



**CB**

**CHRIS BROWN**

(US) GOING UNDER FOR JACKIE

## STATEMENT

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(US) GOING UNDER

for Jackie

by Chris Brown (August 2, 2020)

Text adapted from *Child of All Nations* by Pramoedyya Ananta Toer

Video, poetry and voice by Johanna Poethig

Gangsa audio recording and mix by Philip Perkins


Voice recording and mix by Chris Brown

Performed by Brendan Glasson, Carly McLane, Sudhu Tewari, Lillianne Perez, Brenda

Hutchinson, Chris Brown




[HTTPS://COMPOSITEBYTHENUMBERS.COM//](https://COMPOSITEBYTHENUMBERS.COM//)



Each of six players plays one gangsa, a small, bronze flat-gong from the mountainous Cordillera region, Luzon, Philippines, traditionally played in unison by ensembles where each gangsa produces a different pitch. Each player holds their gangsa over a tub of water, strikes it with a stick, then lowers it gradually into the water, producing a descending glissando.

The score for the piece consists of a six bar-graphs displaying the number of newly confirmed Covid-19 infections on every day between March 1 and June 30, 2020 in six different states of the United States. Each player plays the data of one of these states: New York, Florida, Illinois, Texas, Washington and California. All players start together by synchronizing stop-watches, and play one stroke every 10 seconds thereafter for the next 20 minutes, where the depth of immersion of the gong into the water is approximately equal to the relative height of each successive bar in their graph. Equating the highest bar in your graph with full immersion of the gong, decide before striking the gong what percentage of immersion is indicated by the height of the next bar relative to the highest one. Accuracy in interpreting this percentage of immersion to each day's data is less important than accurately rendering the wave shown by the 7-day average line on the graph, so that growth and contraction of infections at each location will be rendered by the changing pitch range of each gong. It's NOT expected to coincide your strokes exactly with anyone else's – just try to regularly play one stroke every 10 seconds, and coordinate your progress through the score with your stop-watch and the minute markings on the graph.





The piece should be performed at dusk, so that the gradual change of light also accompanies the immersion waves of sound. A single voice intoning the following text, adapted from Child of All Nations, by Pramoedya Ananta Toer (pp. 13-14), may be woven thru the texture of the gongs, bringing attention to the details of slow evolution of human motion thru time:

