



# Chart Book: *Preliminary* COVID-19 Medicare Claims Analysis

March 2022

## Overview

This chart book focuses on the national hospital discharge trends evidenced during the months of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). ATI Advisory will update this chart book as new data are released.

## Data Source

100% Medicare FFS claims incurred January 2019 – May 2021 and paid through June 2021.

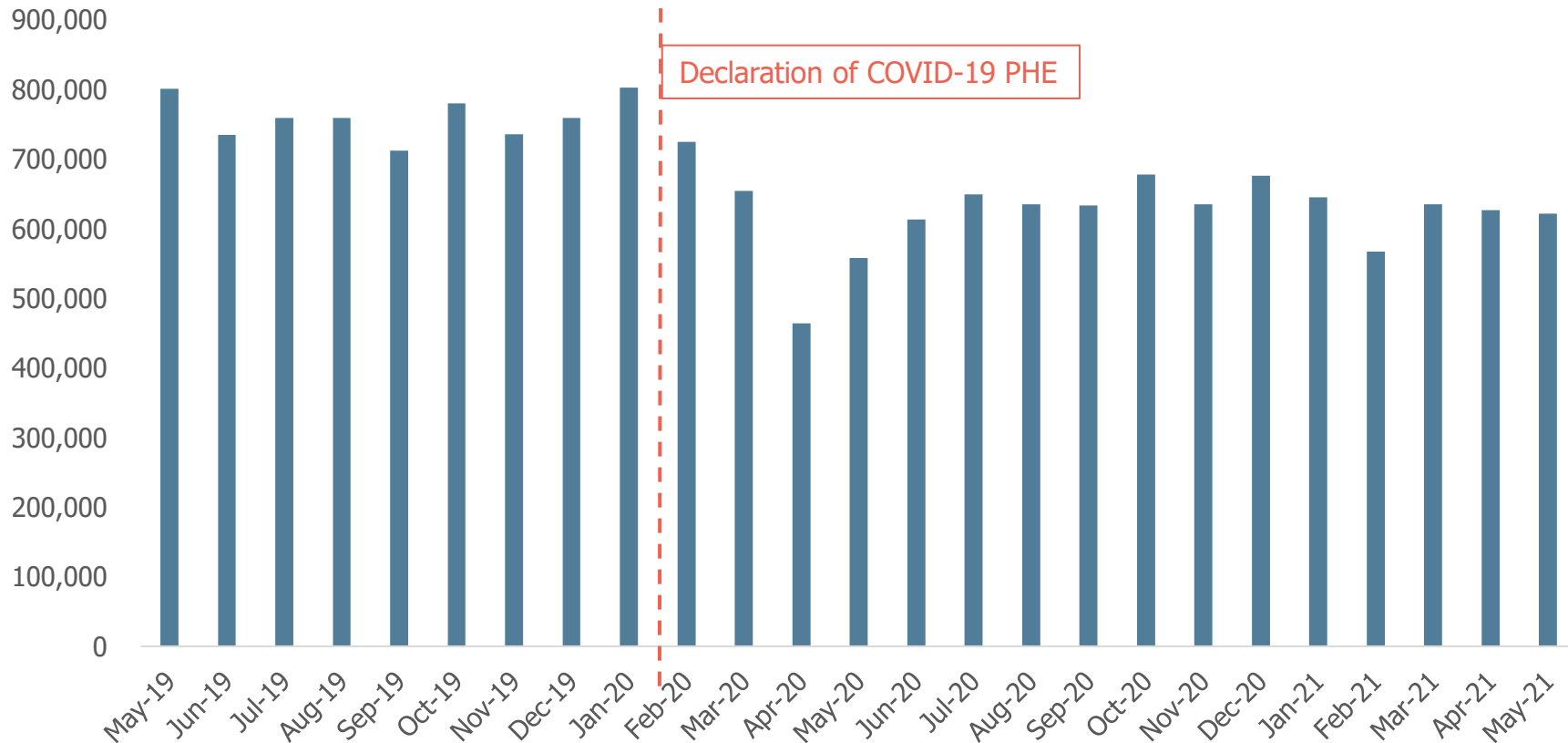
*See last slide for details on methodology.*



