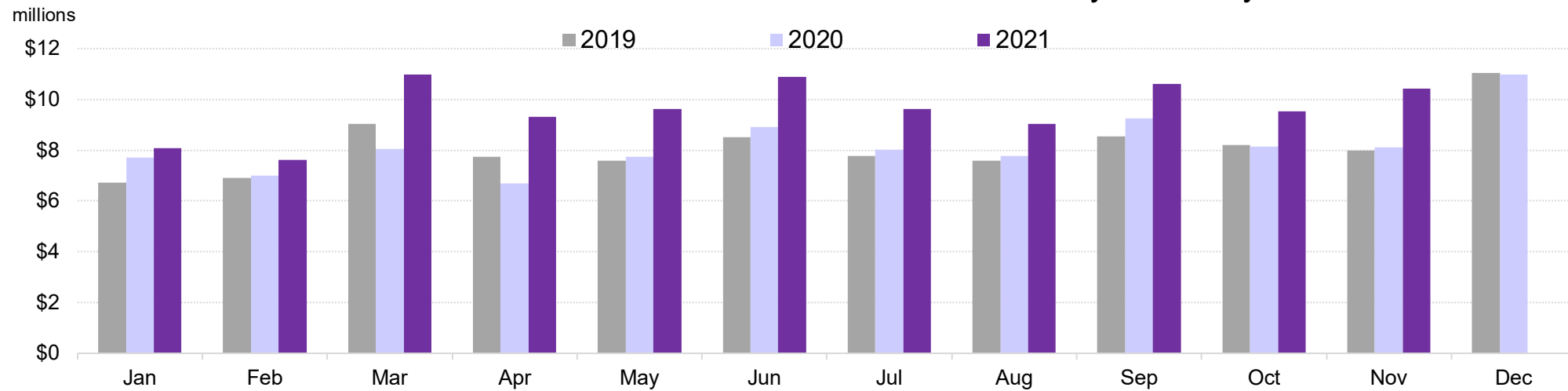
El Paso County Monthly **Unemployment Rate** peaked at 14.3%



Source: Texas Workforce Commission. Last observation: December, 2021

# Retail Sales (allocations)

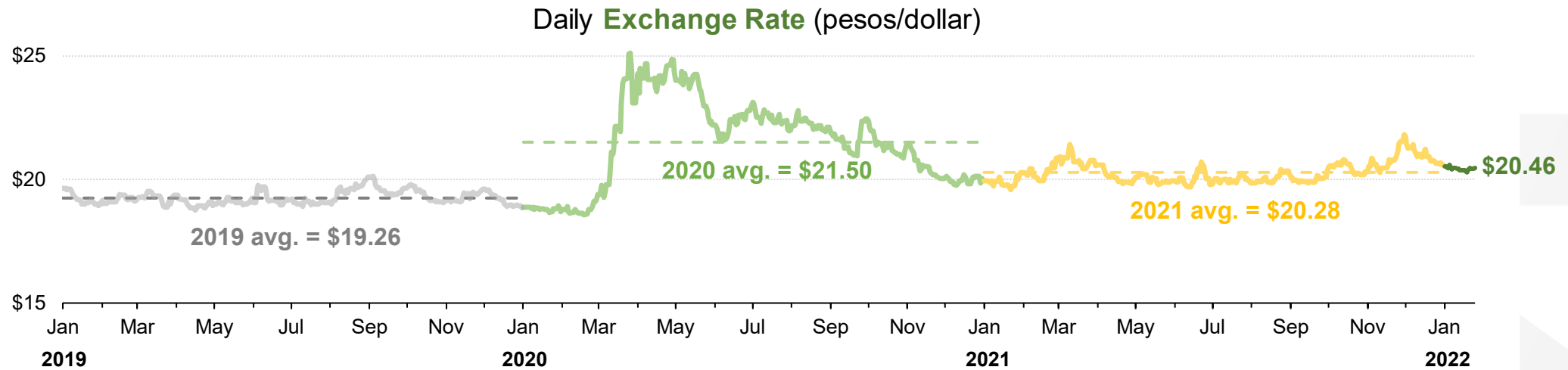
**Sales tax allocations increased 28% in November year-over-year**



Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Last observation: November, 2021

# Exchange Rate

MX Peso gradually **recovered** from COVID-19 effects



Source: Banco de Mexico. Last observation: January 25, 2022



# c. Financial Focus

Robert Cortinas



# Overview

- On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law and established the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund
- Intended to provide support to State, local, and Tribal governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19
- On May 11, 2021, the Department of Treasury released the Interim Final Rule
- Feedback was solicited, due 60 days from May 17 (Questions sprinkled throughout, 130+ pages)
- On January 6, 2022 the Department of Treasury released the Final Rule (400+ pages), effective April 1, 2022

# Interim Final Rule to the Final Rule

## Key Changes



- Expands the non-exhaustive list of uses that recipients can use to respond to COVID-19 and its economic impacts.
- Expands the set of households and communities that are presumed to be impacted and disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- Broadened eligible water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure projects – understanding the unique challenges facing each state and locality in delivering clean water and high-speed broadband.
- Revenue replacement calculation is simplified for small cities and increases the growth rate for larger cities from 4.1% to 5.2% for larger cities.



# d. Community Vulnerabilities and Human Services

Nicole Ferrini

# Community Recovery: **Key Vulnerabilities**



**Housing +  
Homelessness**

1



**Family  
Stability**

2



**Household  
Stability**

3

In over 600 days of COVID response our team has always kept **a resilient and inclusive recovery** in mind.

Initially, a **3 Step Plan** was proposed to address ongoing recovery in the area of community vulnerability.

Since December, pressure on the **housing + homeless service system** has escalated in tandem with the rise in COVID-19 cases. Similarly, pressure to keep **families safe + healthy** has also increased.

*Interconnected vulnerabilities are a barrier to a **resilient recovery**.*

# Community Vulnerability: Homelessness

## Targeted Program Results

1

**Emergency Surge Capacity**

2

**Permanent Housing Options**

3

**Case Management**

4

**Street Outreach**

**238**

**shelter beds at capacity 33  
times in the last 3 months**

**25%**

**increase in intakes from  
October to December**

**79**

**client cases of COVID-19  
locking down large  
emergency shelter for  
approx. 2 weeks**

**15**

**park facilities where  
encampments have  
been reported**

# Community Vulnerability: **Family Stability**

## Targeted Program Results

1

**Increased Community Capacity**

2

**Enhanced Navigation to Services**

3

**Household Economic Stability**

4

**Improved Family Mental Health**

**2460+**

**calls received from families in need**

**13.3%**

**\*working parents report they have lost a job or reduced their hours due to childcare challenges**

**2x**

**rate of suicide in youth in treatment in our community between 13-18 during the pandemic**

**3x**

**rate of anxiety and depression in youth in treatment in our community between 13-18 during the pandemic**



# Urgent Community Need: ARPA



**\$ 9m**

**Urgent Community Need**

## Addressing Homelessness

**\$4 million** toward emergency shelter, housing, street outreach and case management.

## Supporting Families

**\$5 million** toward providing families a key resource for household stability and economic recovery

*\*Recommendations are also based on **program sustainability + community impact** beyond initial ARPA investment.*

# Urgent Community Need: **Next Steps**

Based on additional engagements with community partners and data provided through ongoing response programs, areas of urgent need have been established.

**1 Housing + Homelessness**

**2 Family Health + Safety**

Work with Partners to  
identify specific  
program scopes  
and budgets

Solidify program  
performance +  
deployment details

Report Results +  
Inform Future  
Program  
Investment

Deploy Programs

Contract  
Execution



# 4. City Manager Wrap-up

Tommy Gonzalez



**Thank you!**