

Influenza season is well under way, and the number of laboratory-confirmed cases has nearly tripled from the previous week. Other markers of flu activity, such as outpatient ILI and school absenteeism, have continued to climb as well. The NDHHS has received an additional report of an influenza hospitalization, as well as sporadic reports of increased pediatric hospitalizations associated with respiratory syncytial virus.

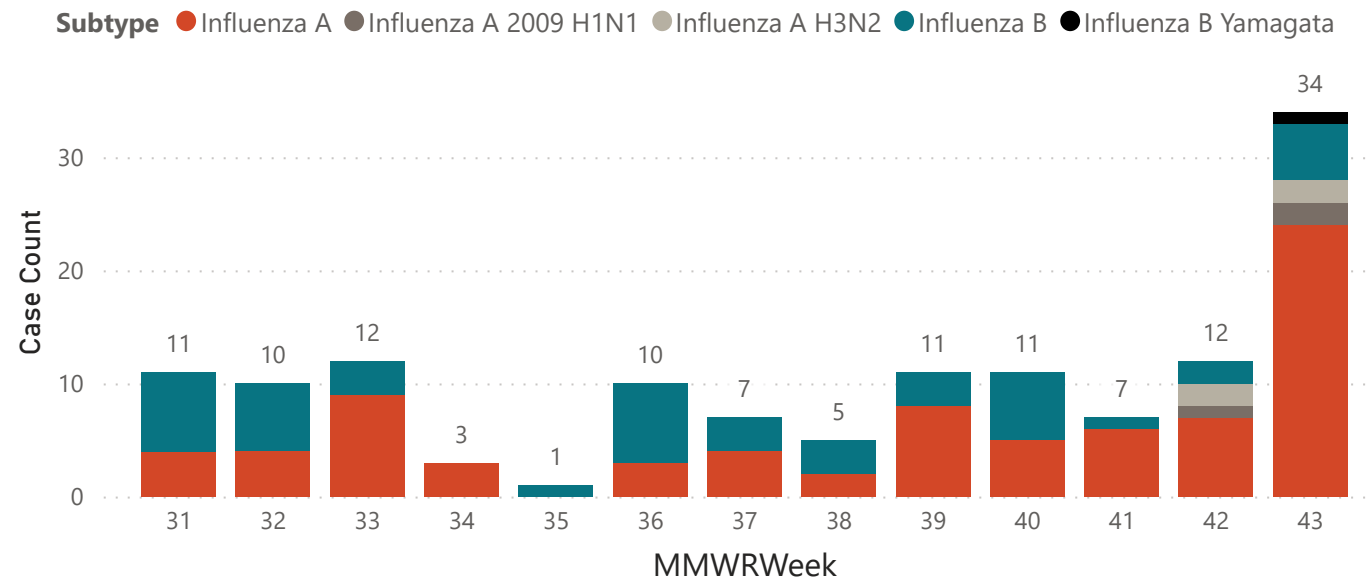
Nationwide, influenza activity is on the rise and is expected to continue to rise over the next few weeks. This early and severe flu activity highlights the importance of getting an annual flu vaccine.

For more information regarding flu vaccination, please visit [health.nd.gov/immunize](https://health.nd.gov/immunize)

| Subtype               | Cases in Previous Week | Total for Season |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Influenza A           | 24                     | 79               |
| Influenza A 2009 H1N1 | 2                      | 3                |
| Influenza A H3N2      | 2                      | 4                |
| Influenza B           | 5                      | 47               |
| Influenza B Yamagata  | 1                      | 1                |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>34</b>              | <b>134</b>       |

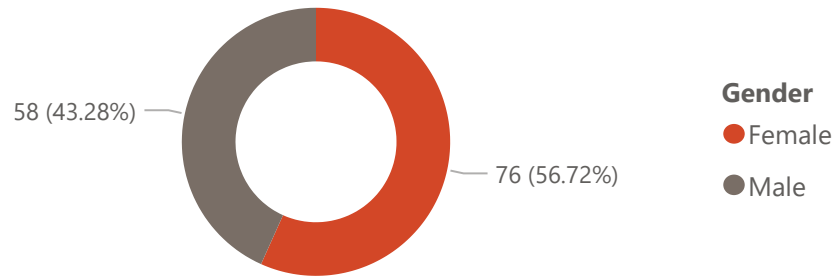
|   | Last Week | Season Total |
|---|-----------|--------------|
| New Influenza Cases:                          | 34        | 134          |
| Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness: | 2.99%     | 2.46%        |
| Laboratory Specimens Positive for Influenza:  | 0.91%     | 0.81%        |
| Percentage of Students Absent from School:    | 14.94%    | 11.49%       |
| New Hospitalizations due to Influenza:        | 1         | 3            |
| New Deaths due to Influenza:                  | 0         | 0            |

