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2022-2023 Influenza Weekly Report

North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

Week 44

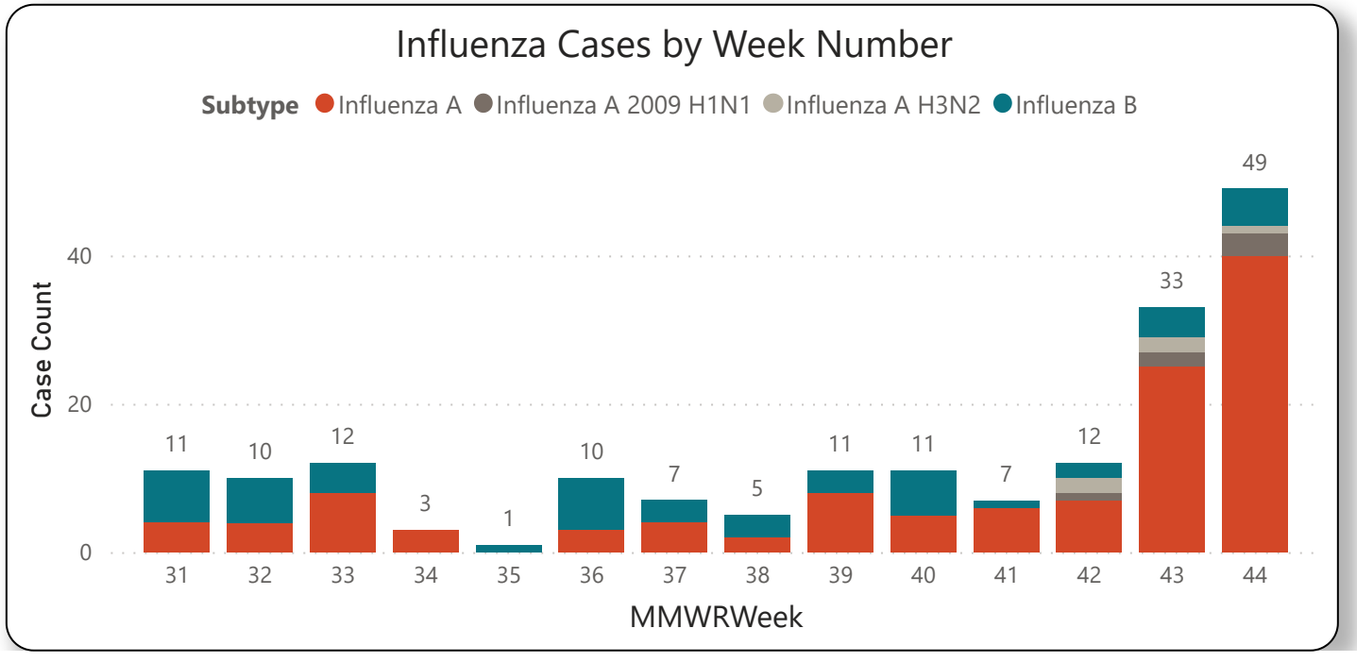
Last updated by Levi Schlosser on 11/8/2022

Flu activity continues to rise, with both laboratory-confirmed cases and aggregate laboratory positive both increasing 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 (RSV). Overall, respiratory disease attributed to both influenza, COVID-19, and RSV remains elevated.

Nationwide, influenza activity remains elevated. 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

	Last Week	Season Total
New Influenza Cases:	49	182
Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness:	2.31%	2.45%
Laboratory Specimens Positive for Influenza:	1.75%	0.90%
Percentage of Students Absent from School:	16.51%	11.94%
New Hospitalizations due to Influenza:	1	4
New Deaths due to Influenza:	0	0

Subtype	Cases in Previous Week	Total for Season
Influenza A	40	119
Influenza A 2009 H1N1	3	6
Influenza A H3N2	1	5
Influenza B	5	52
Total	**49**	**182**



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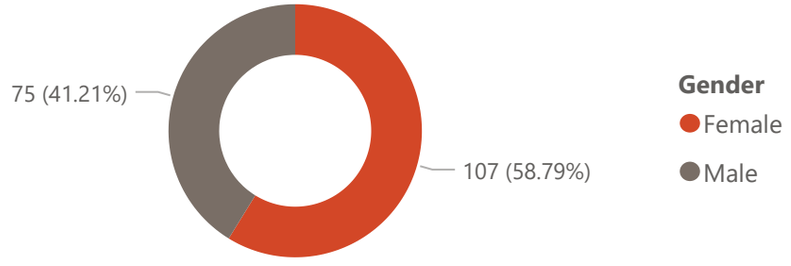
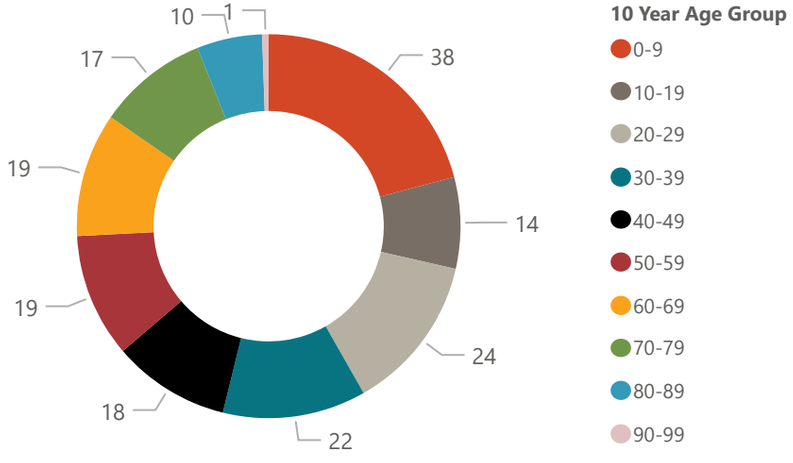
Laboratory-confirmed influenza is a reportable disease in North Dakota. Influenza "cases" include people that have tested positive for influenza in a healthcare setting. It does not include people with influenza who did not seek healthcare, or were diagnosed without a lab test, which is common. The true 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