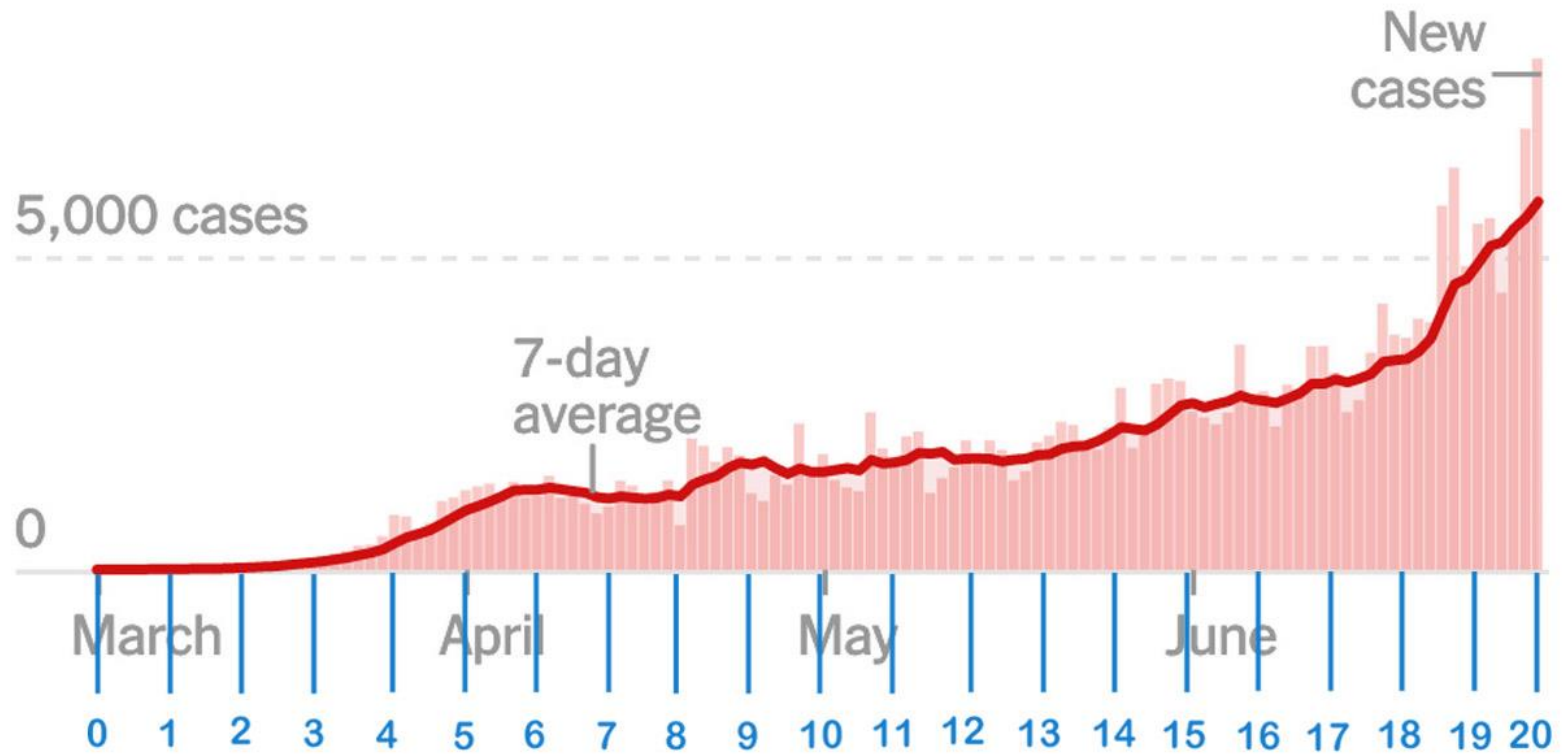
“The sun was moving slowly, crawling like a snail, inch by inch across the heavens. Slowly, slowly—not caring whether the distance it had traversed would ever be traversed again....before humankind stands only distance. And its limit is the horizon. As the distance is crossed, the horizon moves away. There is no romance so strong that it could tame and hold them—the eternal distance and the horizon...love, like every other object and situation, has its shadow. And love’s shadow is called pain. There is nothing without its shadow except light itself. Whether light or shadow, nothing can escape being pushed along... No one can return to their starting point...

All are pushed on towards that horizon, while it recedes eternally beyond our reach, pushed on towards annihilation. And it is that annihilation that in turn brings rebirth... everything must have a beginning..”