# Overall Discharge Patterns and Trends

# Nationally, hospital discharges had not fully rebounded to 2019 levels as of May 2021

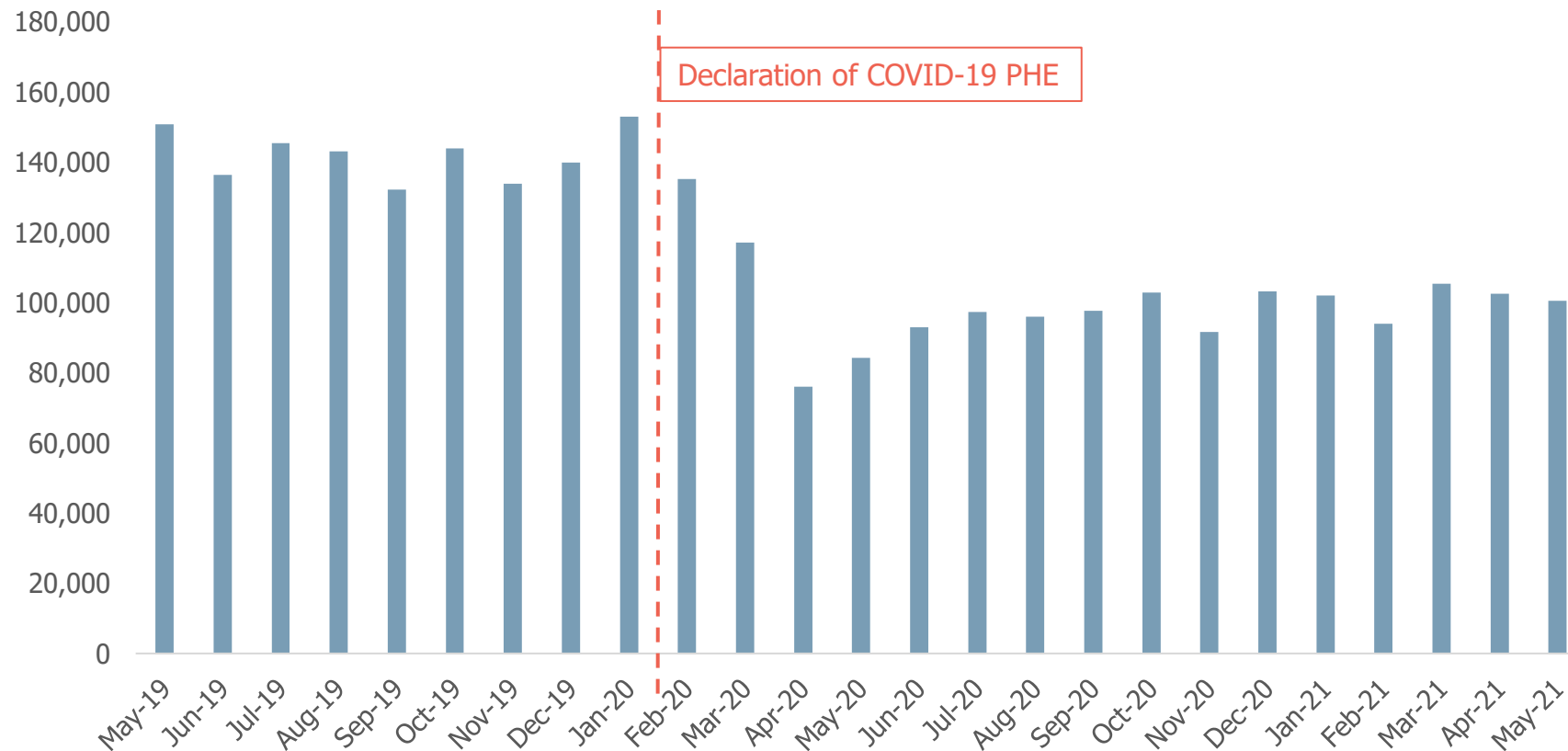
National Hospital Discharges



Though hospital discharges bottomed out in April 2020, **February 2021 had the third lowest hospital discharge volume** (after May 2020). Aside from February’s decrease, hospital discharge volume was increasing or relatively flat through early 2021, though discharges were still considerably lower than 2019 levels – **hospital discharge volume in May 2021 was 22% lower than May 2019 volume.**