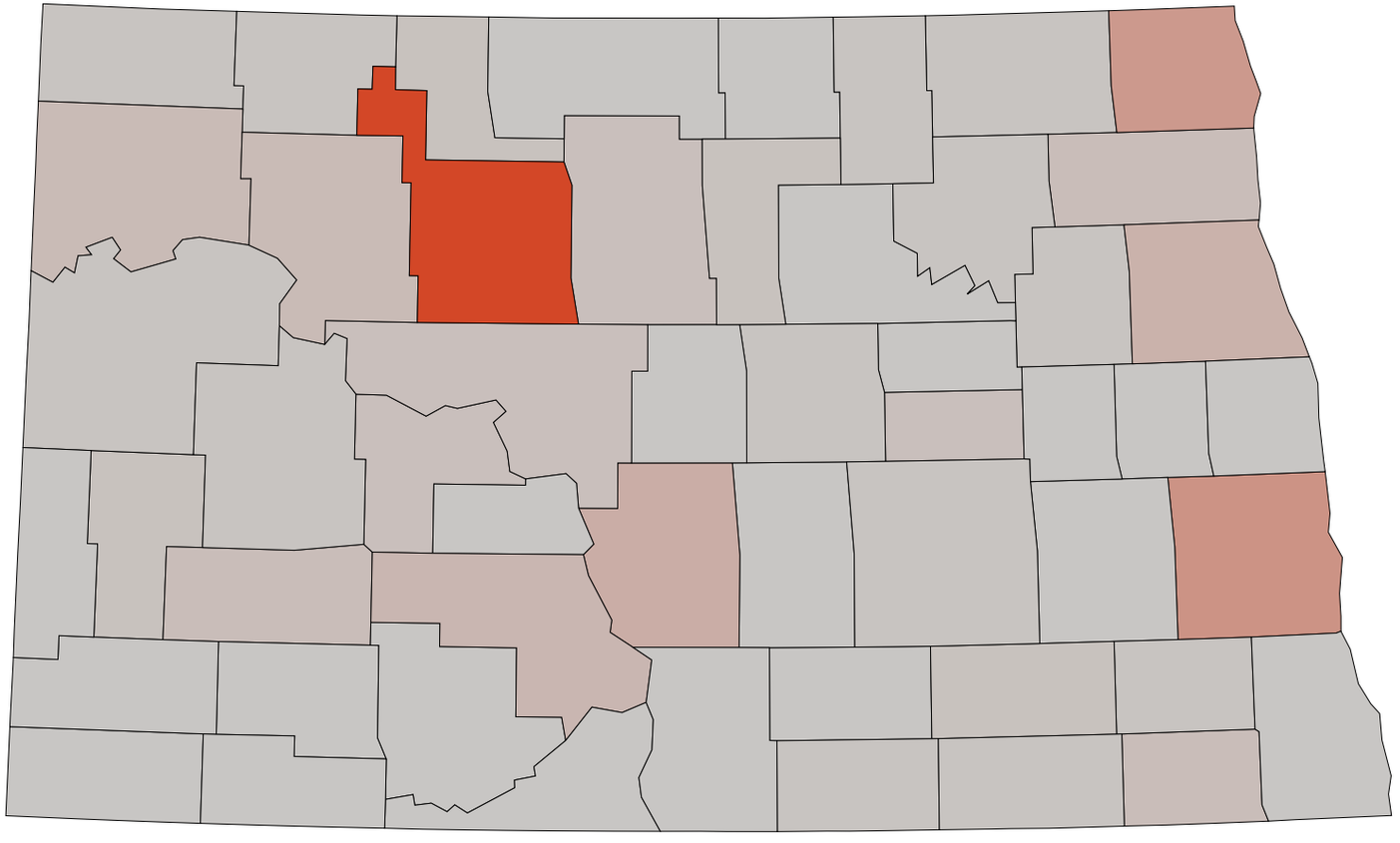
Influenza Cases by Gender



Influenza Cases by Age Group



Total Influenza Cases by County



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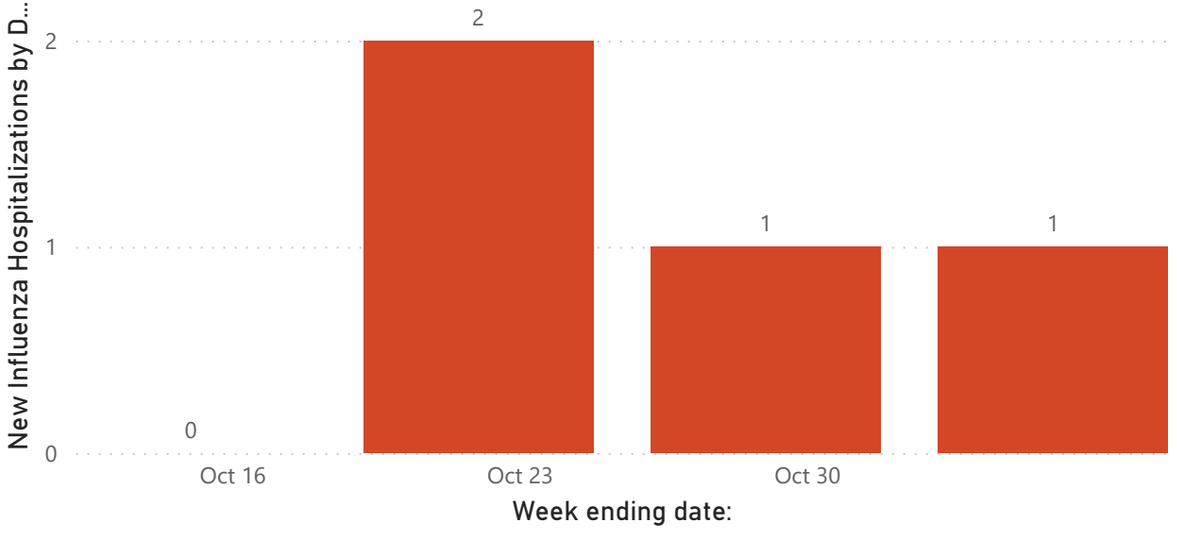
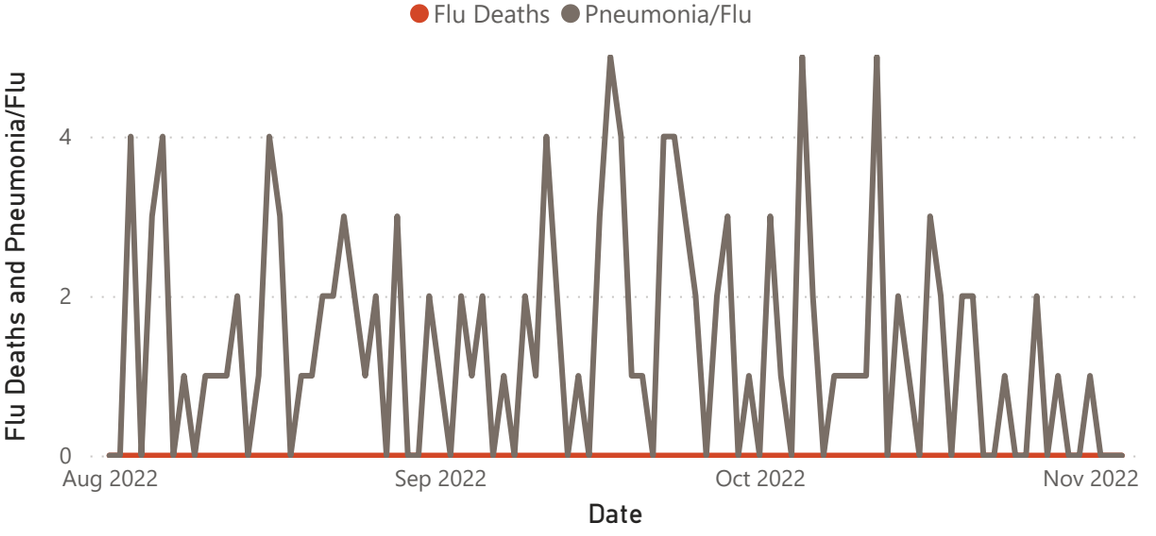
Influenza Hospitalization information is collected via daily aggregated reports to the NDDoH. Because this surveillance methodology is new this year, hospitalization numbers this year may not be comparable to previous years.

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