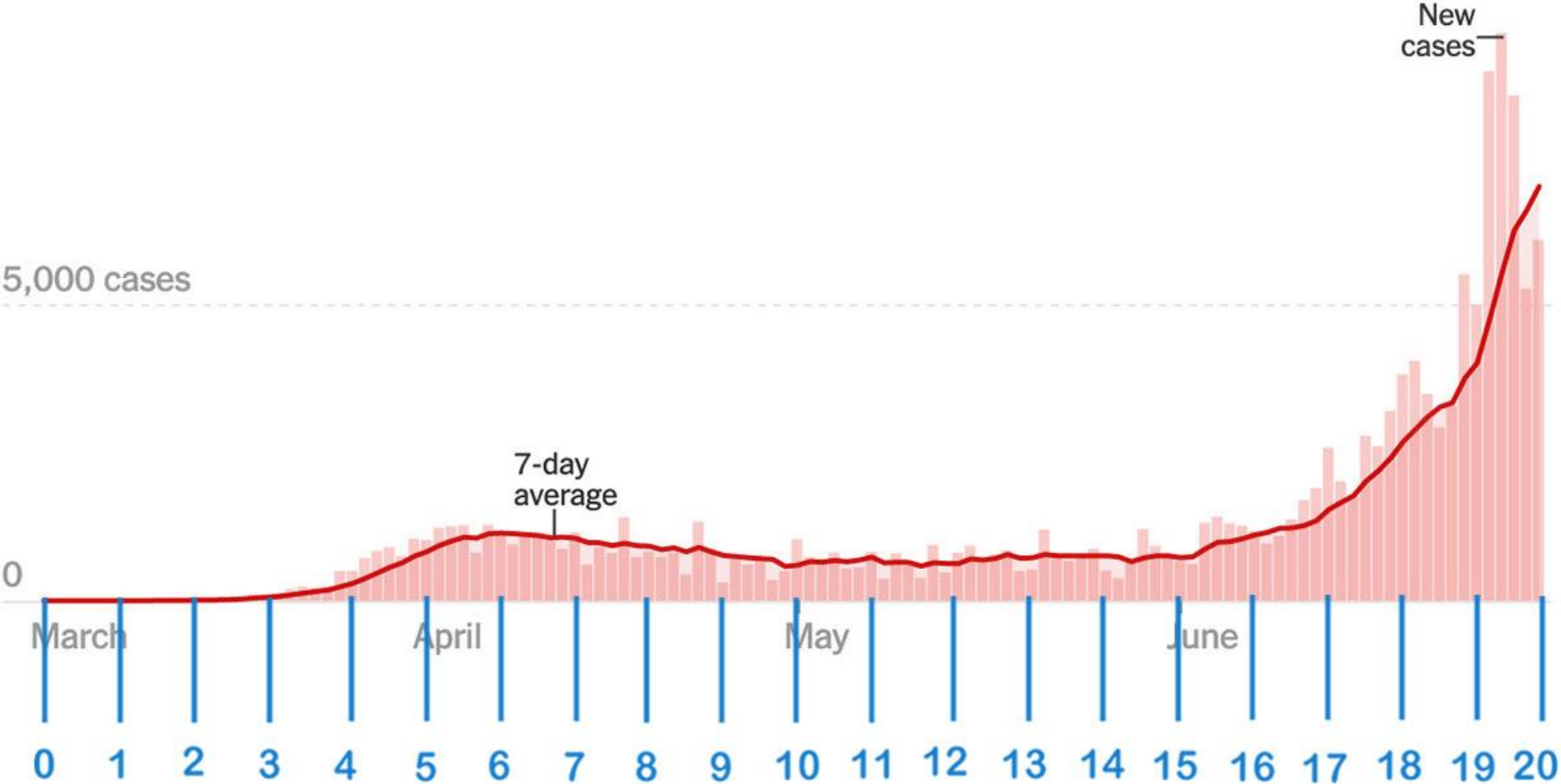


**SCORE**