### Influenza Cases by Week Number

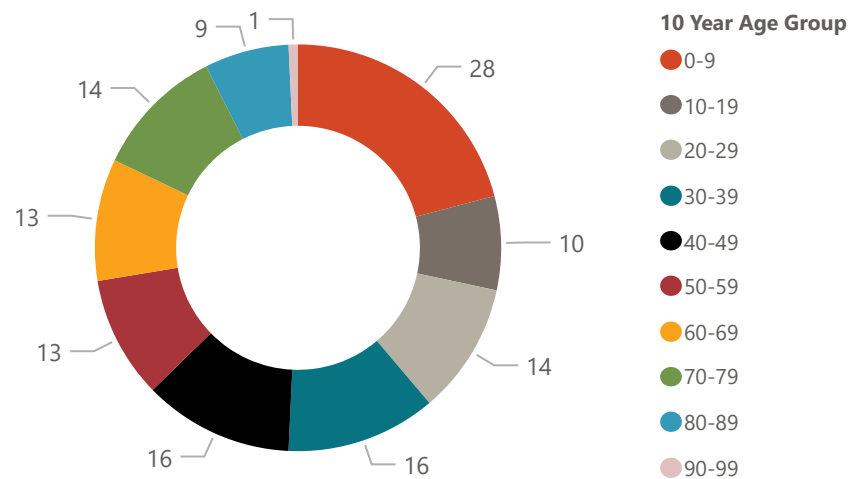


Laboratory-confirmed influenza is a reportable disease in North Dakota. Influenza "cases" include people that have tested positive for influenza in a healthcare setting. It does not include people with influenza who did not seek healthcare, or were diagnosed without a lab test, which is common. The true number of people in North Dakota is underrepresented, but case data allows us where influenza is circulating and in what populations. It also provides context regarding how the current season compares with previous seasons. Find more information about cases on [ndflu.com](http://ndflu.com)