Influenza and Pneumonia Deaths by Date



1	4	0	131
New Weekly Hospitalizations	Total Hospitalizations for Season	Flu Deaths	Pneumonia/Flu Deaths

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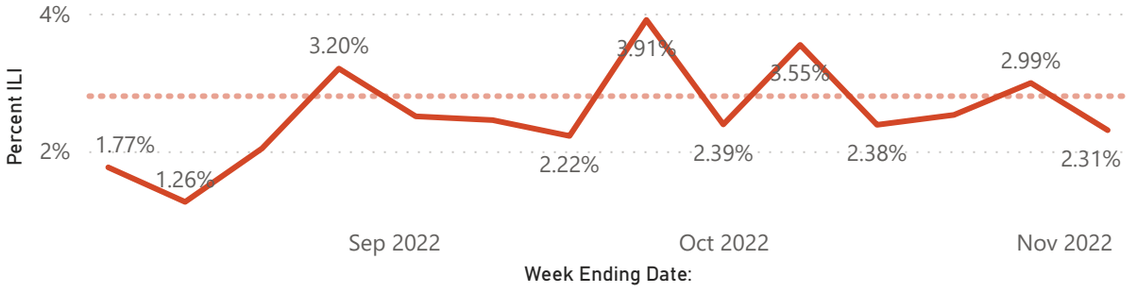
Outpatient Influenza-like Illness (ILI) The NDDoH participates in the national U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet). Data from participating outpatient providers in north Dakota are pooled to create a state-wide estimate for the weekly percent of healthcare visists due 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

