



IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED CLOSURE ON NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES

Affect of Closures In Our Country

After the pandemic was declared, we wanted to reduce the number of cases and get out of this process with a minimum of damage by taking certain measures, as in every country.

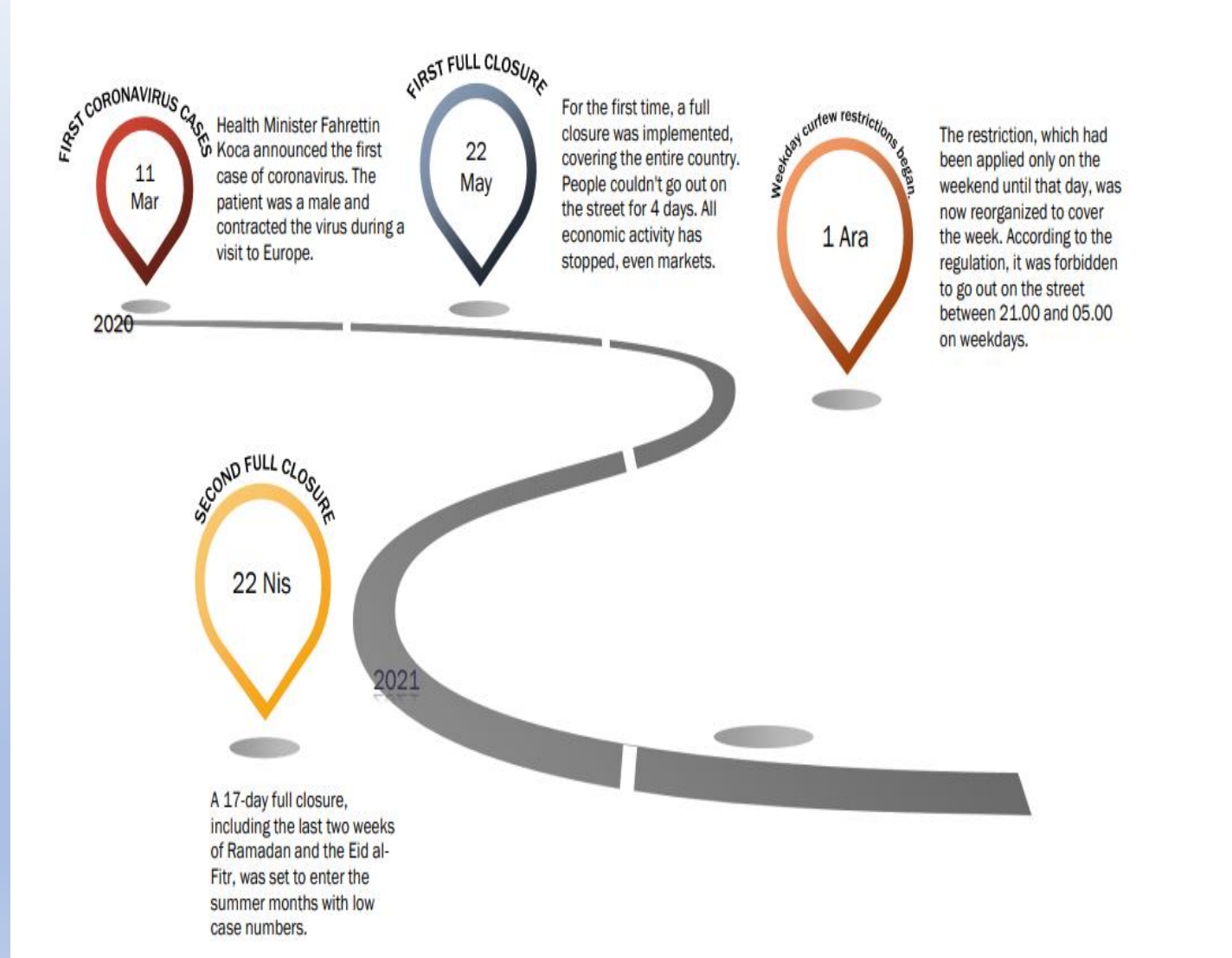
With the increasing number of cases, the term "closure" has now taken its place in our lives. With the detection of the first case on March 11, the inevitable process of 1.5 years (for now) started thus, and the government started closing practices in April 2020. As part of the process, two full closures were declared and there was semi-closure in between (still ongoing). So, have the closures been effective in decreasing the cases?