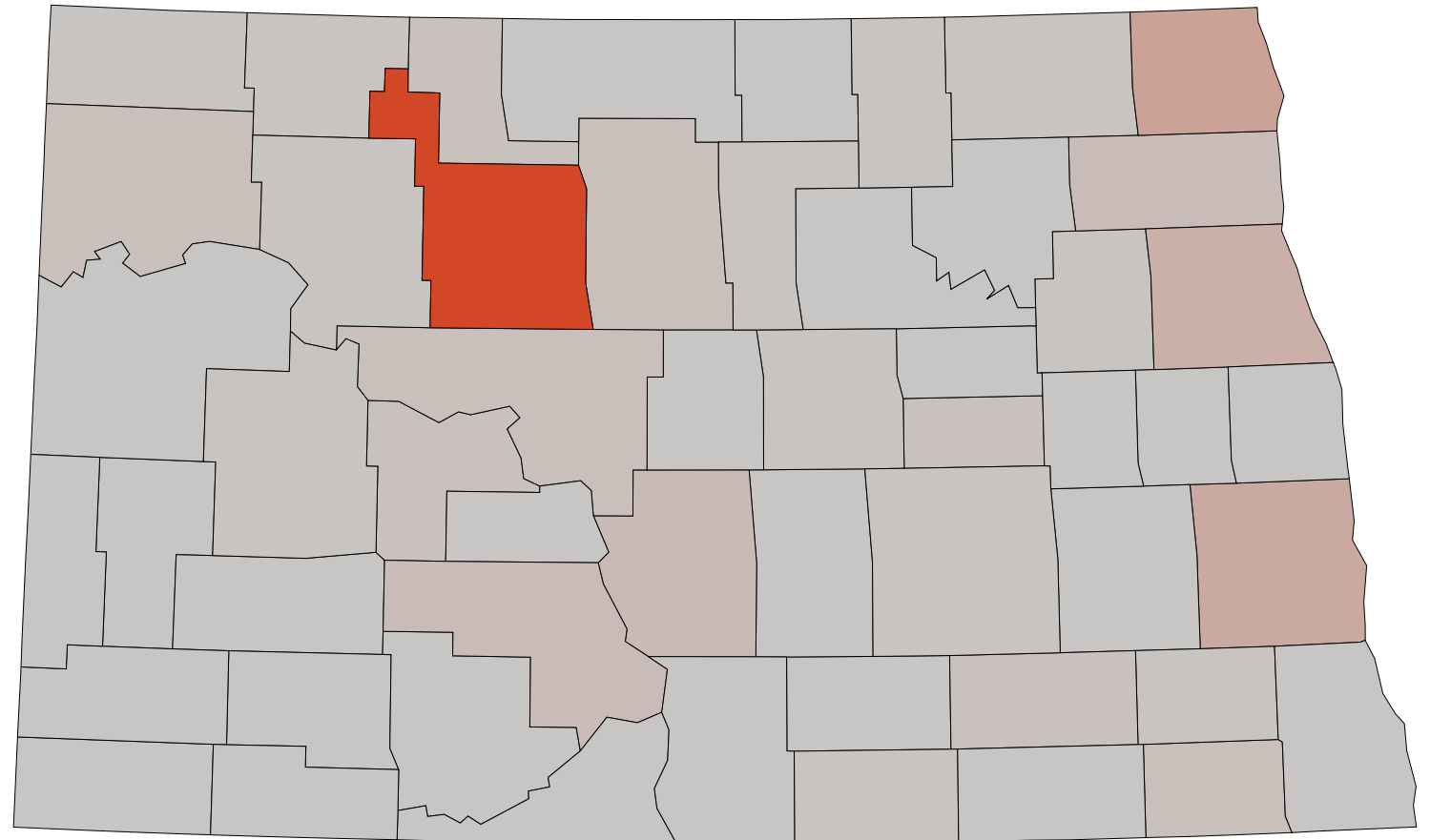
Influenza Cases by Gender



Influenza Cases by Age Group



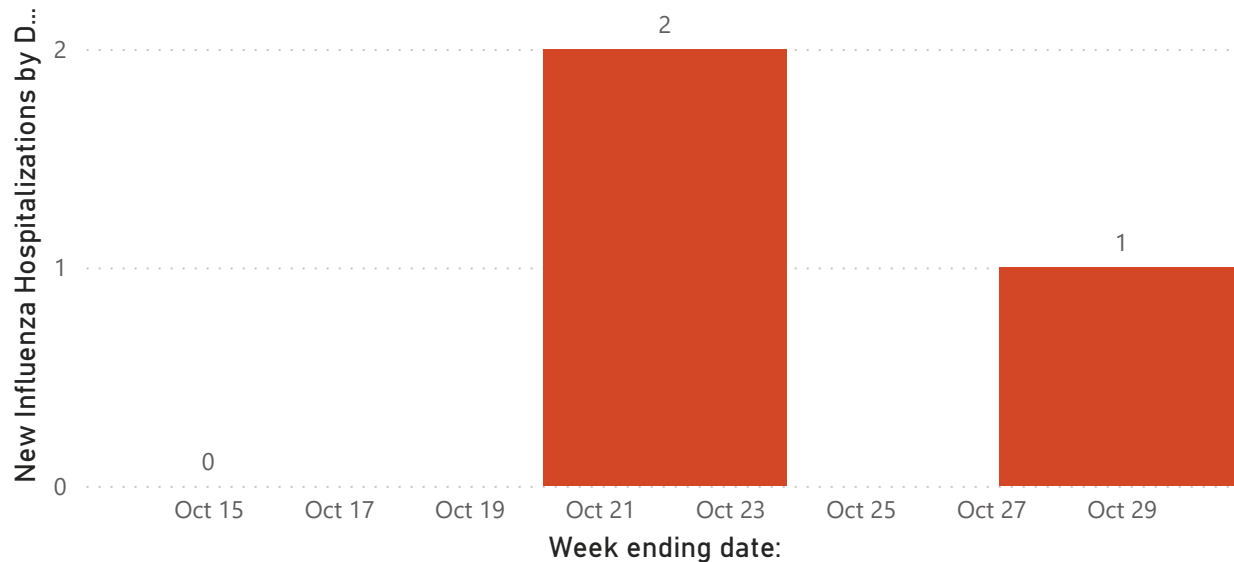
Total Influenza Cases by County



**Influenza Hospitalization** information is collected via daily aggregated reports to the NDDoH. Because this surveillance methodology is new this year, hospitalization numbers this year may not be comparable to previous years.

**Influenza Death** information is obtained from Vital Records, and is based on the listed cause of death on the individuals death certificate.