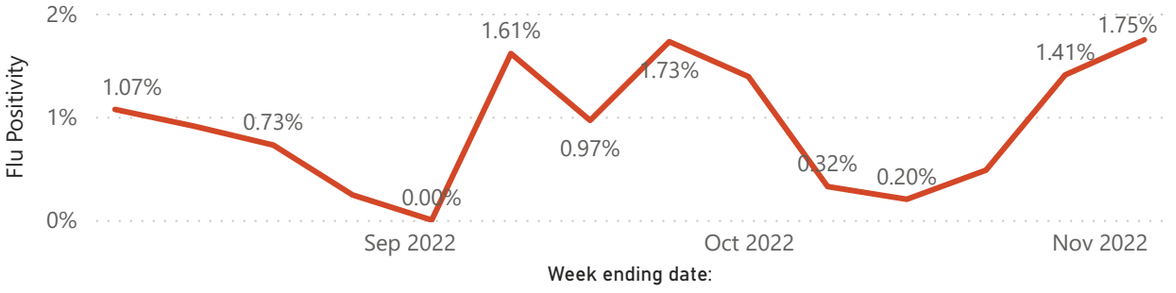
Sentinel Laboratory Data The NDDoH receives influenza and RSV testing data from participating sentinel laboratories across the state. The total number of positive tests and the total number of tests conducted are reported and used to create a state-wide percent positivity statistic. For influenza, percent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

Percent ILI by Week



Week Ending Date:	Total # of Patients Seen for Any Reason	Percent ILI
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%
Saturday, November 05, 2022	4,251	2.31%
Total	**22,060**	**2.65%**

Flu Positivity by Week



Week ending date:	Total # of Specimens Tested	Flu Positivity	RSV Positivity
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	569	1.41%	10.19%
Saturday, November 05, 2022	401	1.75%	11.52%
Total	**3,137**	**0.86%**	**10.94%**

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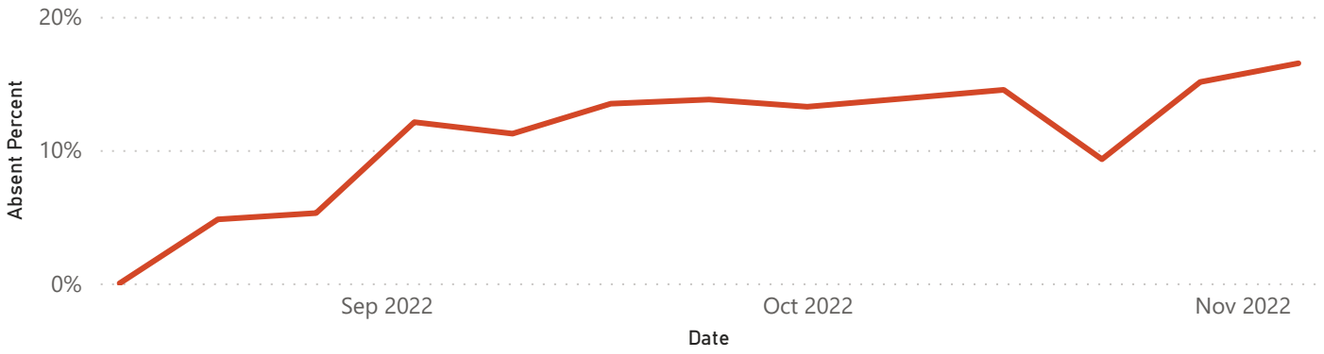
During the influenza season, increases in the **school absenteeism** data cab be used as an early indicator for influenza circulation. The NDDoH received absenteeism data from a majority of schools in the state. Data here include absences for all reasons.

Percent of Children Absent from School by Date



Week End Date	Total Enrollment	Percent Absent
Saturday, October 08, 2022	124,207	13.88%
Saturday, October 15, 2022	124,561	14.52%
Saturday, October 22, 2022	124,832	9.31%
Saturday, October 29, 2022	125,236	15.11%
Saturday, November 05, 2022	125,535	16.51%