# Substantially fewer patients were discharged from a hospital to a SNF after the COVID-19 PHE declaration

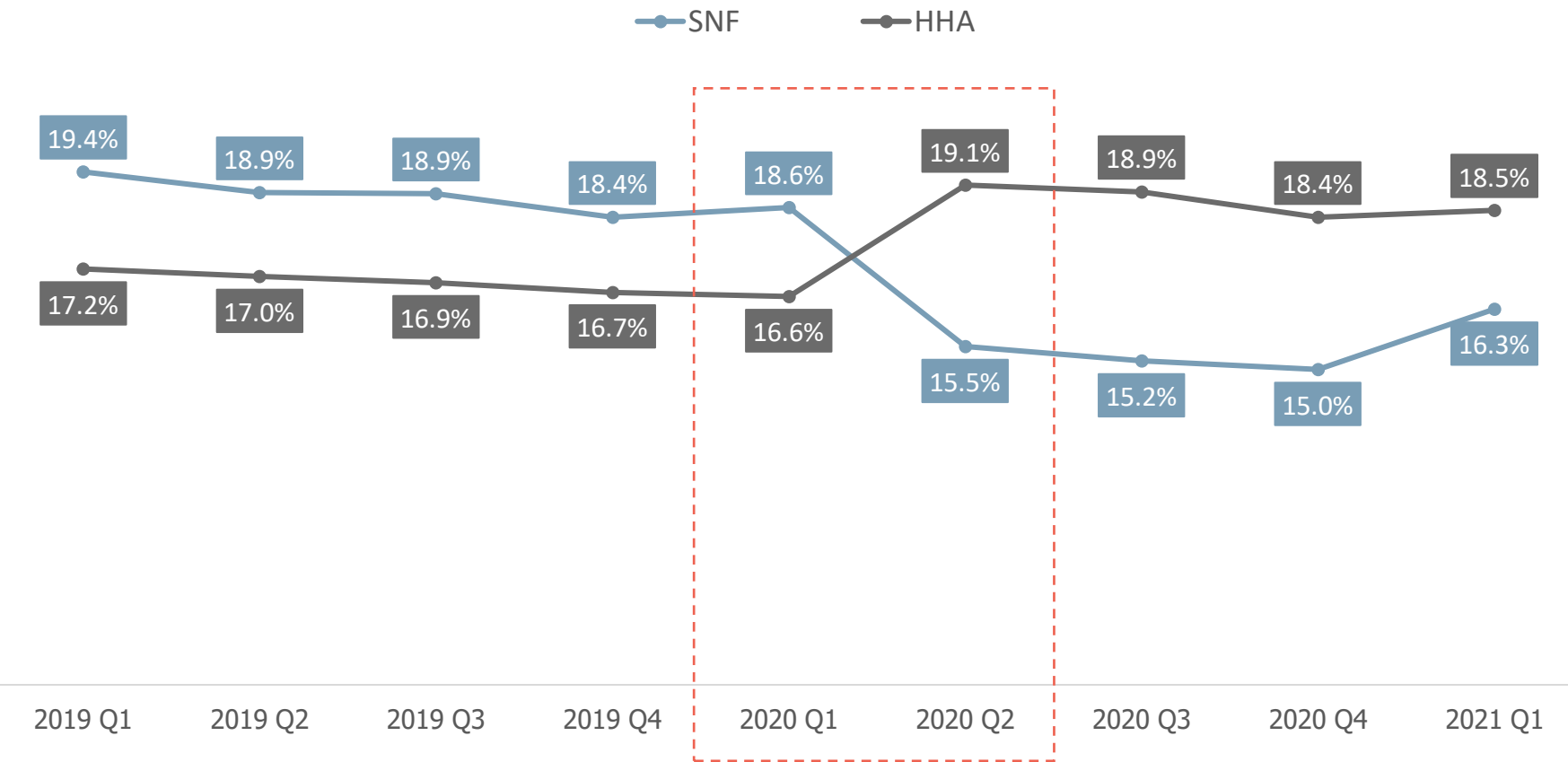
National Hospital Discharges to SNF



While total hospital discharges were lower in the months of the pandemic than in 2019, **SNFs were receiving disproportionately less volume from hospitals.** Similar to overall hospital discharge volume, hospital discharges to SNFs bottomed out in April 2020. **In May 2021, that number was still 33% lower** than May 2019 levels, though volume appeared to be somewhat stabilizing.

# Home Health continued to receive higher share of hospital discharges than SNFs, but the gap slightly closed in early 2021