New Influenza Hospitalizations by Date



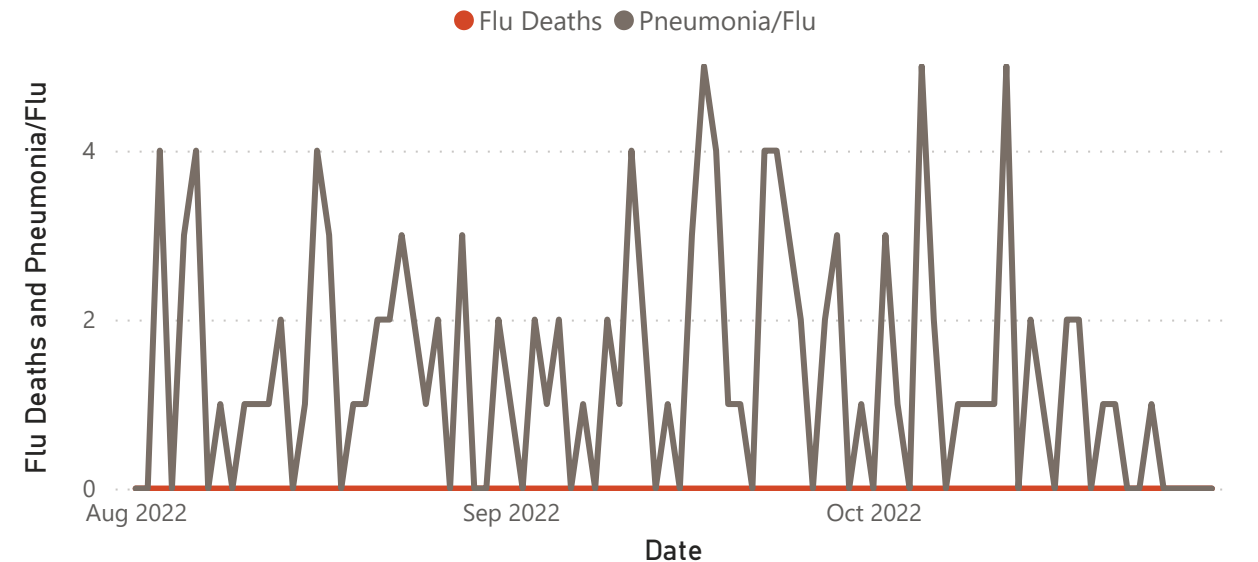
1

New Weekly Hospitalizations

3

Total Hospitalizations for Season

Influenza and Pneumonia Deaths by Date



0

Flu Deaths

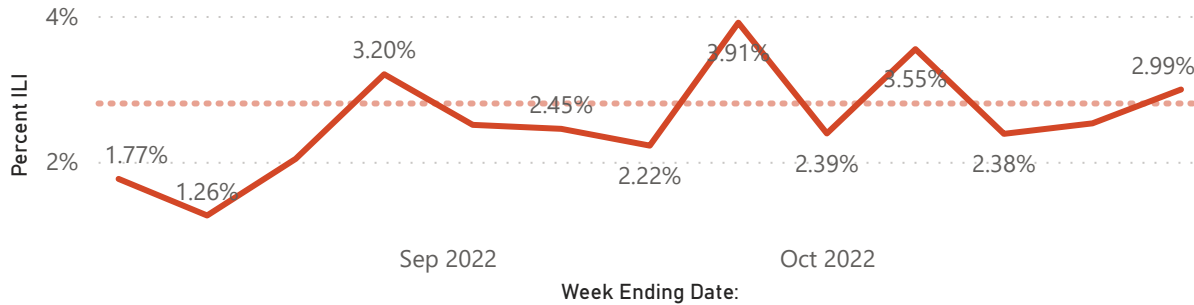
124

Pneumonia/Flu Deaths

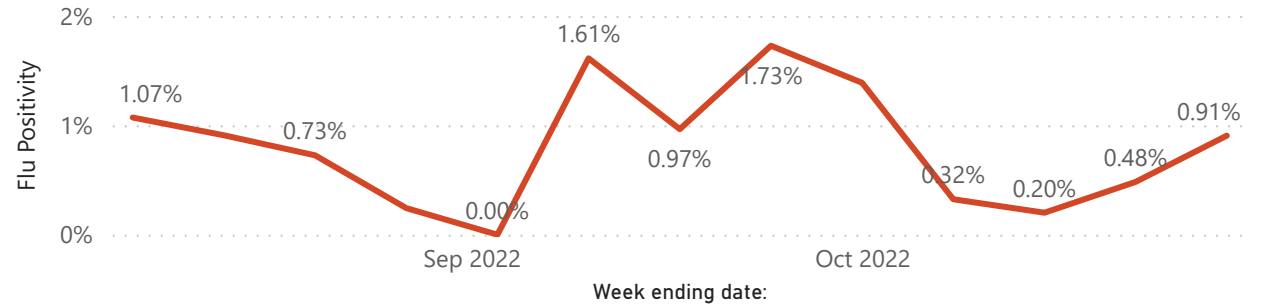
**Outpatient Influenza-like Illness (ILI)** The NDDoH participates in the national U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet). Data from participating outpatient providers in north Dakota are pooled to create a state-wide estimate for the weekly percent of healthcare visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI). Patients presenting with a fever of 100 degrees or greater AND a cough and/or sore throat are considered to have ILI. For more information on state and national ILINet data, see [FluView Interactive](#)

**Sentinel Laboratory Data** The NDDoH receives influenza and RSV testing data from participating sentinel laboratories across the state. The total number of positive tests and the total number of tests conducted are reported and used to create a state-wide percent positivity statistic. For influenza, percent positivity of 10% or greater indicates 'season level' influenza activity.

Percent ILI by Week



Flu Positivity by Week

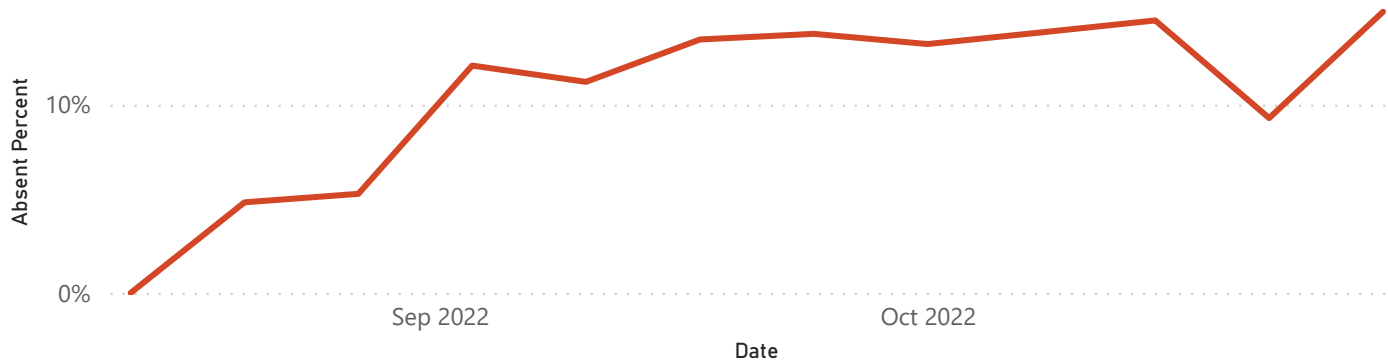


| Week Ending Date:            | Total # of Patients Seen for Any Reason | Percent ILI  |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Saturday, September 24, 2022 | 2,303                                   | 3.91%        |
| Saturday, October 01, 2022   | 3,558                                   | 2.39%        |
| Saturday, October 08, 2022   | 2,736                                   | 3.55%        |
| Saturday, October 15, 2022   | 3,608                                   | 2.38%        |
| Saturday, October 22, 2022   | 3,996                                   | 2.53%        |
| Saturday, October 29, 2022   | 3,911                                   | 2.99%        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>20,112</b>                           | <b>2.86%</b> |

