



# **COVID-19 Response + Recovery**

***Cross-Functional Team Update***

**8.1.22**

# Table of Contents

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- 1. Overview (Tommy Gonzalez)**
- 2. City Attorney Overview (Karla Nieman)**
  - a) Greg Abbott, in his official capacity as Governor of Texas v. City of El Paso & Statewide Mask Mandate Litigation**
- 3. Team Lead Report:**
  - a) Health Focus (Hector Ocaranza, M.D.)**
  - b) Economic Response & Recovery (Elizabeth Triggs)**
  - c) Data Analysis (David Coronado)**
- 4. City Manager Wrap-up (Tommy Gonzalez)**



# 1. Overview

Tommy Gonzalez



# 3. City Attorney Overview


August 1, 2022

## Overview

1. Greg Abbott, in his official capacity as Governor of Texas v. City of El Paso & Statewide Mask Mandate Litigation

# Greg Abbott, in his official capacity as Governor of Texas v. City of El Paso & Statewide Mask Mandate Litigation

## Texas Courts of Appeal



4 <sup>th</sup> Tex. App.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abbott v. City of San Antonio</li></ul>
5 <sup>th</sup> Tex. App.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abbott v. Clay Jenkins</li></ul>
8 <sup>th</sup> Tex. App.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abbott v. City of El Paso</li></ul>
NO UPDATE	





## Greg Abbott, in his official capacity as Governor of Texas v. City of El Paso & Statewide Mask Mandate Litigation

- *E.T. by and through her parents and next friends, et al. v. Paxton, in his official capacity as Attorney General of Texas*
  - Federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld mask mandate ban under Executive Order GA-38
  - The ruling disallowed the trial court injunction that allowed school districts to put a mask mandate in place



# 4. Team Lead Report



# a. Health Focus

Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D.