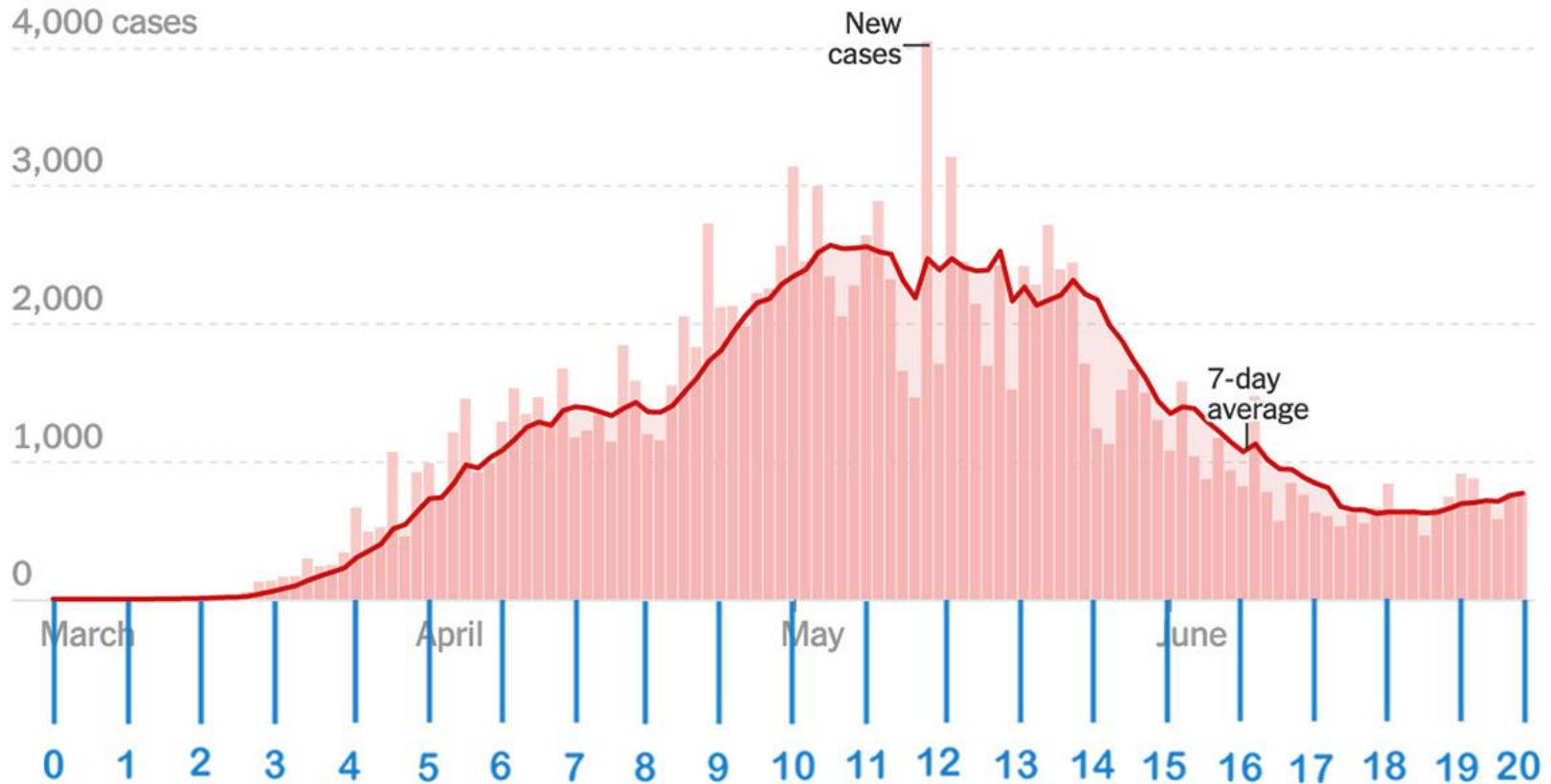
**New reported cases by day in California**