| Week ending date:            | Total # of Specimens Tested | Flu Positivity | RSV Positivity |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Saturday, September 24, 2022 | 463                         | 1.73%          | 2.90%          |
| Saturday, October 01, 2022   | 432                         | 1.39%          | 7.02%          |
| Saturday, October 08, 2022   | 617                         | 0.32%          | 11.45%         |
| Saturday, October 15, 2022   | 497                         | 0.20%          | 4.55%          |
| Saturday, October 22, 2022   | 621                         | 0.48%          | 15.17%         |
| Saturday, October 29, 2022   | 552                         | 0.91%          | 7.84%          |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>3,182</b>                | <b>0.79%</b>   | <b>9.29%</b>   |

During the influenza season, increases in the **school absenteeism** data can be used as an early indicator for influenza circulation. The NDDoH received absenteeism data from a majority of schools in the state. Data here include absences for all reasons.

Percent of Children Absent from School by Date



| Week End Date              | Total Enrollment | Percent Absent |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Saturday, October 01, 2022 | 124,109          | 13.22%         |
| Saturday, October 08, 2022 | 124,512          | 13.84%         |
| Saturday, October 15, 2022 | 124,864          | 14.48%         |
| Saturday, October 22, 2022 | 125,140          | 9.29%          |
| Saturday, October 29, 2022 | 125,542          | 14.94%         |

During the influenza season, **influenza outbreaks** are common anywhere people gather, including schools, child care centers, long-term care facilities, and health care facilities. Outbreaks of influenza-like illness may be reported to the NDDoH. The following outbreaks have been reported this season.