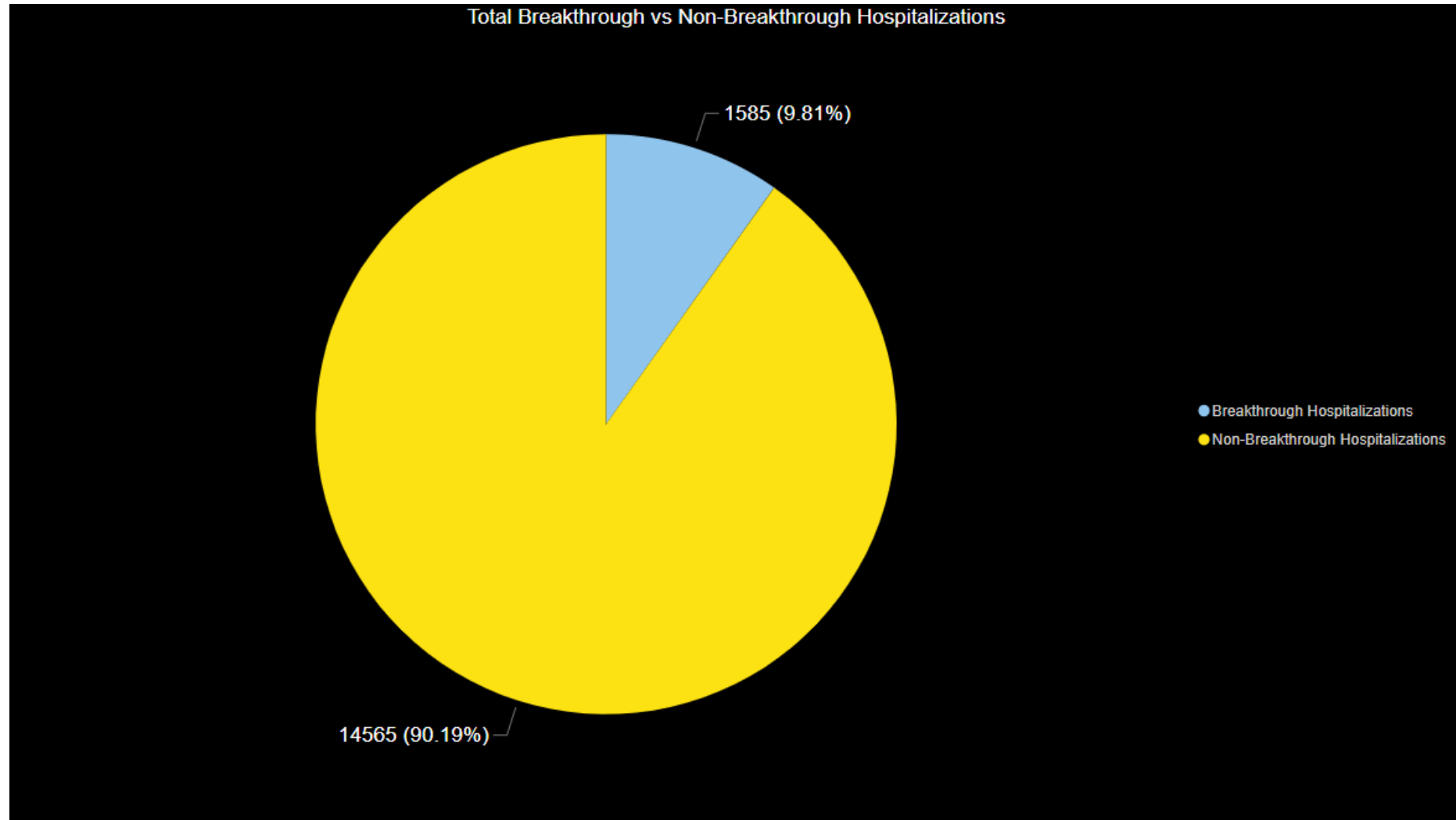


# COVID-19 SUMMARY

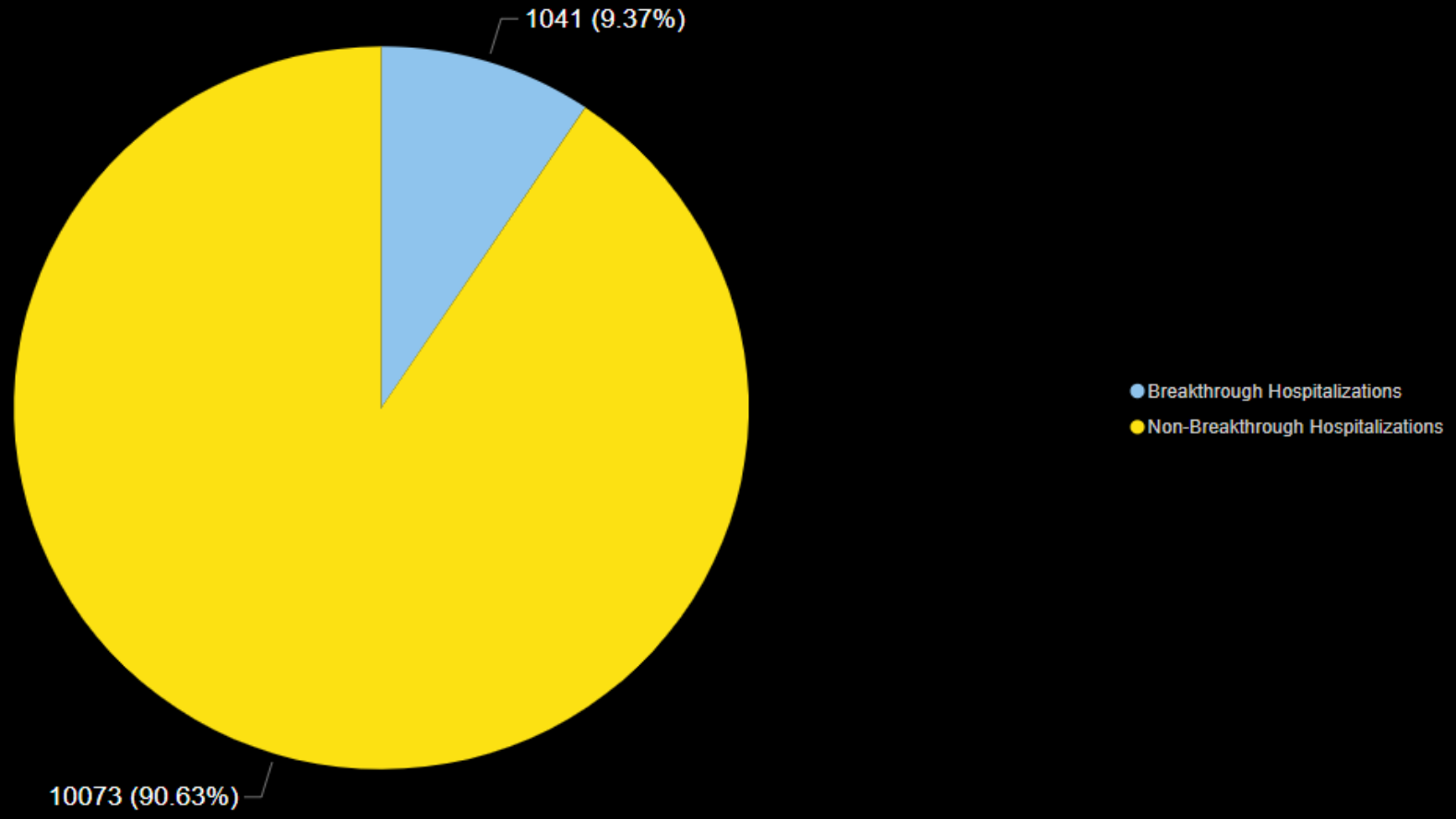
- New Infections continue to be on the rise and is expected to see a steeper upward rate
- Hospitalizations are increasing
- Schools are back in session and DPH working closely with all school districts
- Isolation and quarantine recommendations updated
- Testing sites will be opened across the city to meet demand and expected increase in cases

# Activities with Schools

- New School recommendations document shared with schools and published
- Meetings with school nurses continue
- Team of epidemiologists dedicated to schools
- Assistance with public health activities provided to all school districts
- Extended hours and more appointments available through City Immunization program for anticipated back-to-school