National Hospital Discharges to SNF and HHA

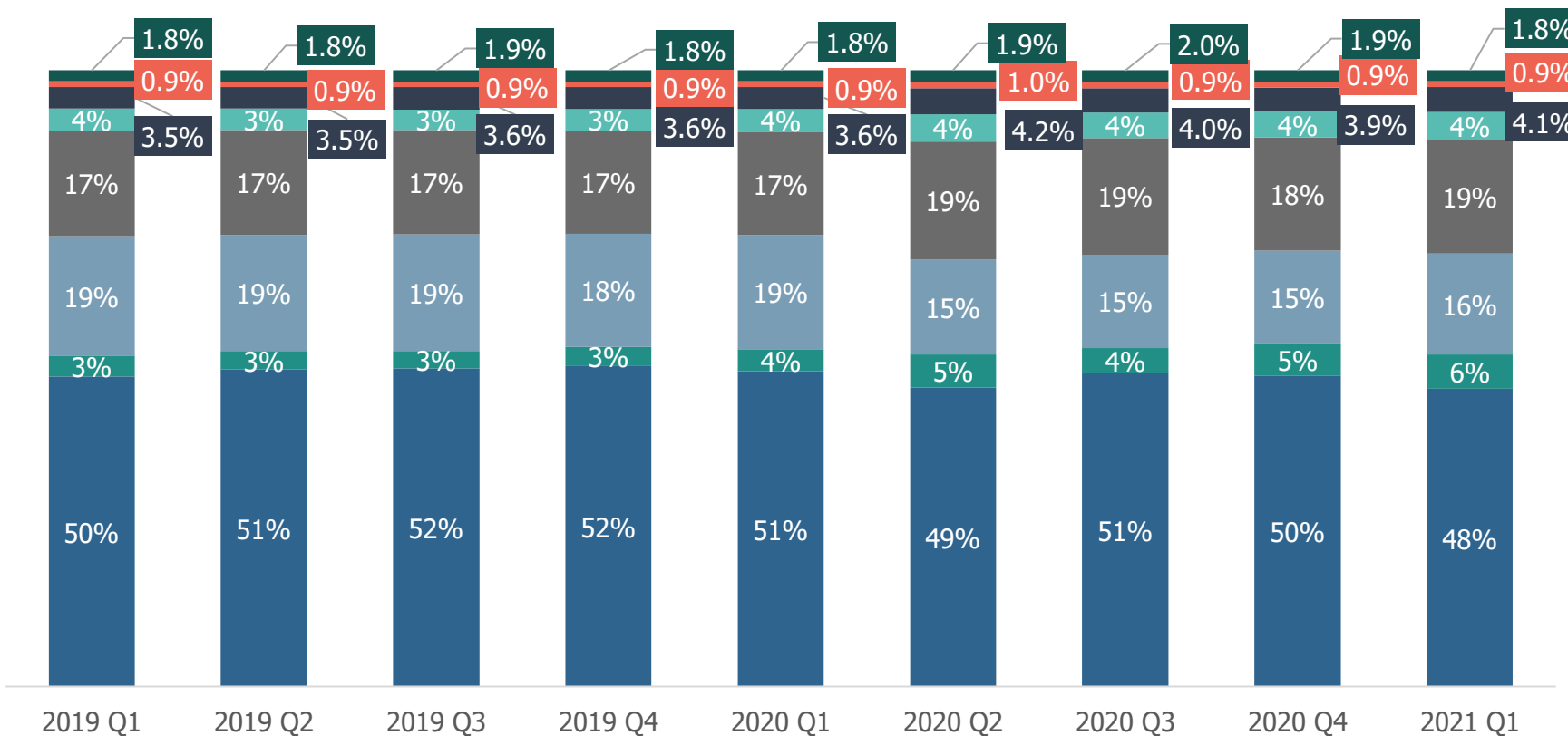


The **share of hospital discharges to Home Health and SNF largely traded places** when the pandemic hit and continued to stay in these reversed roles. However, the **gap started to close in early 2021**, as the share of hospital discharges to SNF experienced an uptick in 2021 Q1, the **first quarterly increase seen since the beginning of the pandemic.**