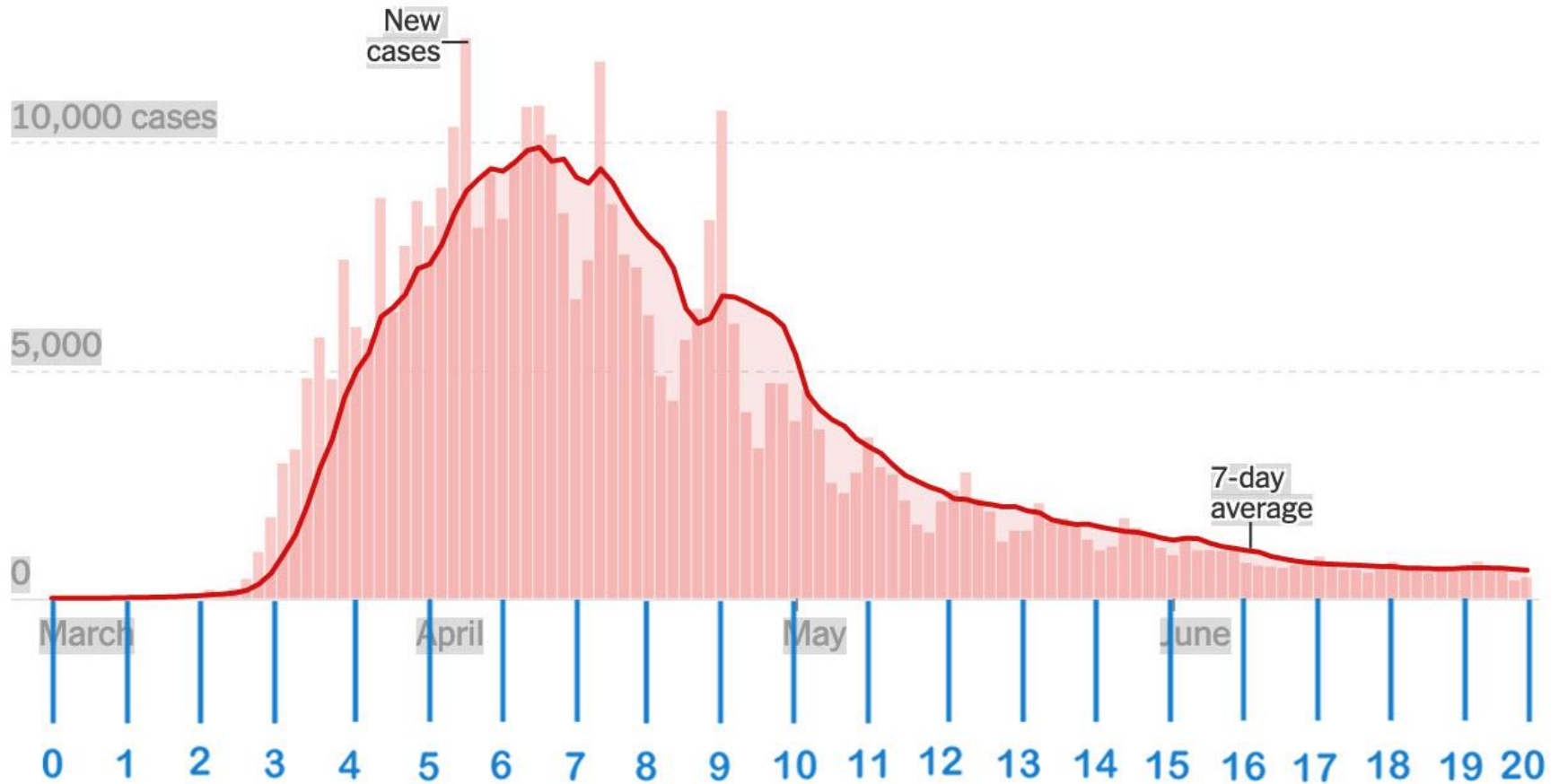
# New reported cases by day in Florida