CLOSURE SCHEDULE

The coronavirus, which spreads faster than the normal virus, took only 3 months* to arrive in our country. I have summarized our closure schedule for you in the side chart.



**Experts state that the virus existed before the specified time (November-December), but the official records of the Chinese government indicate that the first case was detected on January 7.*



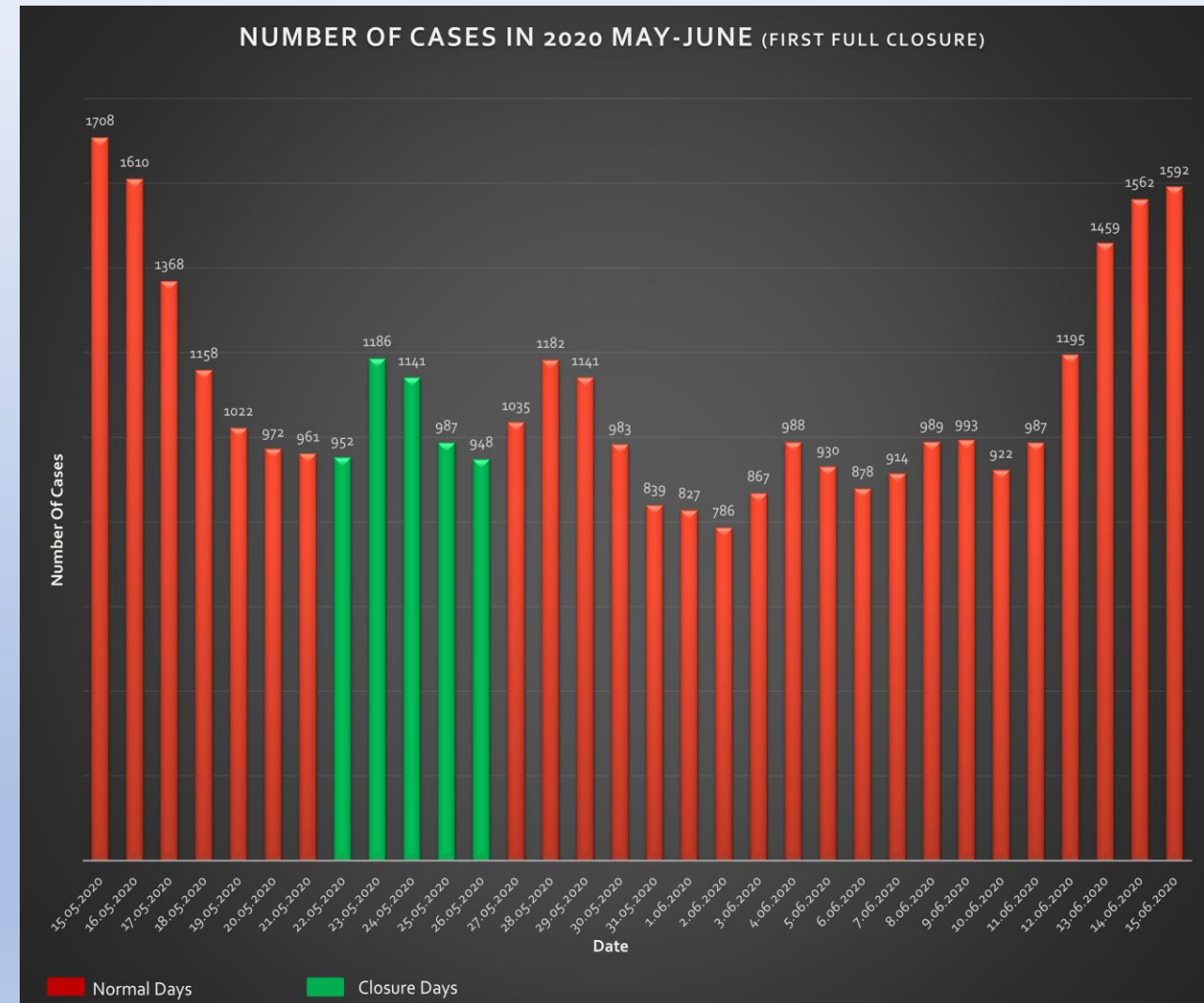
The calendar was prepared with the support of the BBC Turkish news "Koronavirüs: Adım Adım Türkiye'nin Covid-19 ile Mücadelesi".