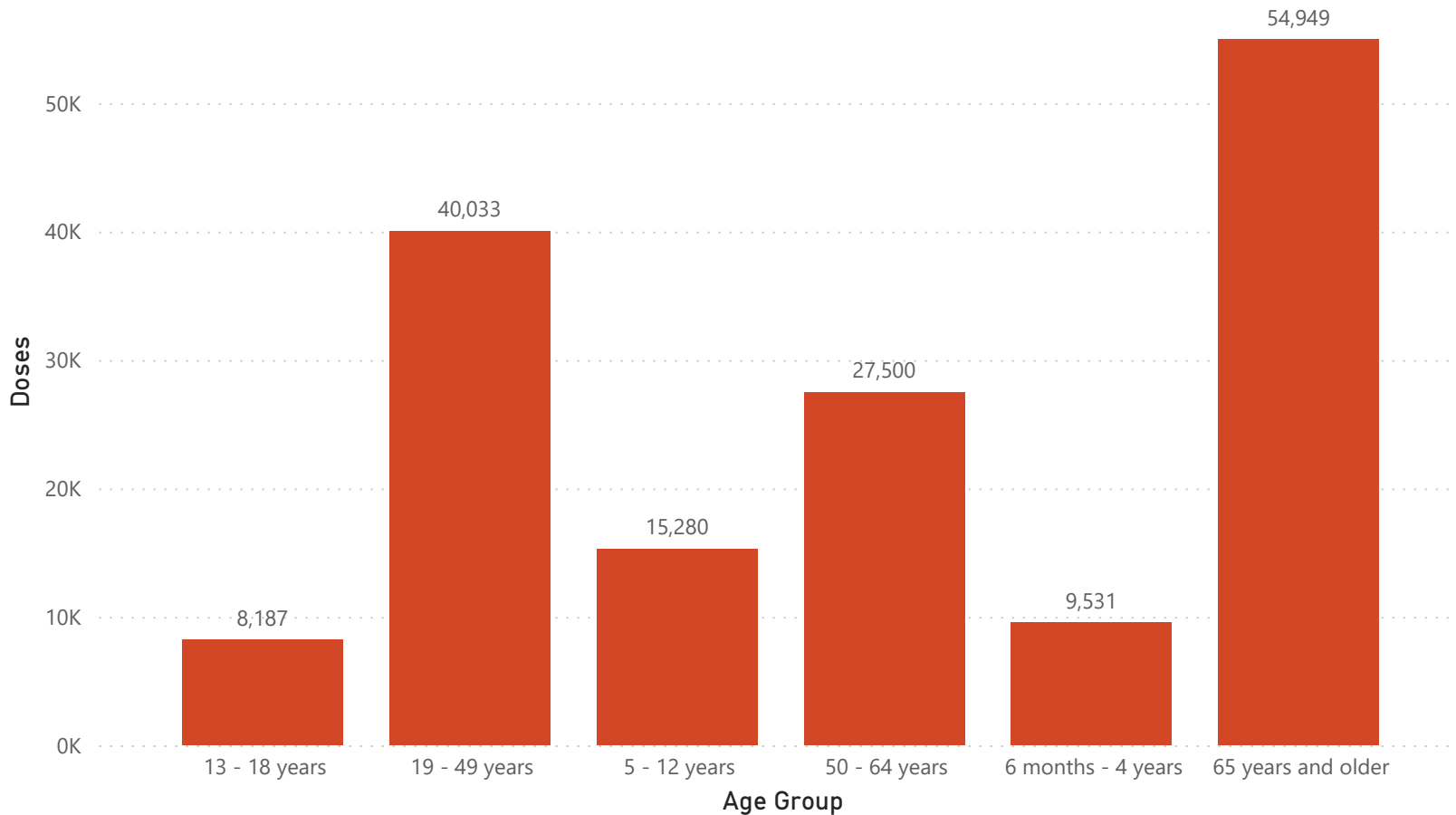
Congregate Setting Outbreaks, by Date

| Number of Outbreaks | Congregate Setting Type |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
|---------------------|-------------------------|

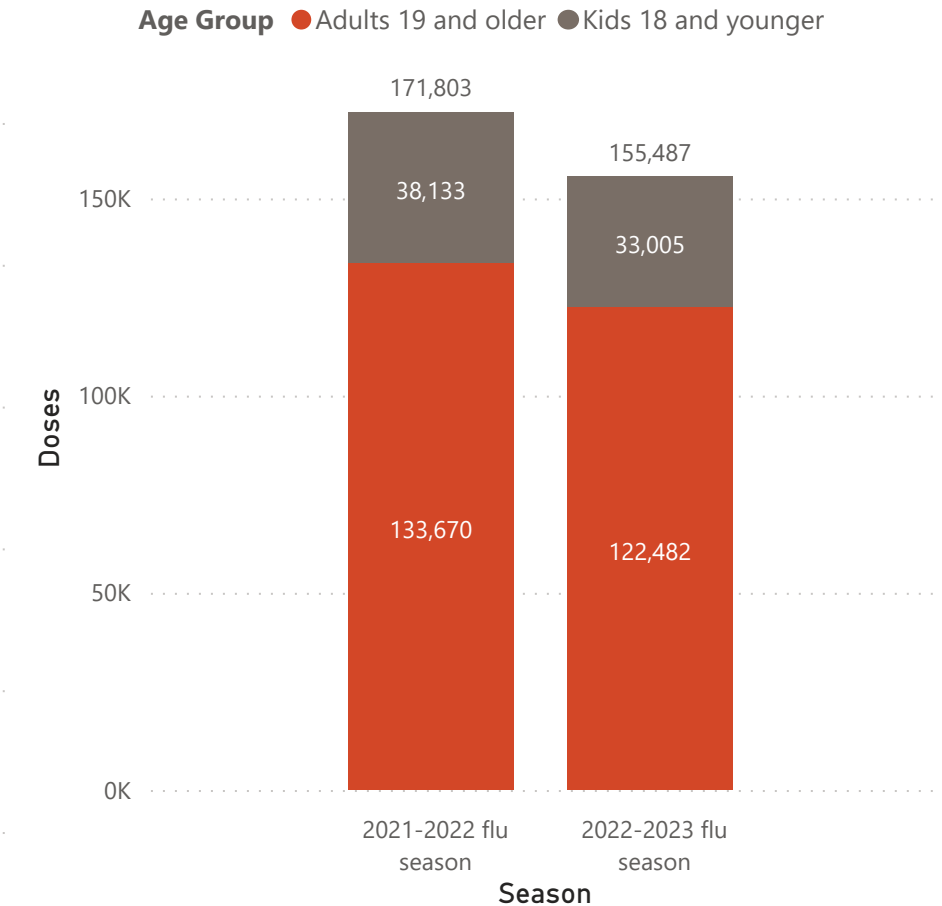
Date

**Influenza vaccine doses administered** data from the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) includes all administered doses of flu vaccine documented in the NDIIS to records with a North Dakota address. Adult immunizations do not have to be reported to the NDIIS so there may be more influenza vaccine doses being administered that are not reported to the NDIIS. Age groups are determined base on age at time of vaccination.