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

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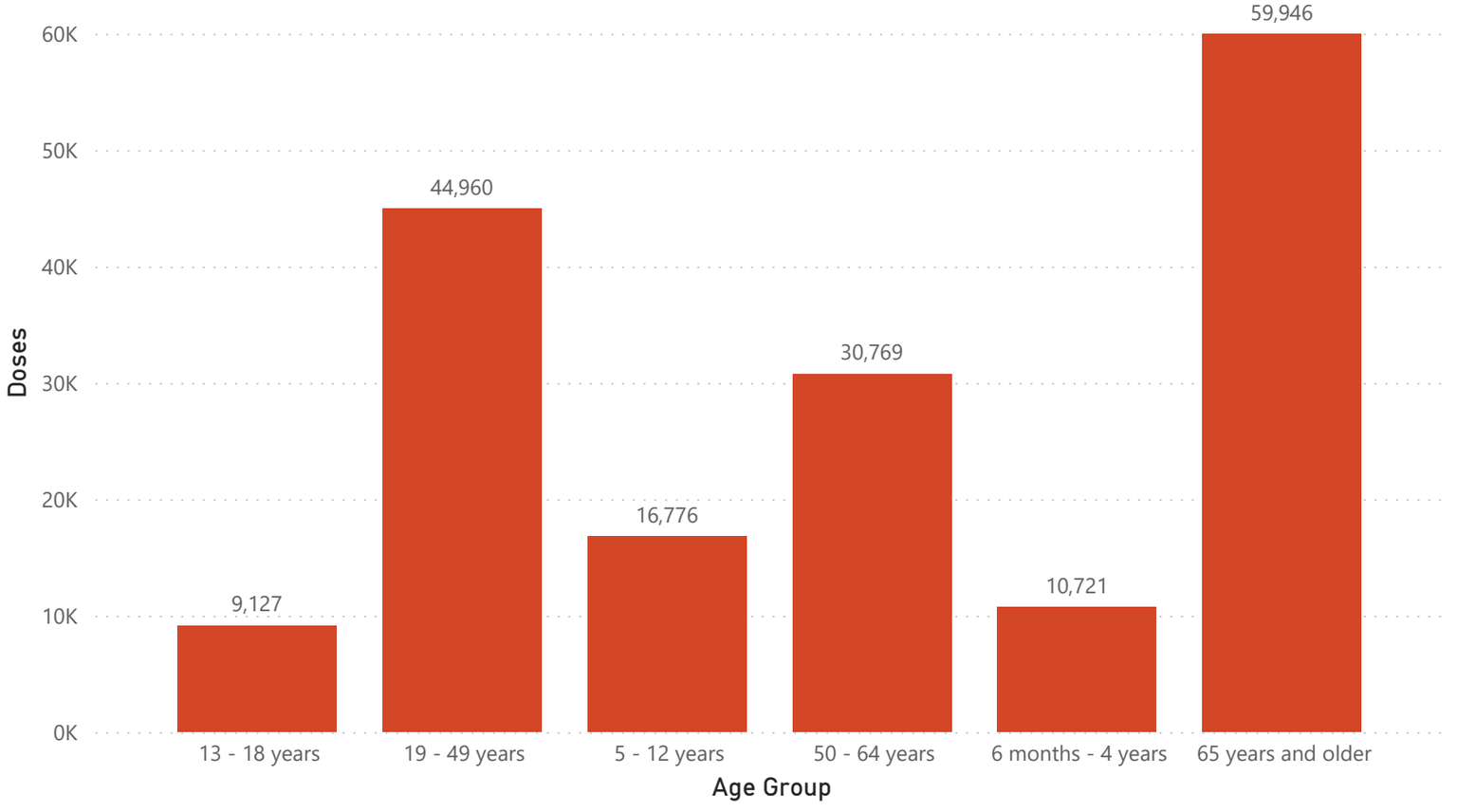
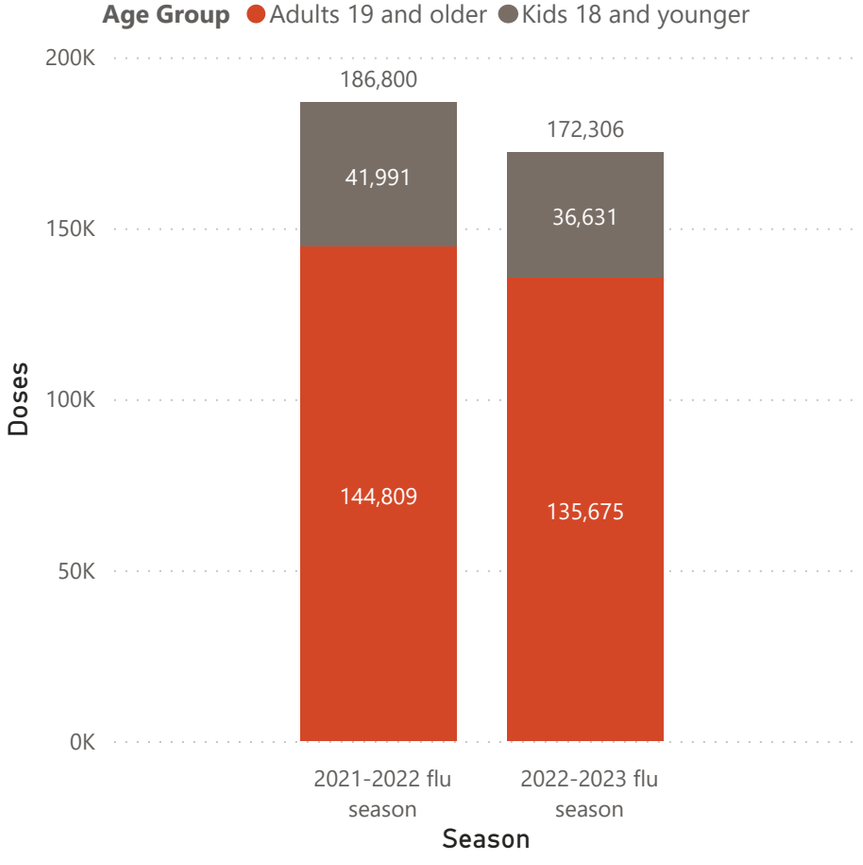
Influenza vaccine doses administered data from the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) includes all administered doses of flu vaccine documented in the NDIIS to records with a North Dakota address. Adult immunizations do not have to be reported to the NDIIS so there may be more influenza 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