FIRST FULL CLOSURE

The first closure was organized for 5 days to cover the 2020 Ramadan Eid.

The green areas we see in the graph represent the closing days.

After the closure, the number of cases first increased slightly, but then decreased. But after 12.06.2020 it started to rise again.



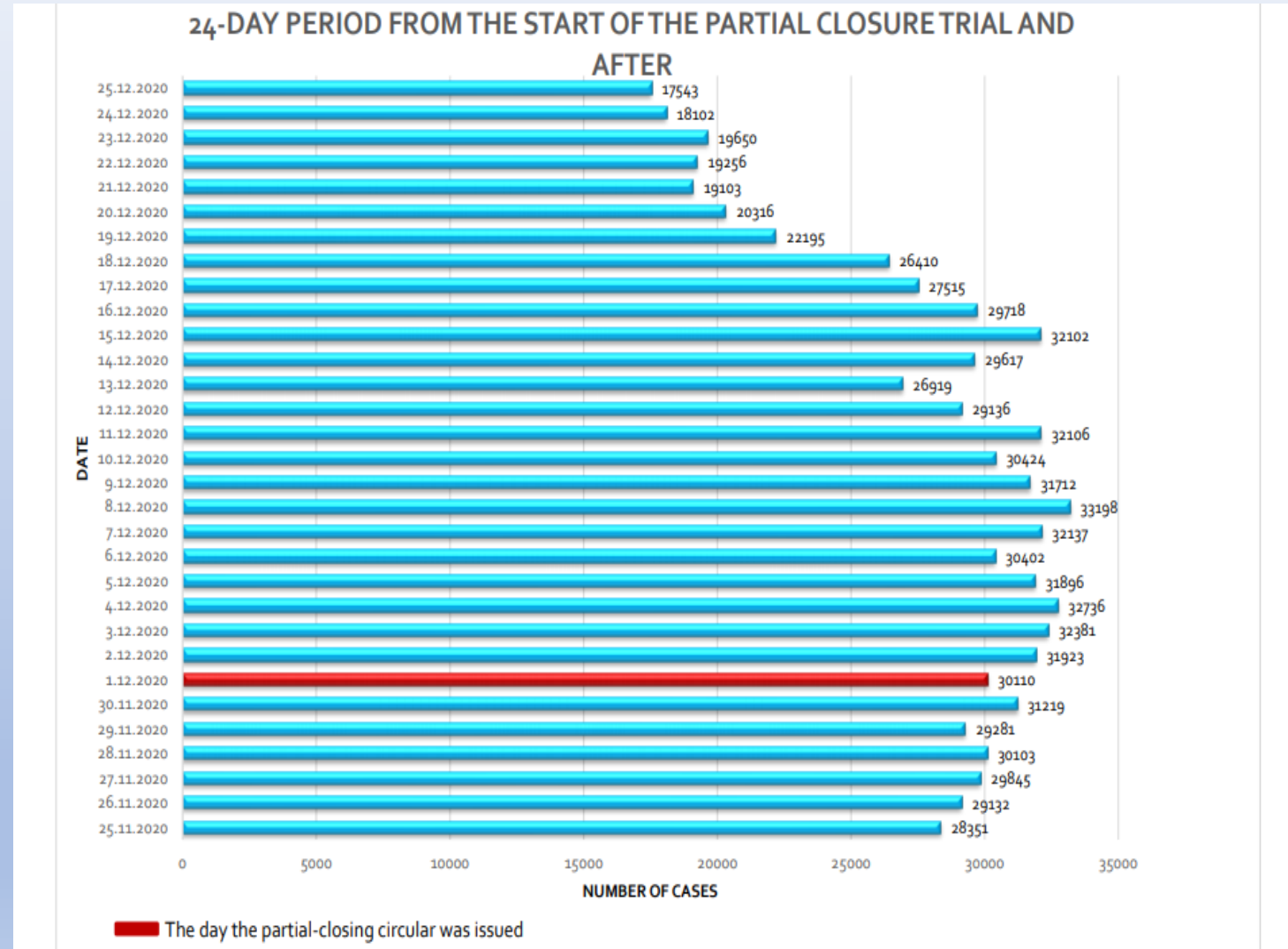
* The number of cases in the chart is taken from the Ministry of Health's Covid-19 web page. (<https://covid19.saglik.gov.tr/>)