Doses Administered by Age Group

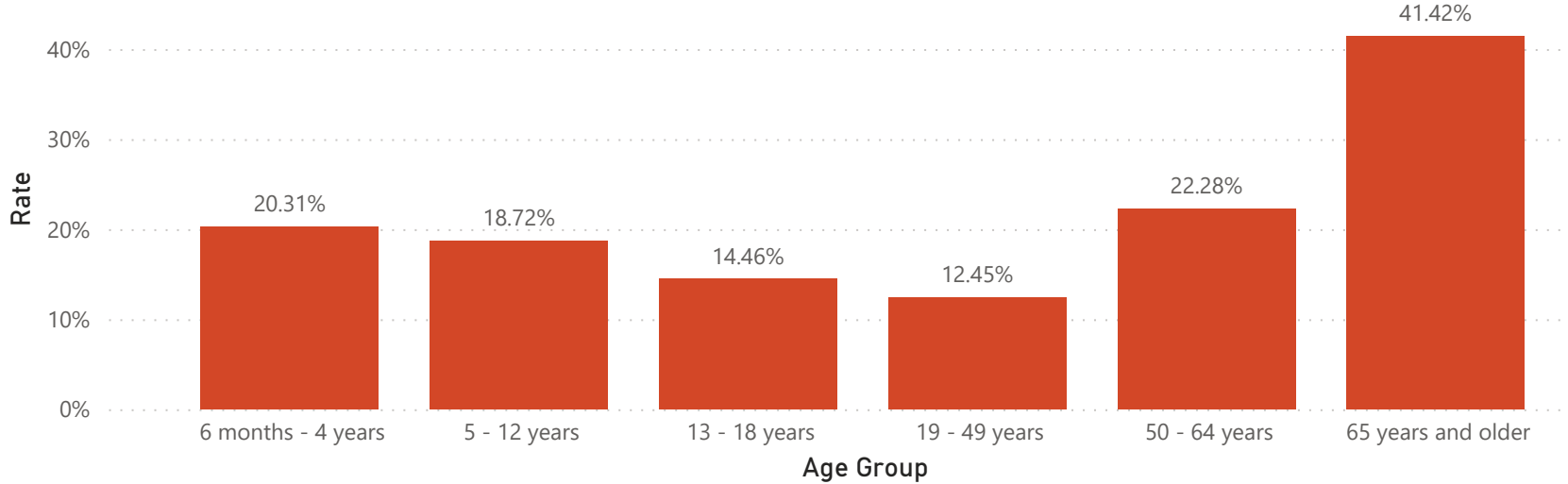


Statewide Doses Administered





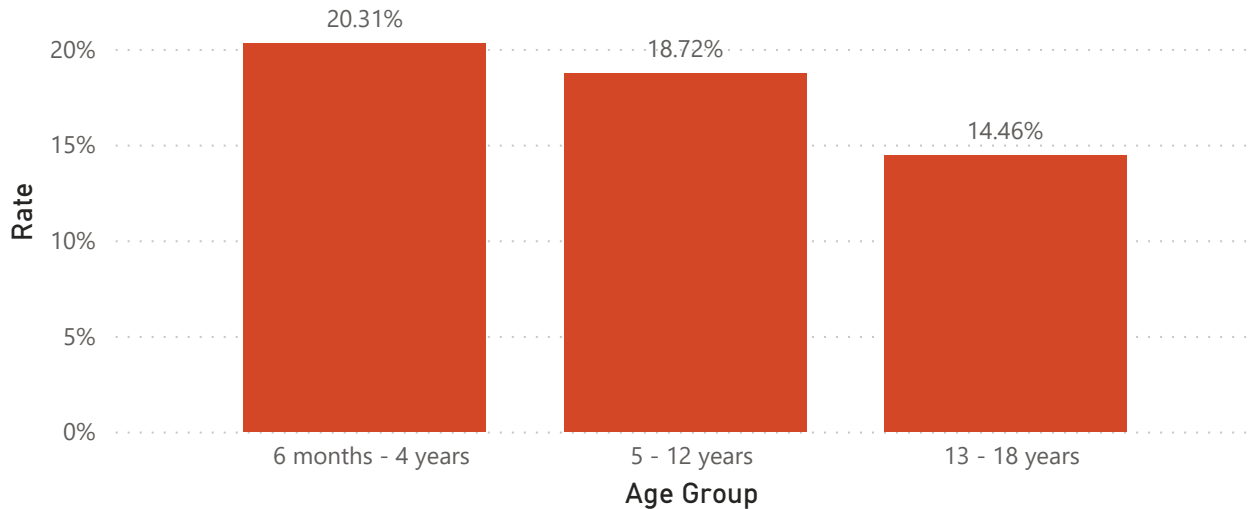
Statewide Flu Coverage for 2022-23 Season



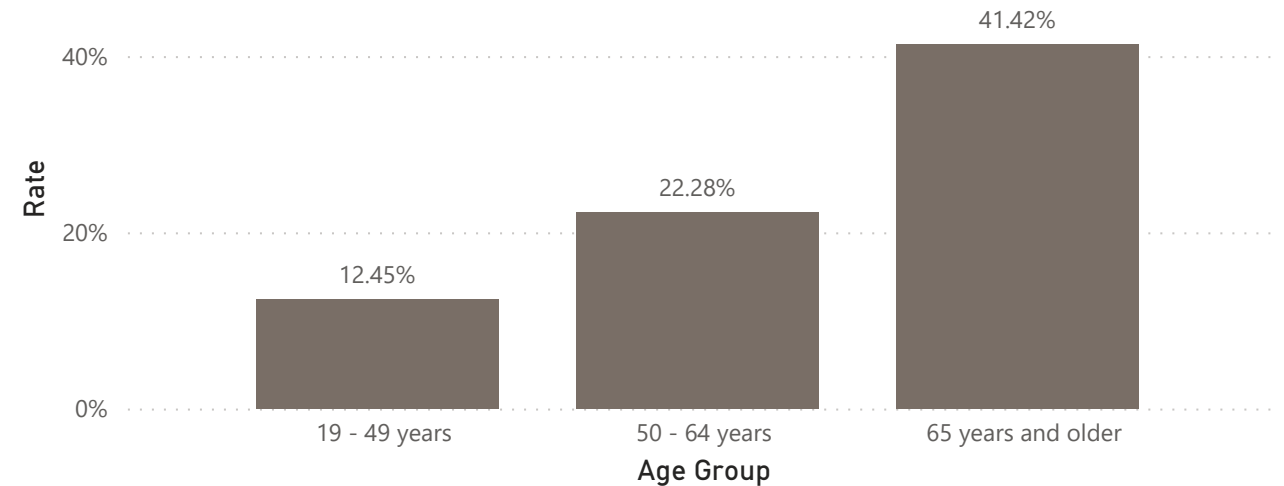
NDIIS data can also be used to estimate the percent of North Dakotans in each age group that have received at least one dose of influenza vaccine so far this flu season. NDIIS records included in **statewide coverage rates** must have a North Dakota address.