# Share of hospital discharges shifted from home to death and Home Health in early 2021

National Hospital Discharges by Care Setting

■ Home ■ Death ■ SNF ■ HHA ■ Hospice ■ IRF ■ LTACH ■ Other



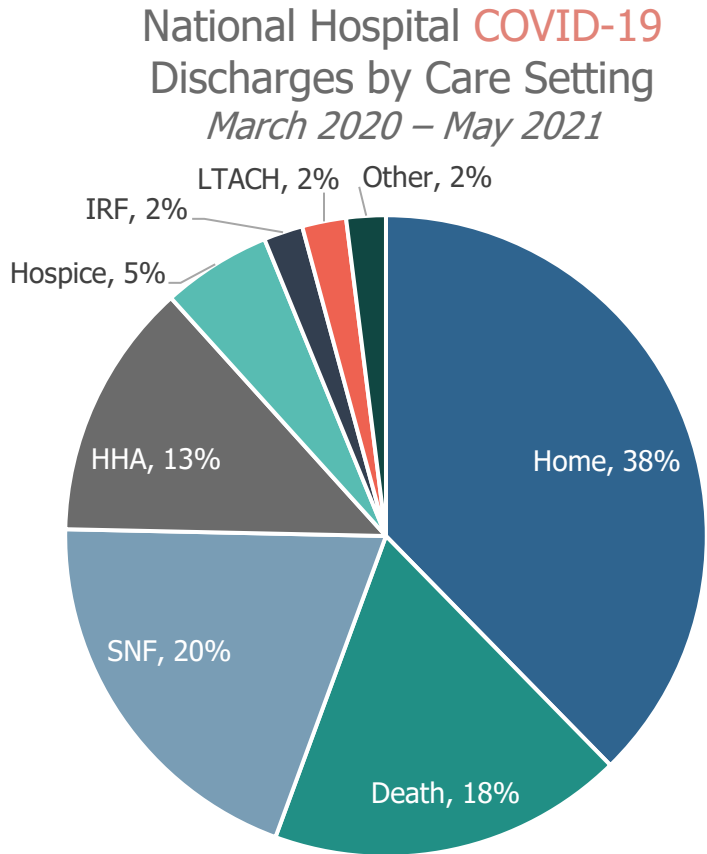
The share of hospital discharges to SNFs in early 2021 remained lower than pre-pandemic levels, despite being 1 percentage point higher than the previous three quarters. Specifically, the share of hospital discharges to home decreased from Q4 of 2020 to Q1 of 2021, while the share to death and Home Health increased.