Due to the fact that the continuous full closure caused some disruptions, the term partial closure would enter our lives for the first time on December 1 and would not leave us alone for a long time.

Let's take a look at the first days of the process and its after effects:

FIRST PARTIAL CLOSURE

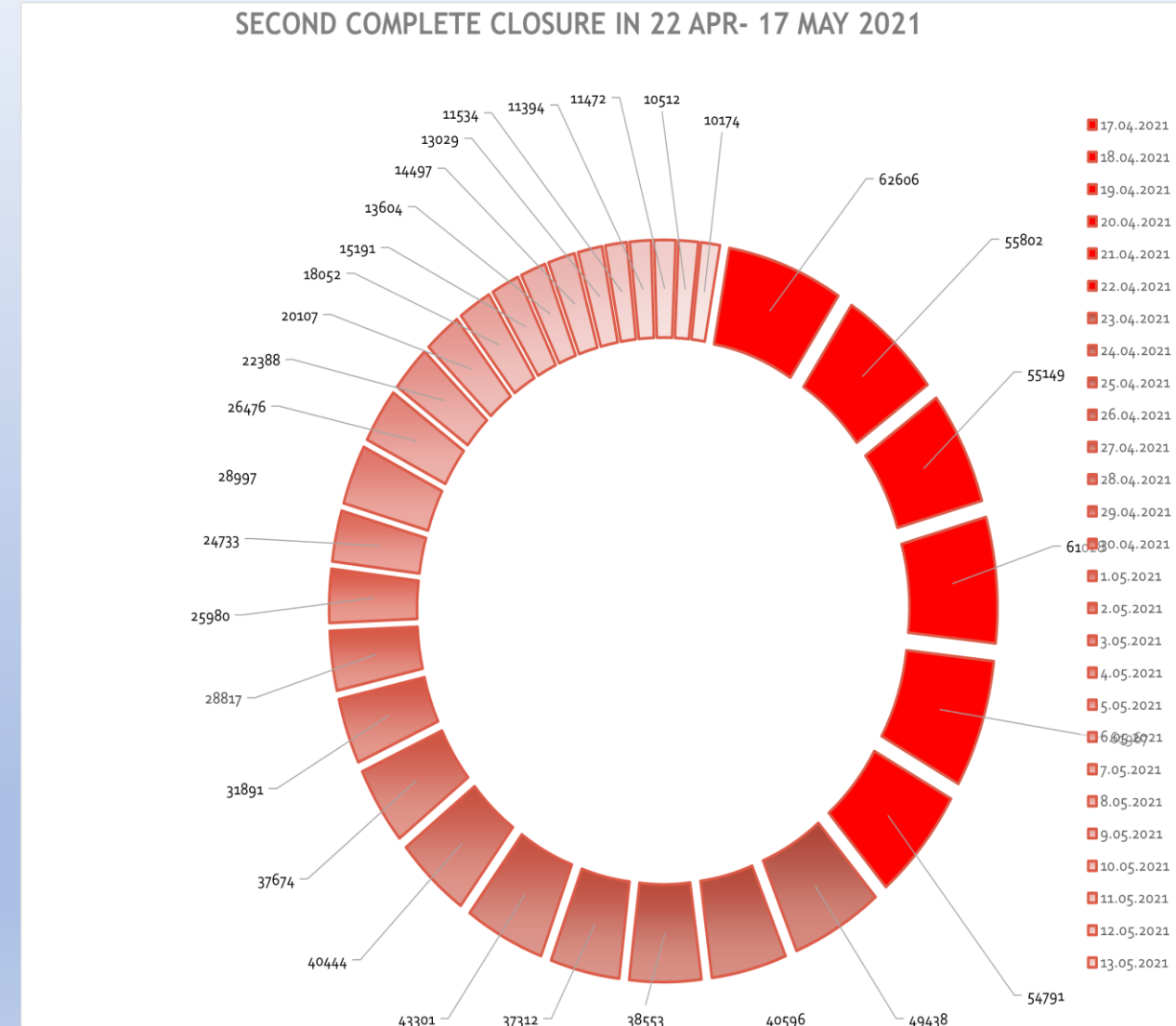
It is undeniable that partial closure, which can be defined as the closure of most places other than compulsory needs, or the restriction of their functions, positively affected the number of cases, but there was no great decrease, however, unlike a normal day, the transmission in crowded places decreased. (The day shown in red is the day on which the partial closure circular is published.)