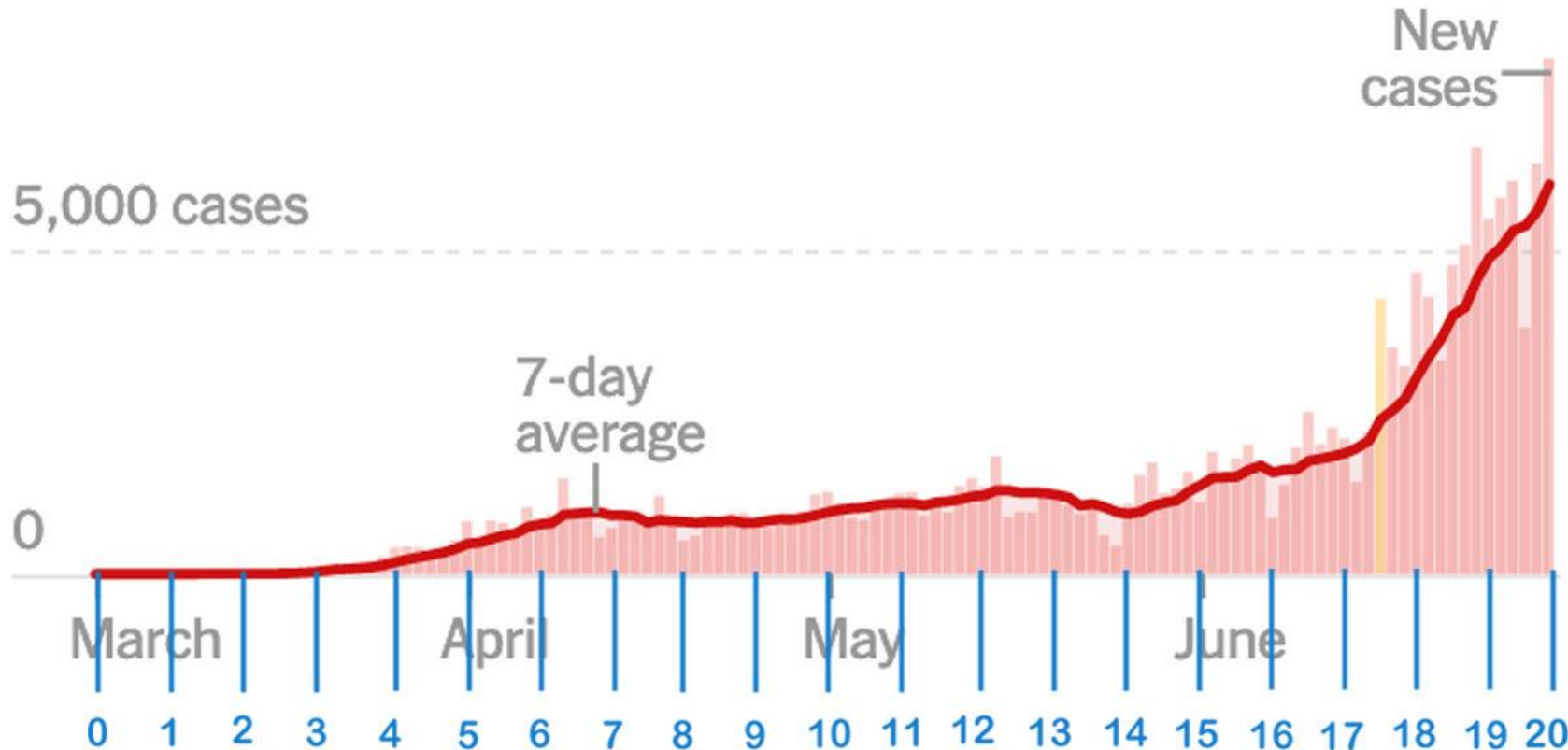
## New reported cases by day in Illinois