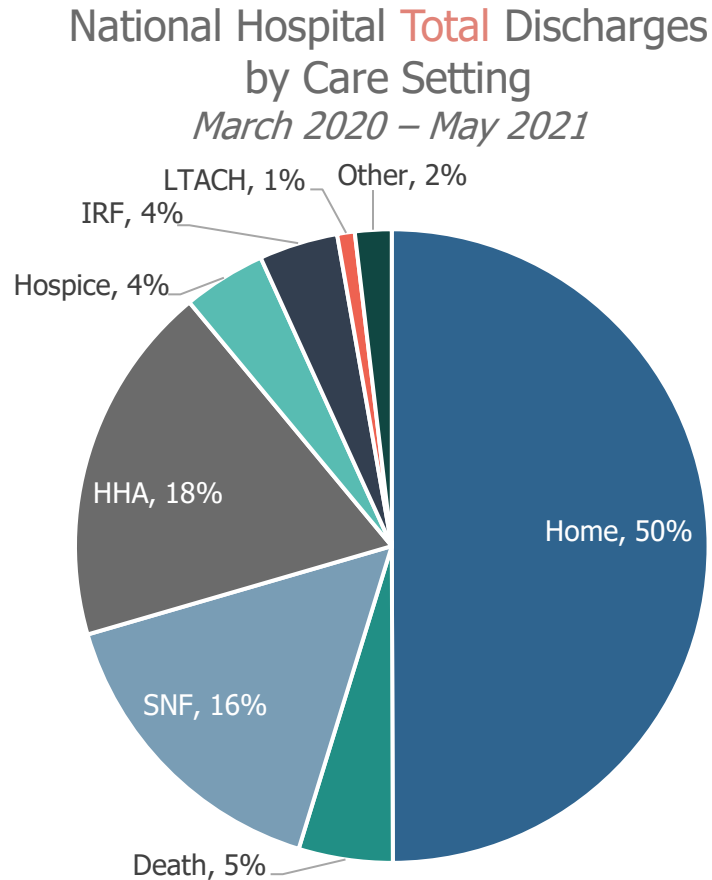
# COVID-19 Discharge Patterns and Trends