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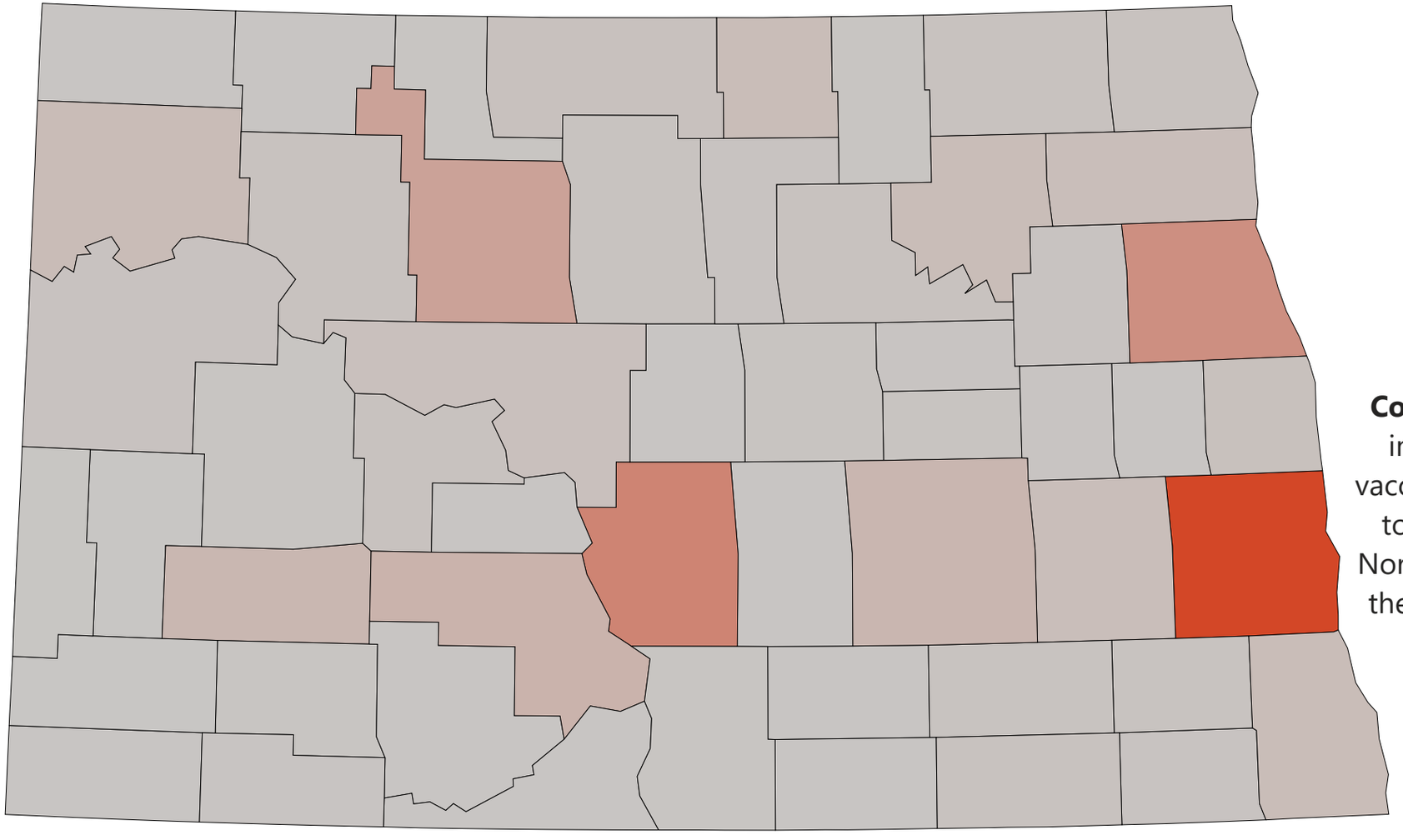
Total Influenza Vaccine Doses Administered by County



Week Number

All

Age Group

- ☐ ADULT
- ☐ CHILD

County-level doses administered data includes all administered doses of flu vaccine documented in the NDIIS as given to an individual with an address in the North Dakota county, regardless of where the provider who administered the dose was located.