Adult immunizations do not have to be reported to the NDIIS so adult coverage rates may be higher.

Statewide Flu Coverage for Children <= 18

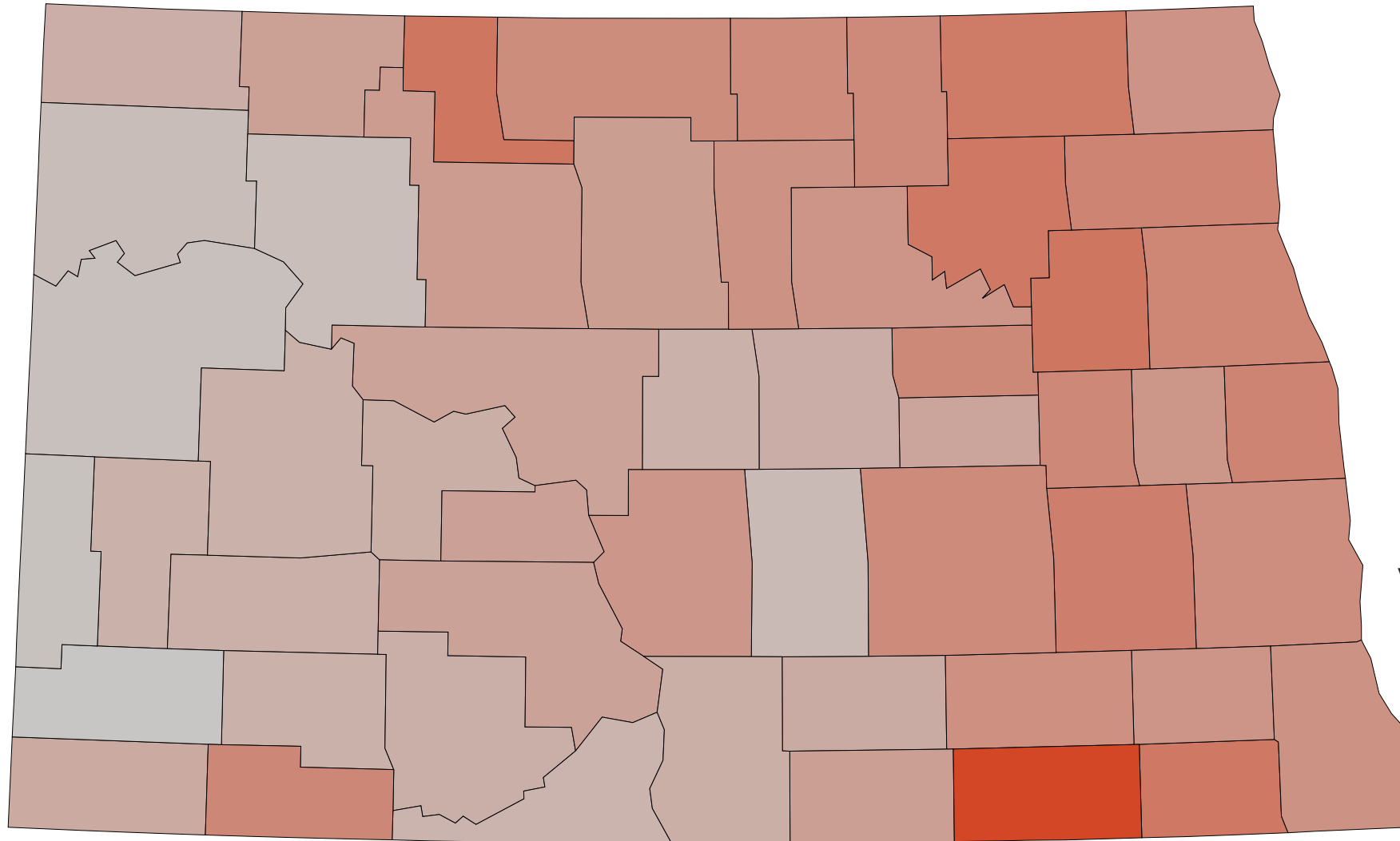


Statewide Flu Coverage for Adults >= 19





### Influenza Vaccine County Coverage Rates



### Week Number

### Age Group

**County-level coverage rate** data is calculated for the percent of North Dakotans in each age group that have received at least one dose of influenza vaccine so far this flu season and live in the selected North Dakota county.