# SNFs received the highest share of COVID-19 discharges (among post-acute care settings)



Total Hospital COVID-19 discharge volume  
March 2020 – May 2021 = 786,409



Total Hospital discharge volume  
March 2020 – May 2021 = 9,293,839

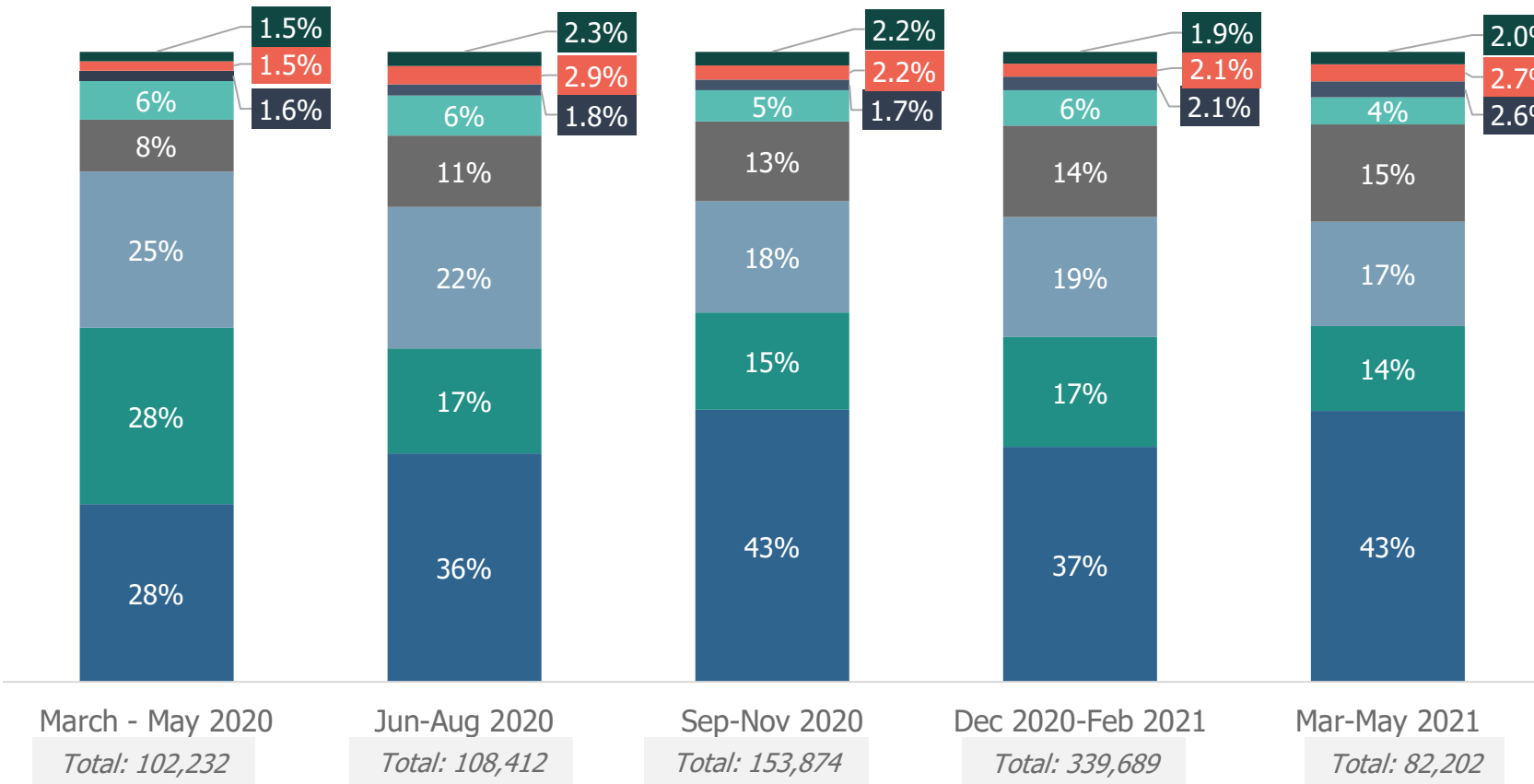
COVID-19 hospital discharges followed a different trend than total discharges from March 2020-May 2021:

- **38% of COVID-19 discharges went home** compared to the 50% of total discharges
- Although overall hospital discharges shifted away from SNFs in March 2020-May 2021, **SNFs received the highest share of COVID-19 discharges (among post-acute care settings)** at 20%
- 18% of COVID-19-positive beneficiaries expired at a hospital compared to 5% of the general hospital population

# Home, Home Health, IRF, and LTACH saw increases in COVID-19 hospital discharges in March-May 2021

National Total COVID-19 Hospital Discharges by Care Setting

■ Home ■ Death ■ SNF ■ HHA ■ Hospice ■ IRF ■ LTACH ■ Other



Though SNFs consistently received the highest share of COVID-19 discharges among post-acute care settings, the actual share of COVID-19 hospital discharges to SNF slightly decreased in March-May 2021, as did the share to hospice and death. The share of COVID-19 discharges to home, HHA, IRF, and LTACH increased in March-May 2021 compared to the previous three months.

## Data Source and Methodology

This chart book reflects the experiences of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries only. All analyses were created using 100% Medicare claims files for claims incurred January 2019 – May 2021 and paid through June 2021.

Data files were overlapped to create the most complete view of patient movement and trends. Increased lack of visibility is experienced in Quarter 2 2021 data as this is the end of the time period of currently available data.

Please use caution when interpreting this data analysis due to “claims lag” and manual manipulation of data. All data will be updated retroactively as additional quarters of data are released.