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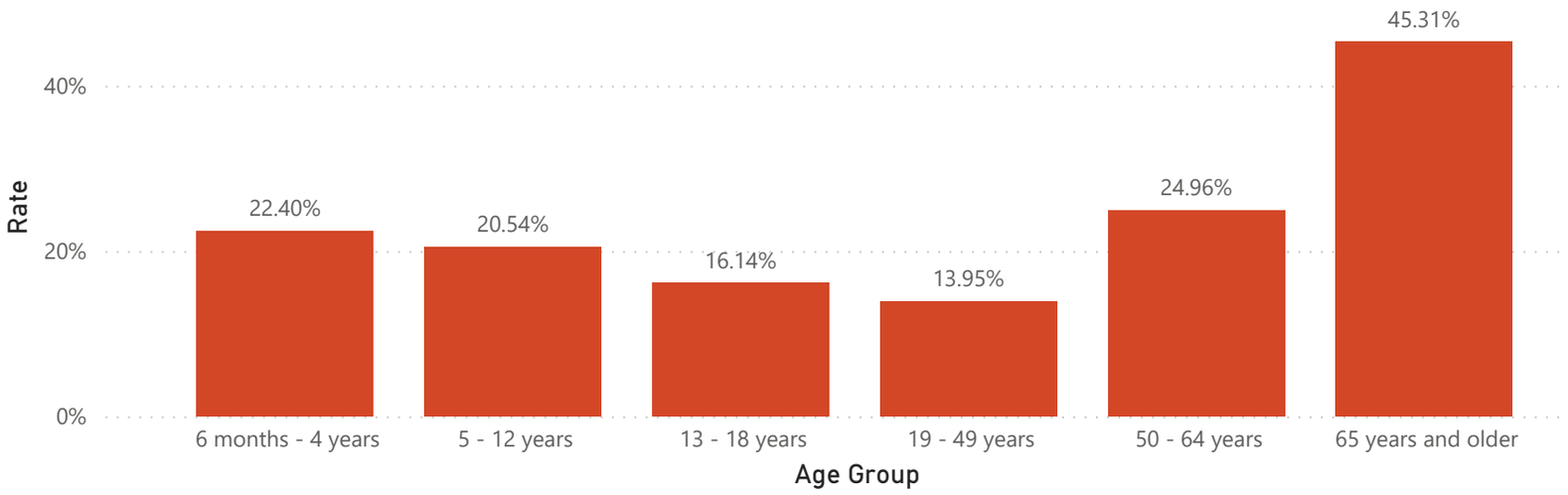
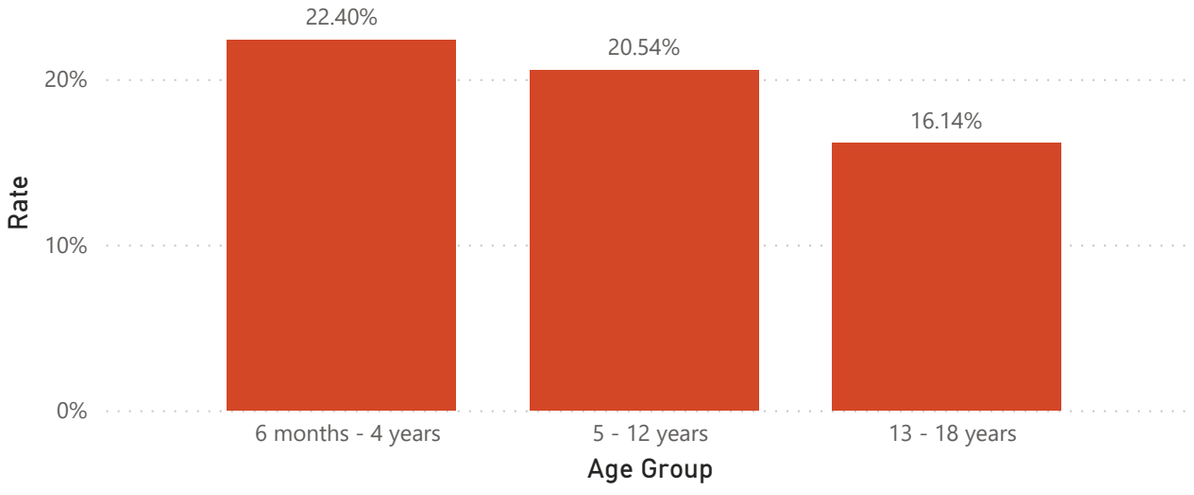
Statewide Flu Coverage for 2022-23 Season