* The number of cases in the chart is taken from the Ministry of Health's Covid-19 web page. (<https://covid19.saglik.gov.tr/>)

SECOND FULL CLOSURE

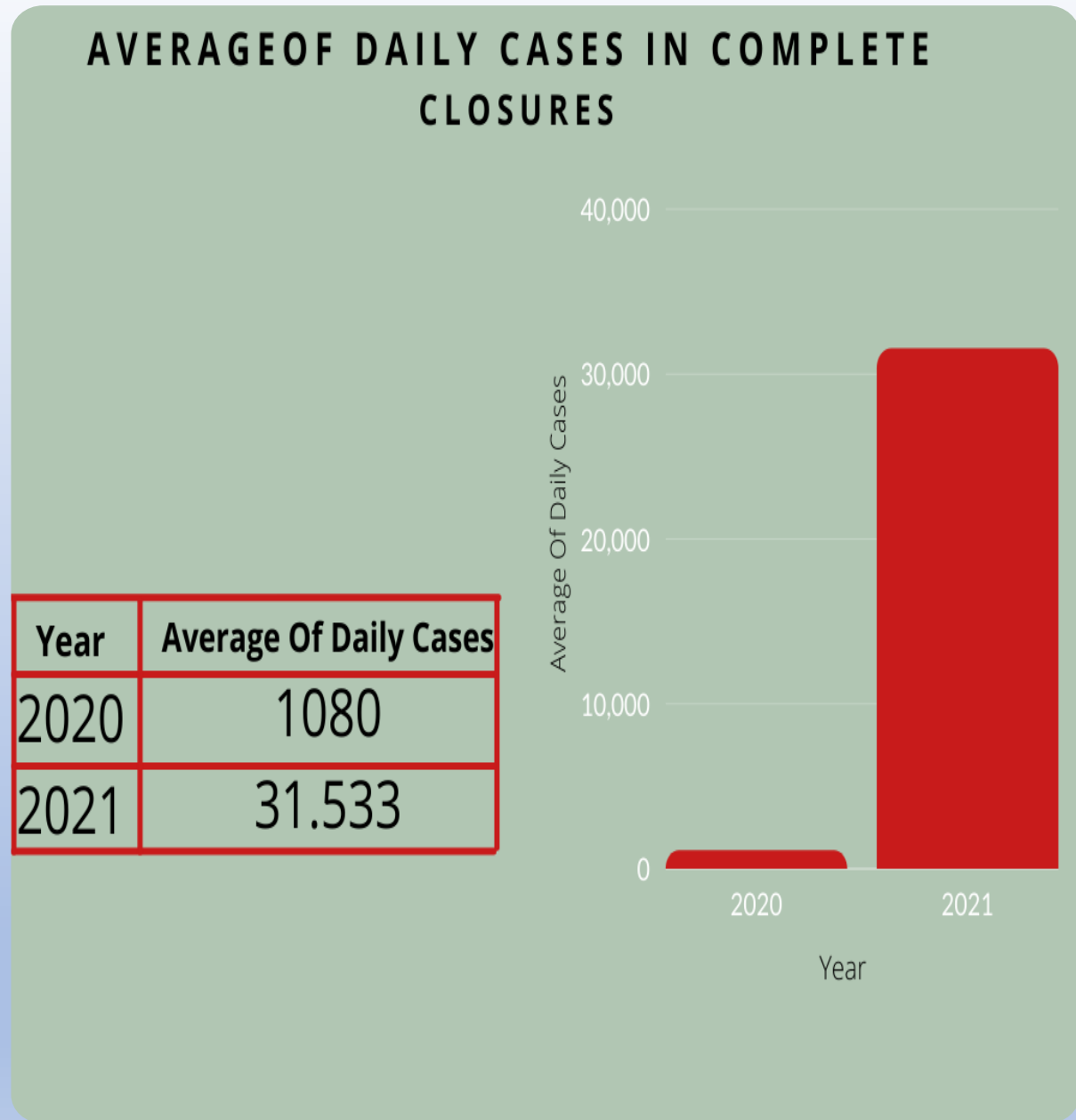
The protracted process and increasing cases were the sign of a second complete closure. In May 2021, when the risk of overcrowding may increase, our country closed for the second time and the number of cases decreased rapidly compared to other closures. Unlike other reds, the five circles, which are a more vivid red, represent the number of cases before the closure. The colors in the red palette coming later from the darker ones to the lighter ones are attributed to the decrease in the number of cases.



* The number of cases in the chart is taken from the World Health Organization. (<https://covid19.who.int/region/euro/country/tr>)

COMPARISON BY YEAR

During the pandemic period, which took almost two years, many people got their share of the virus. When we calculate the average of the number of cases in the same period of the two years (May) in the full closure process, the data that emerges show that the year 2021 has been the breaking point in terms of the number of cases.



** The number of cases in the chart is taken from the Ministry of Health's Covid-19 web page. (<https://covid19.saglik.gov.tr/>)*

In Conclusion;

→ Closure practices were necessary at the point where the number of cases exploded, because the rate of transmission of the virus was too high, although the number of cases was tried to be reduced with other applications, it did not have an effect as much as the closure.

→ Unlike other countries, our crowded population and the unbalanced distribution of the population (we have 30 cities with a population of over 750,000 and the megacity Istanbul's population is 15 million) caused closure practices to be taken early.

→ Early closures gave results and the number of cases decreased during that time, but in my personal opinion, partial closure of closure practices did not yield as much results as full closure and should have been regulated more effectively.

The closures were a mandatory process implemented by almost every country to reduce the number of cases. The number of cases has decreased thanks to these closures, yes, but the real reduction is in the hands of people. Mask, cleaning and distance are our biggest weapons in this process.

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THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME😊
HAVE A HEALTHY DAY.