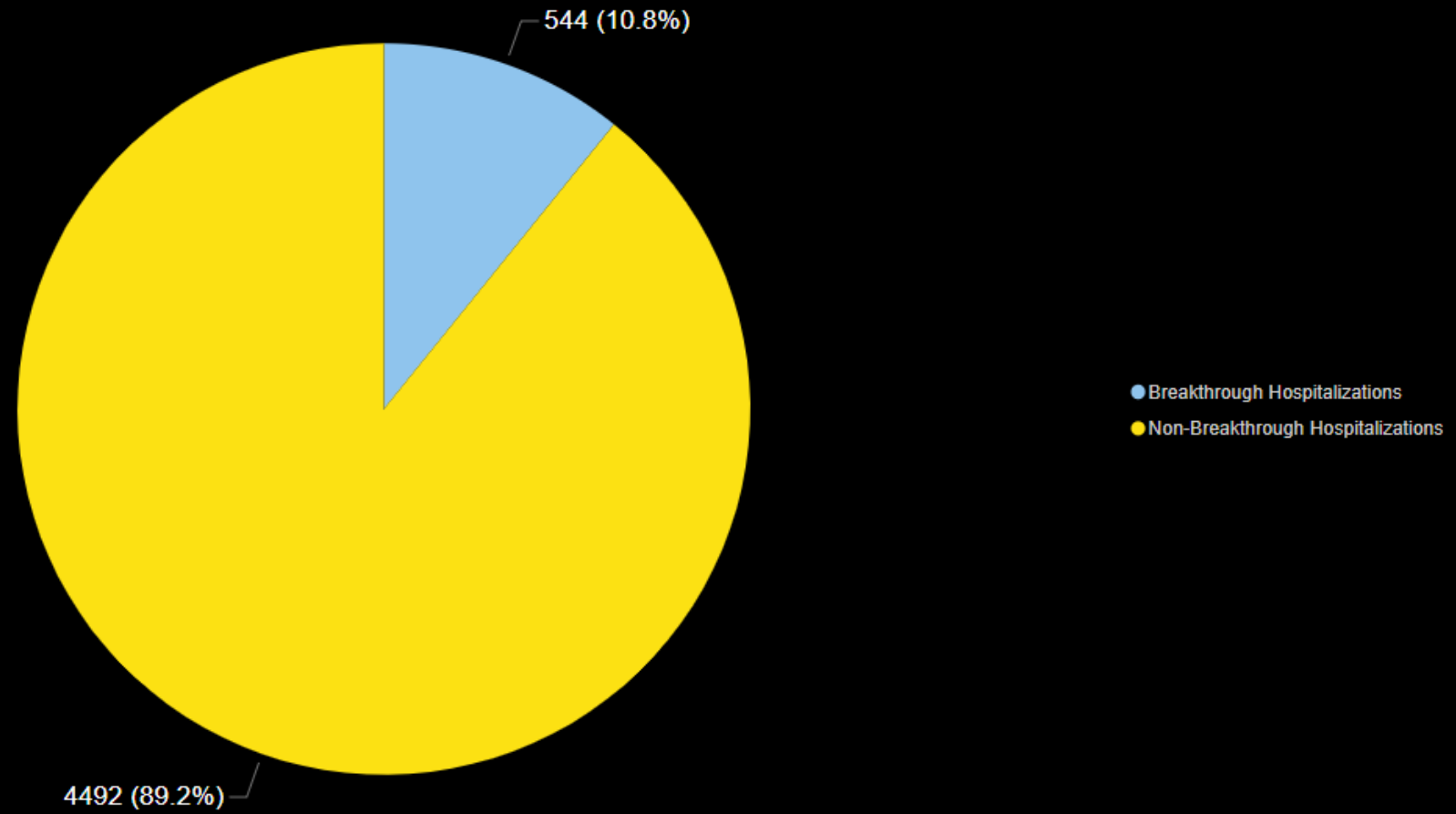


(Underlying Medical Conditions) Breakthrough vs Non-Breakthrough Hospitalizations





(No Underlying Medical Conditions) Breakthrough vs Non-Breakthrough Hospitalizations



# Excess Deaths due to COVID

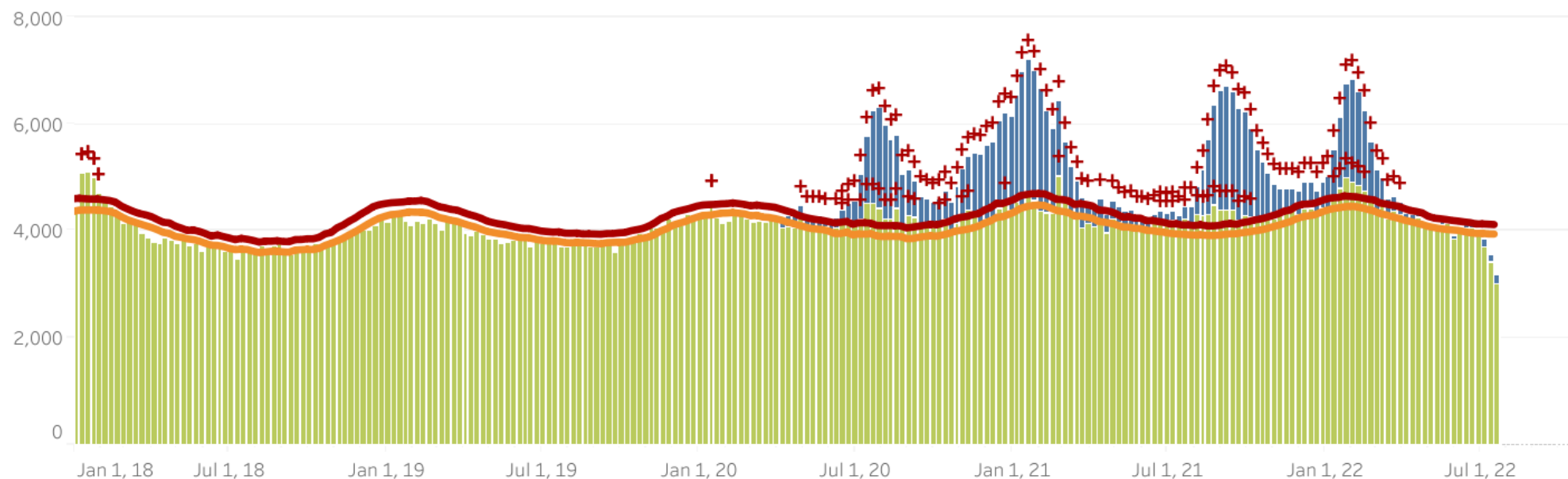
Select a jurisdiction:

Texas

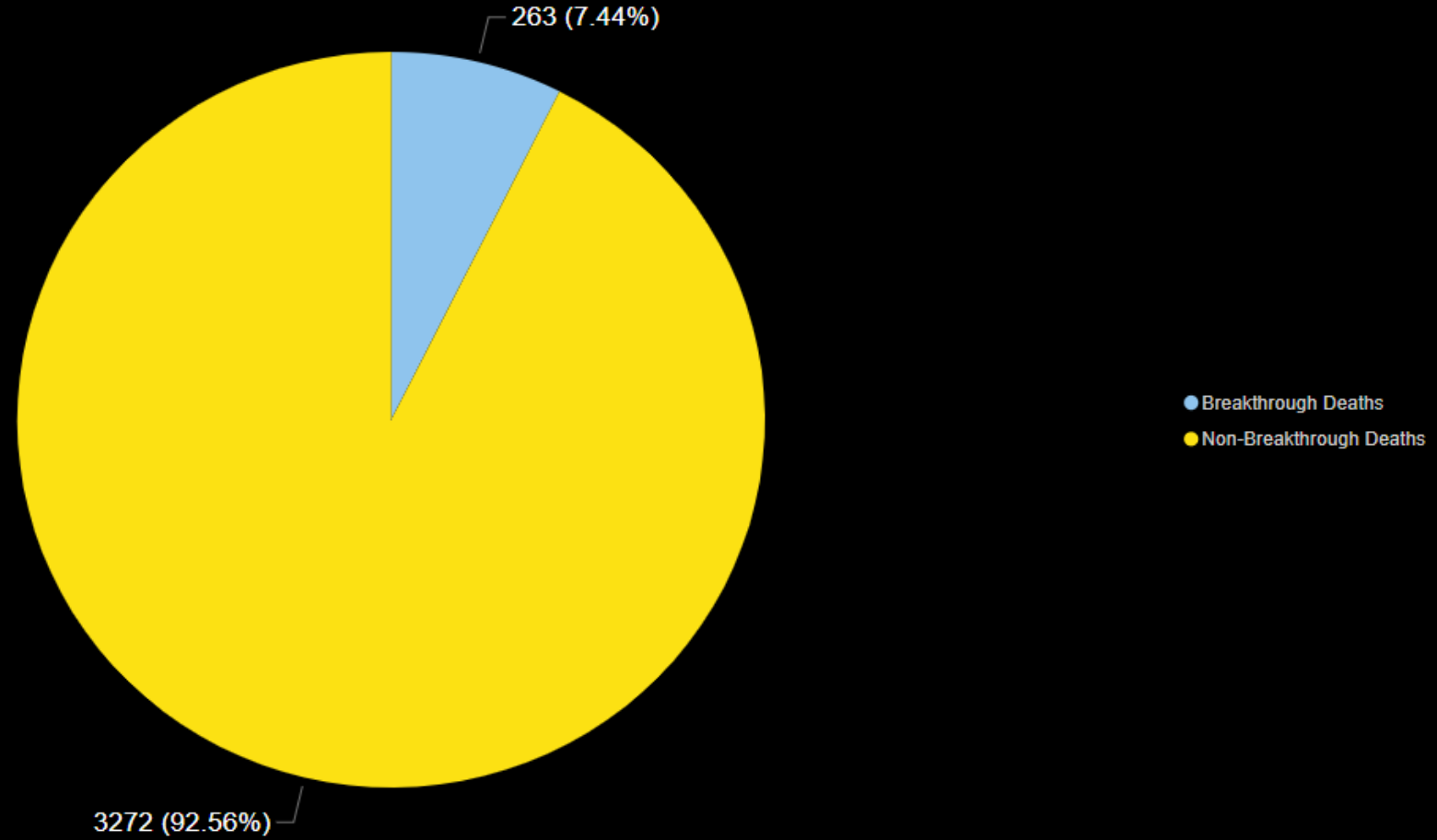
- + indicates observed count above threshold
- g Predicted number of deaths from all causes, including COVID-19
- g Predicted number of deaths from all causes, excluding COVID-19
- average expected number of deaths..