## New reported cases by day in New York

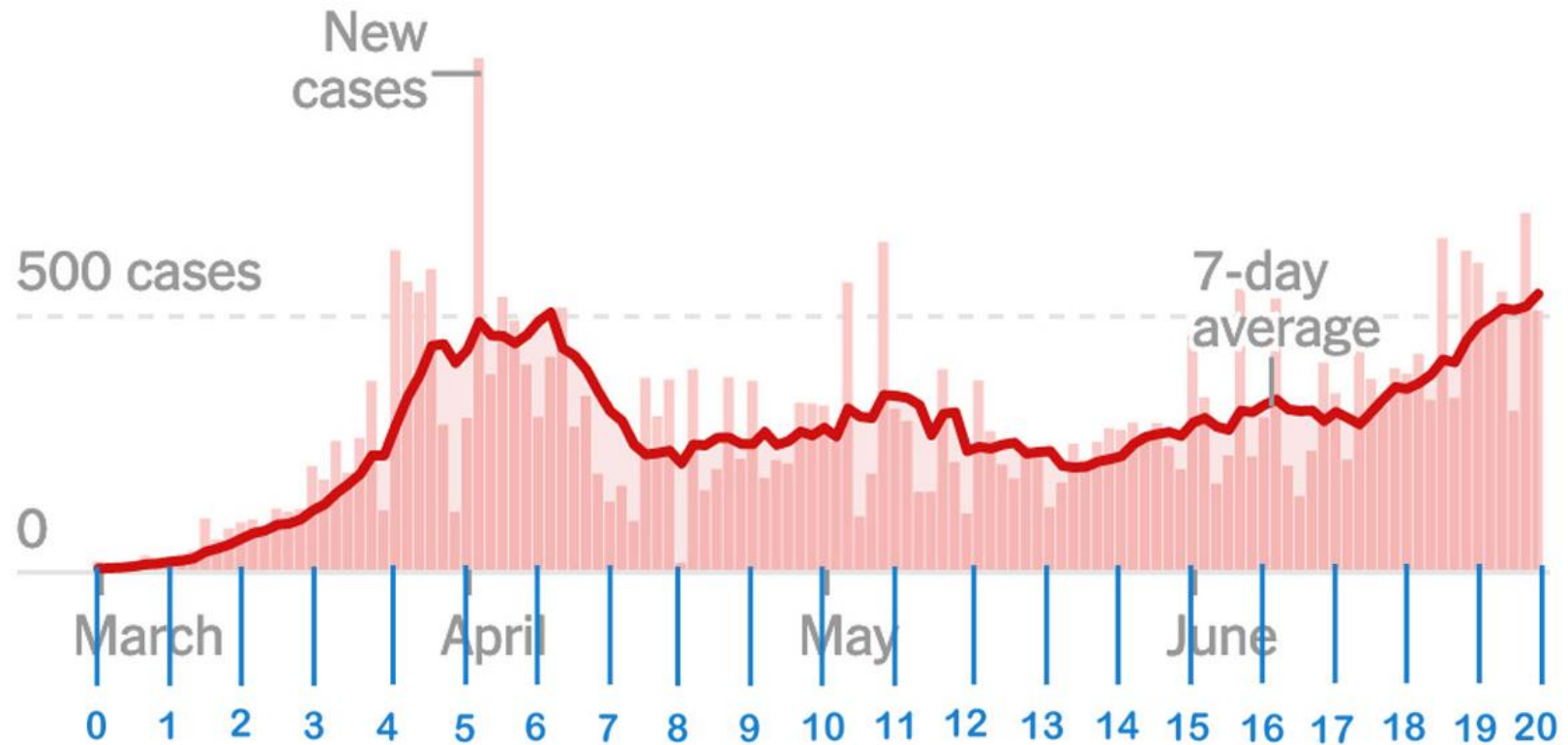


# New reported cases by day in Texas





## New reported cases by day in Washington



## BIO

CHRIS BROWN, composer, pianist, and electronic musician, makes music with self-designed sonic systems that include acoustic and electroacoustic instruments, interactive software, computer networks, microtonal tunings, and improvisation. His compositions are designs for performances in which people bring to life the musical structures embedded in scores, instruments, and machines. Throughout his career he has composed solos for computer and for acoustic instruments with interactive electronics using self-authored software. Since 2005 he writes music in Just Intonation, also integrating rhythmic structures that parallel the proportions used in their tunings.

He is a founding member of the pioneering computer network band The HUB, which received the 2018 ZKM Giga-Hertz Prize for Electronic Music. He taught electronic music and composition as Co-Director of the Center for Contemporary Music at Mills College in Oakland, California for 30 years. His articles on live electronic music have appeared in Computer Music Journal, Leonardo Music Journal, and "At A Distance: Precursors to Art and Activism on the Internet" (MIT Press).

YOU are encouraged to perform this score and share with us your rendition through [sonicmanilaresearch@gmail.com](mailto:sonicmanilaresearch@gmail.com).

This work is part of Composite By The Numbers. <http://compositebythenumbers.com>

A project by Dayang Yraola. 2020. <http://compositenoises.dayangyraola.com>