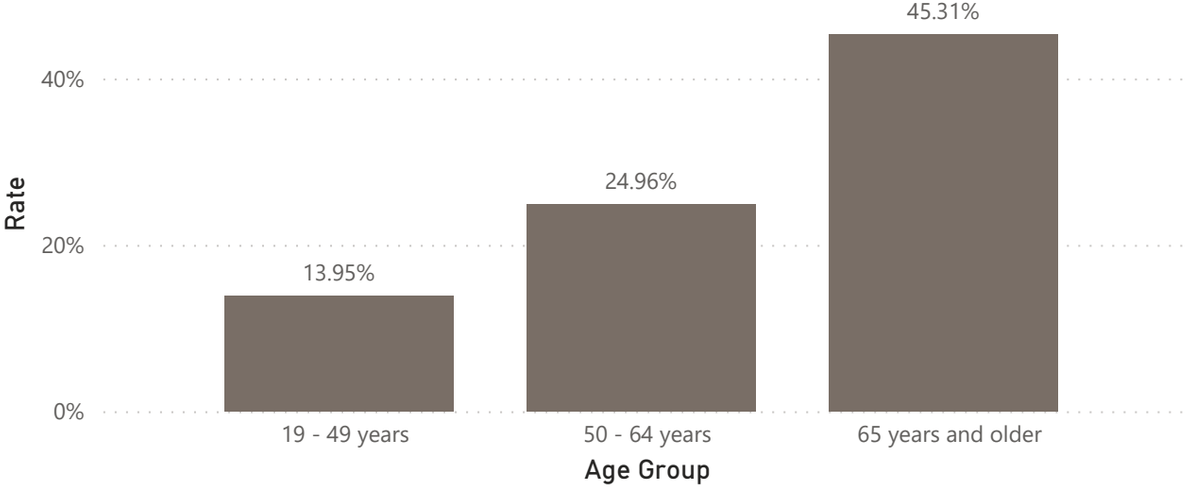
NDIIS data can also be used to estimate the percent of North Dakotans in each age group that have received at least one dose of influenza vaccine so far this flu season. NDIIS records included in **statewide coverage rates** must have a North Dakota address.

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



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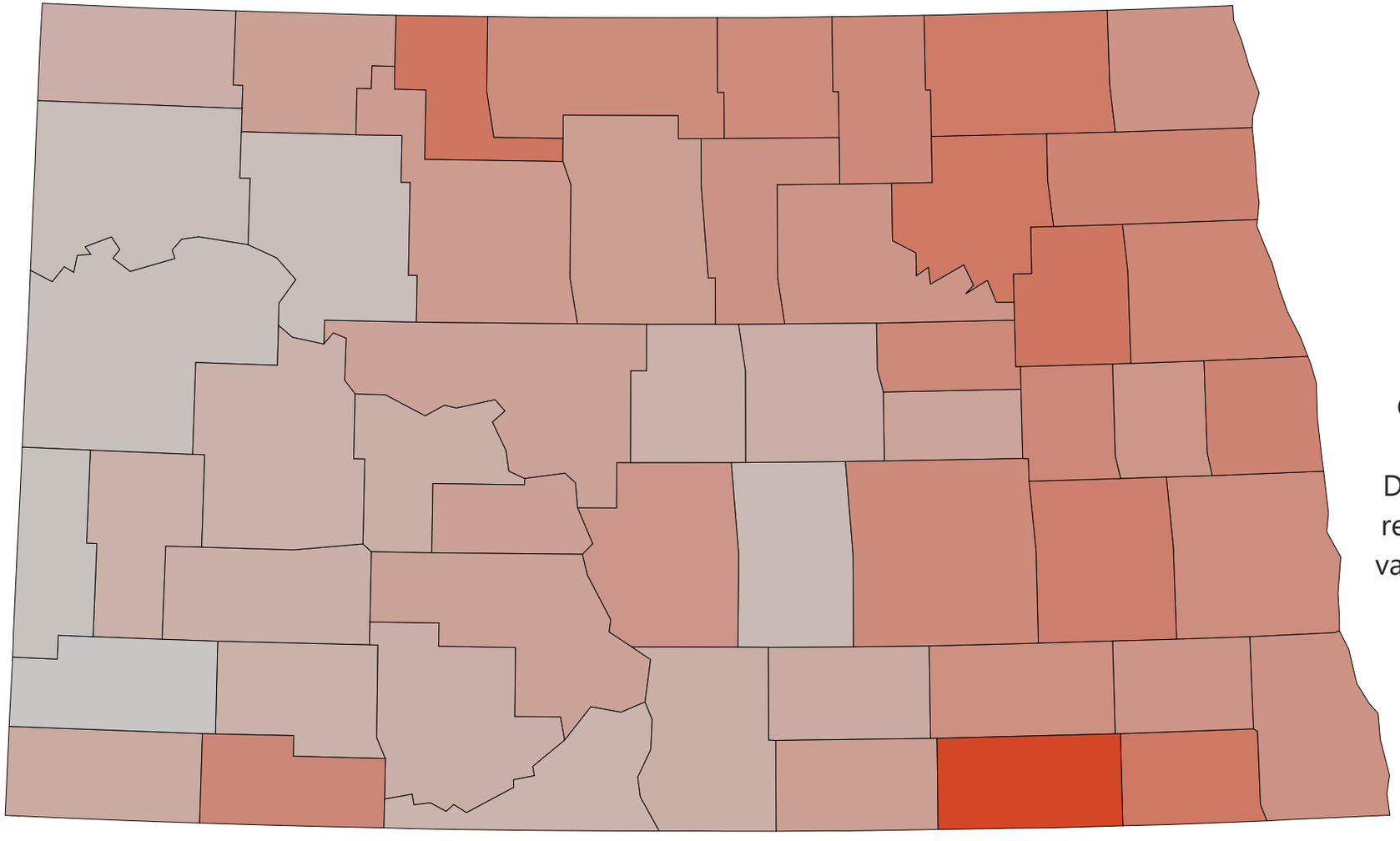
Influenza Vaccine County Coverage Rates



Week Number

WEEK40

Age Group

All ND 6 months and older

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.