## Weekly number of deaths

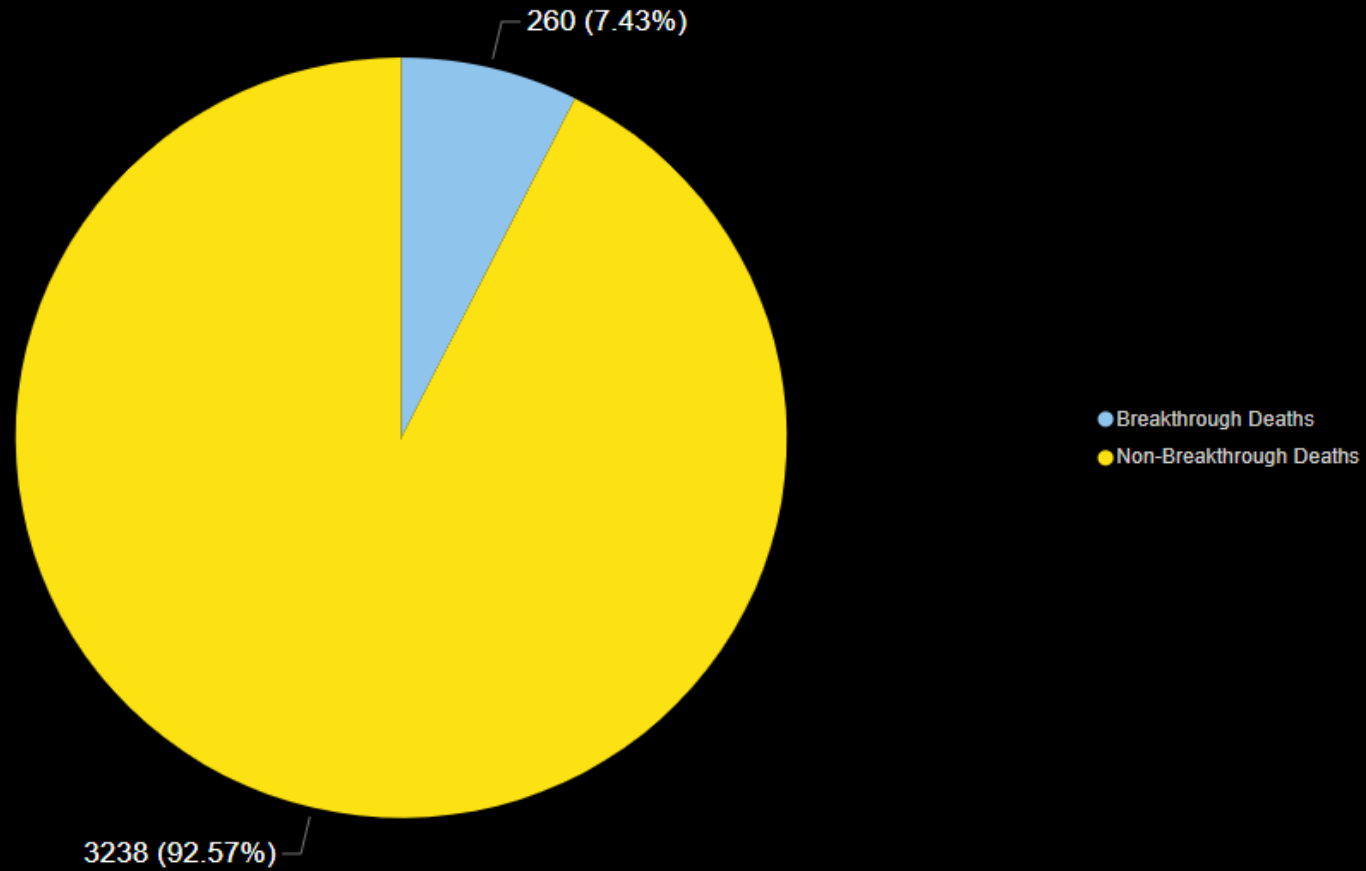
Comparing excess deaths including/excluding COVID-19



Total Breakthrough vs Non-Breakthrough Deaths



(Underlying Medical Conditions) Breakthrough vs Non-Breakthrough Deaths



3498

Deaths with Underlying  
Conditions

37

Deaths without Underlying  
Conditions

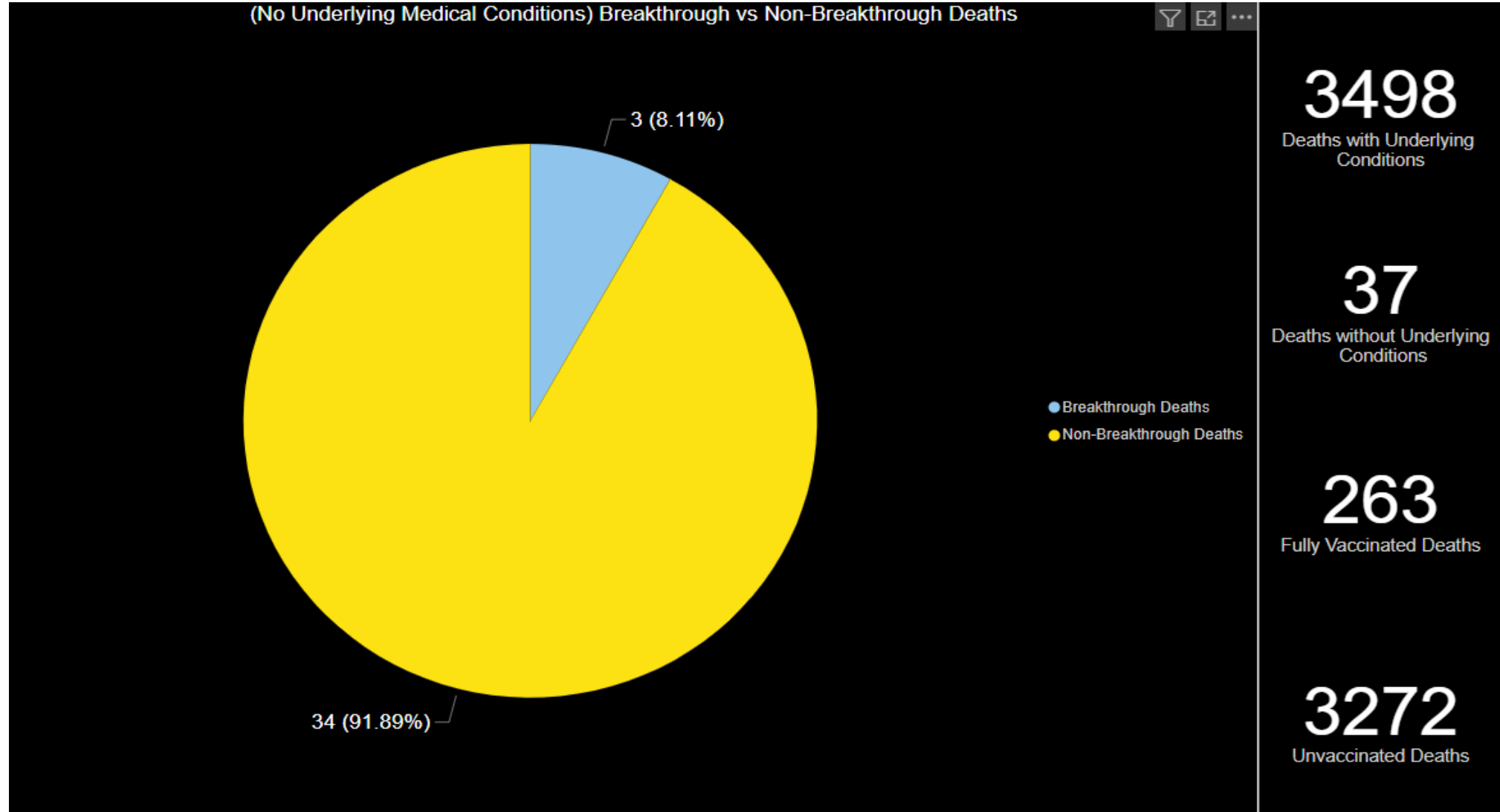
263

Fully Vaccinated Deaths

3272

Unvaccinated Deaths







# b. Economic Response & Recovery Update

Elizabeth Triggs

# Economic Recovery: A Focus on El Paso's Small Businesses



**Improve  
Liquidity +  
Cash Flow**



**Stimulate  
Demand**



**(Re)Start +  
Grow  
Operations**

**3 Goals to Support Small Businesses**

**83%**

of El Paso County  
businesses have fewer  
than **20 employees**

**\$24M+**

Funding deployed to  
small business recovery  
efforts since March  
2020

# Economic Recovery: Small Business Grant Recipient Feedback

**1,500+**

Small Businesses  
assisted with grants

**53%**

Non-employer or  
one employee

**65%**

In business less  
than 10 years

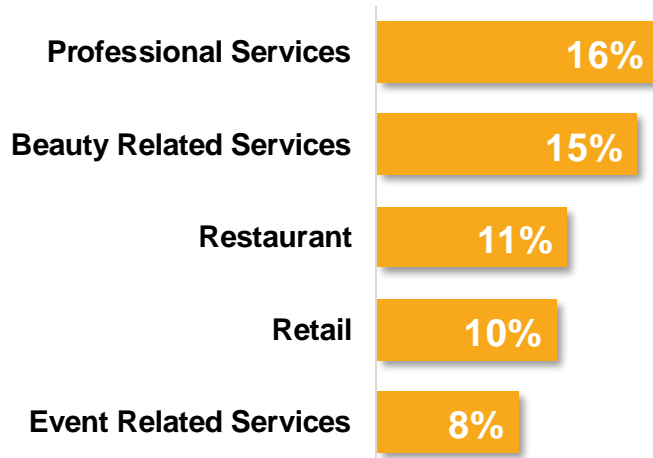
**23%**

Do not have a relationship  
with a bank or credit union

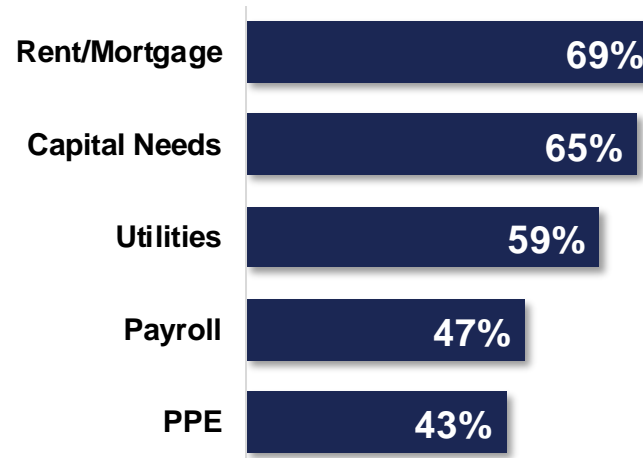
**11%**

Attempted to access capital  
through traditional bank loans

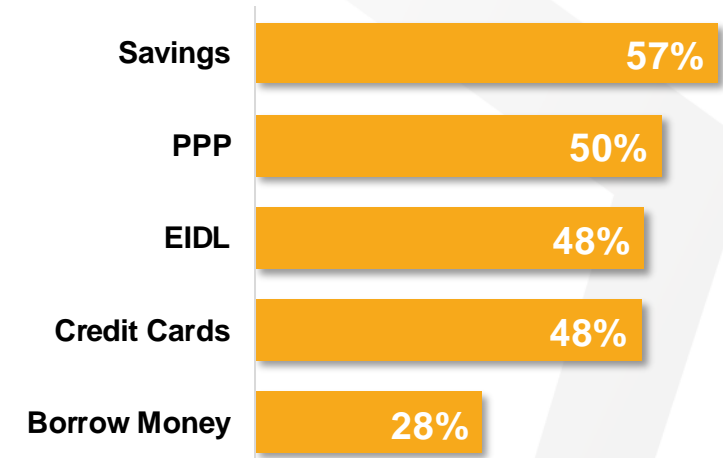
## Business Respondent Profile by Sector, Top 5



## Planned Uses for Grant, Top 5 (%)



## Business Capital Access, Top 5 (%)





# Economic Recovery: Council Approved ARPA Allocation (May 2022)

## 4 Strategies to Support Existing + New Small Businesses

**Increase  
Access to  
Capital**

**Address  
Workforce  
Needs**

**\$6.2M**

Of that, \$2.5M to be allocated to  
Small Business Grant Program  
administered by LiftFund

**\$4.8M**

**Strengthen the  
Entrepreneurial  
Support  
Ecosystem**

**\$3.0M**

**Support Strong  
Partnerships to  
Optimize  
Growth**

**\$14M  
Total Investment**



# **Economic Recovery:** **Support Strong Partnerships to Optimize Growth**

## **Requested Council Action:**

Authorize the City Manager to establish appropriations in the amount of **\$3,000,000** to respond to the negative economic impacts caused by COVID-19 and experienced by impacted or disproportionately impacted small businesses in the **manufacturing industry sector**.

- The City is part of a **coalition**, led by UTEP, is a finalist in the Economic Development Administration's nationally competitive **Build Back Better Regional Challenge**.
- The City is lead on developing a 250-acre **Advanced Manufacturing District** at the El Paso International Airport, providing the opportunity for small local manufacturers to collocate with other manufacturers and research and design teams; and access the infrastructure necessary to successfully compete for aerospace and defense contracts.
- The requested \$3 million in ARPA funding will provide a mechanism to offset costs associated with small local manufacturers' relocation to the District.
- Businesses will be required to demonstrate they have been impacted by the pandemic.

# **Economic Recovery:** **Other Small Business Recovery Efforts**

## **Aspen Institute Latinos and Society (AILAS)**

- White House Latino Summit July 22, 2022
- Steering Committee led by City & LiftFund

## **National League of Cities (NLC)**

- CDFI Roundtables
- Dream Maker's Fund Update

## **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

- Partnership with the County for BBB Renewal
- Renewal includes Buy Local Campaign, EPBusinessStrong.org, & SizeUp El Paso

## **International Economic Development Council (IEDC)**

- Site visit week of July 11<sup>th</sup> to develop Equity Action Plan
- Plan centers on improving equity through City purchasing policies



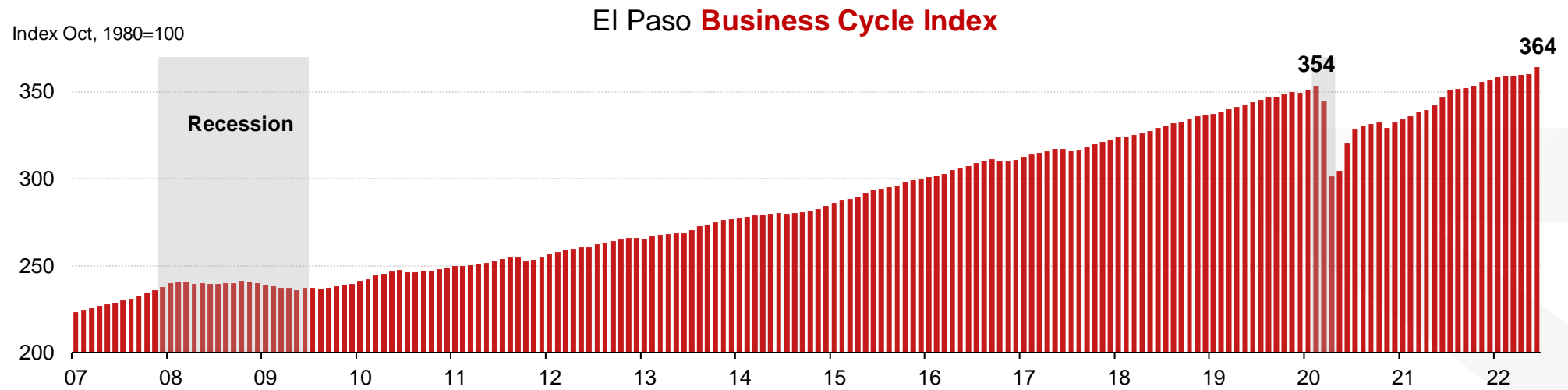
# c. Data Analysis

David Coronado



# Business Cycle Index

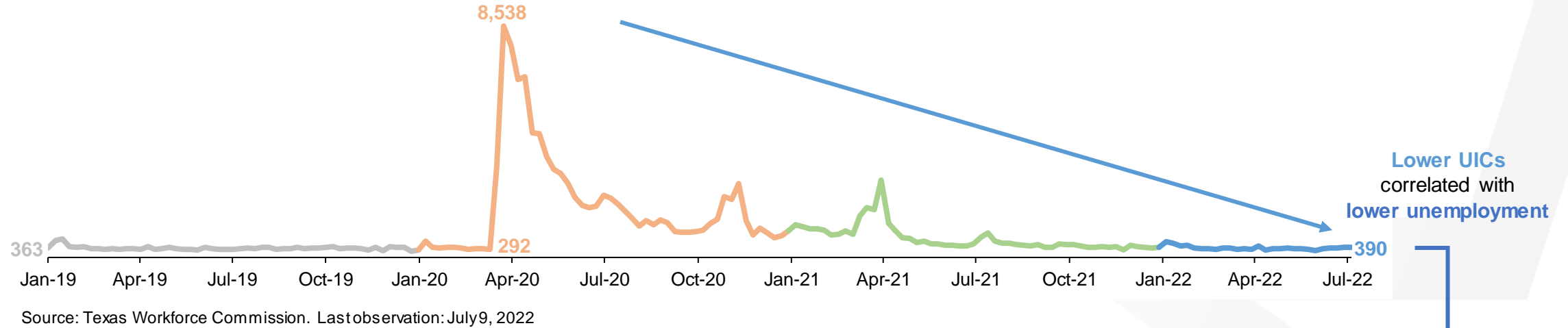
The El Paso economy slightly **expanded** driven by **wages and retail sales**



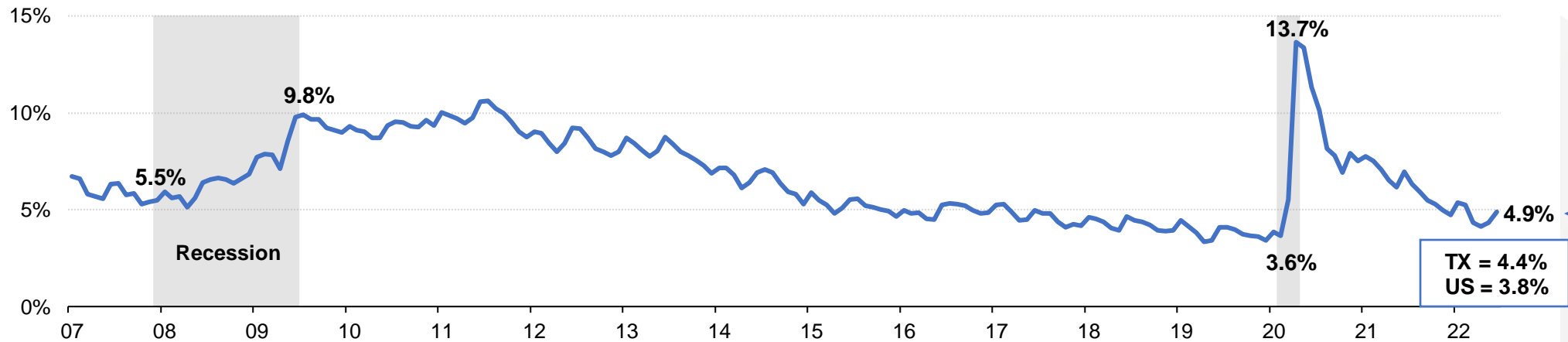
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Last observation: June, 2022

# El Paso County Unemployment

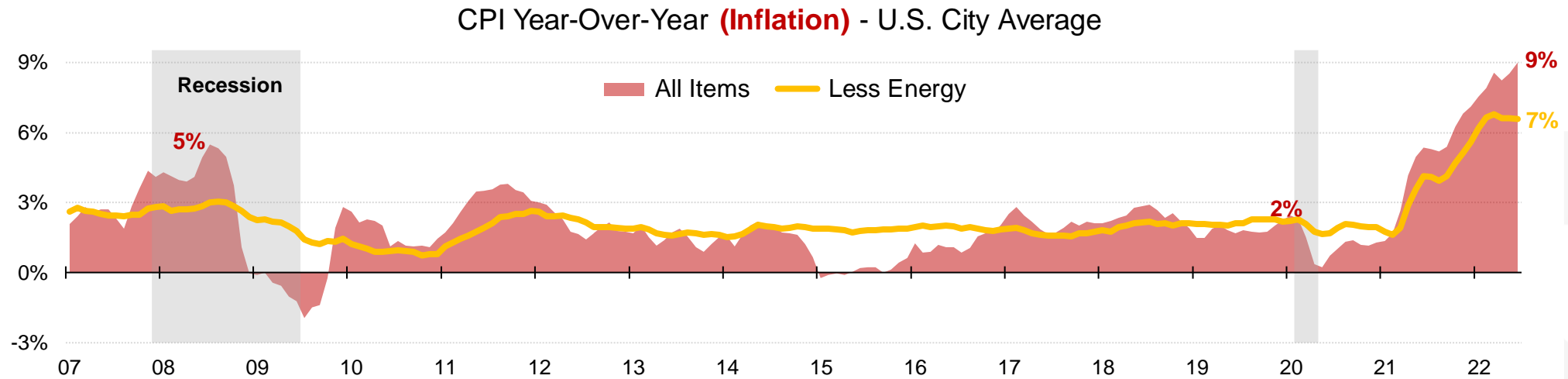
El Paso County Weekly **Unemployment Insurance Claims** (in thousands)



El Paso County Monthly **Unemployment Rate** peaked at 13.7%



# U.S. Inflation



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data Seasonally Adjusted. Last observation: June, 2022



# 5. City Manager Wrap-up

Tommy Gonzalez



**Thank you!**