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2023-2024 Influenza Weekly Report

North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

Week 51

Ending Saturday, December 23, 2023

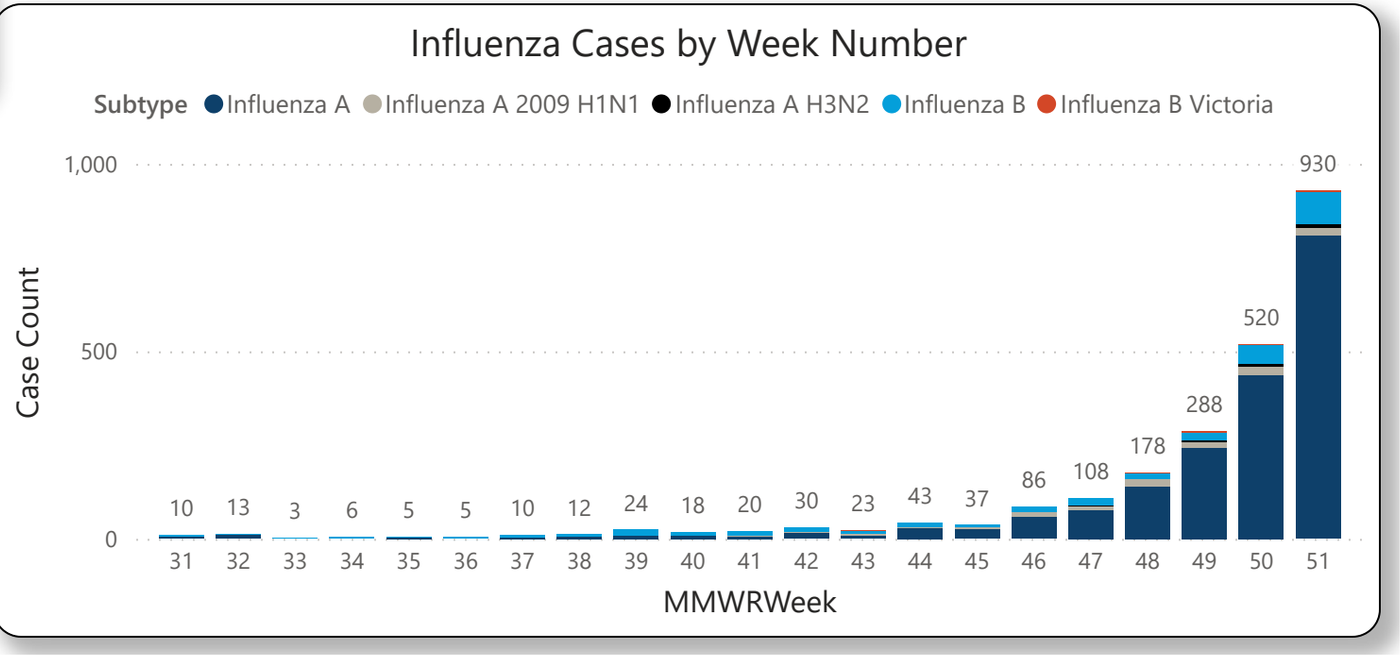
Last updated 12/28/2023

Influenza activity in North Dakota again has increased significantly from the previous week, with 930 new laboratory-confirmed cases of flu in ND. Aggregate laboratory positivity for flu now surpasses both RSV and COVID-19, and outpatient influenza-like illness visits reaches it's highest weekly rate of the season at 8.8%. NDHHS has also received reports of ILI outbreaks in schools, childcares, and long-term care facilities across the state.

Everyday preventative actions, including frequent handwashing and covering coughs/sneezes, are easy and effective methods at reducing the spread of influenza and other respiratory diseases this fall. For more information regarding these and more, visit ndflu.com.

	Last Week	Season Total
New Influenza Cases:	930	2,369
Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness:	8.80%	3.29%
Laboratory Specimens Positive for Influenza:	22.21%	8.25%
Percentage of Students Absent from School:	16.74%	3.04%
New Hospitalizations due to Influenza:	12	75
New Deaths due to Influenza:	0	4

Subtype	Cases in Previous Week	Total for Season
Influenza A	810	1,906
Influenza A 2009 H1N1	21	122
Influenza A H3N2	8	22
Influenza B	88	306
Influenza B Victoria	3	13
Total	930	2,369



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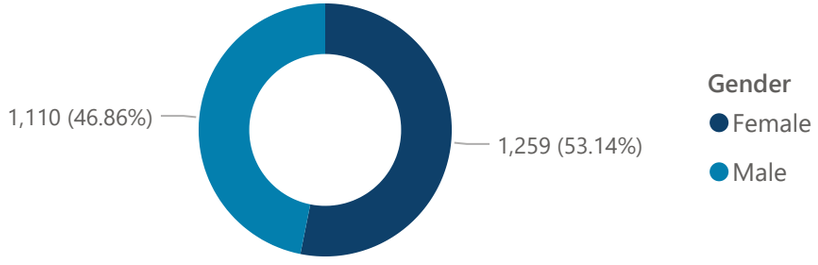
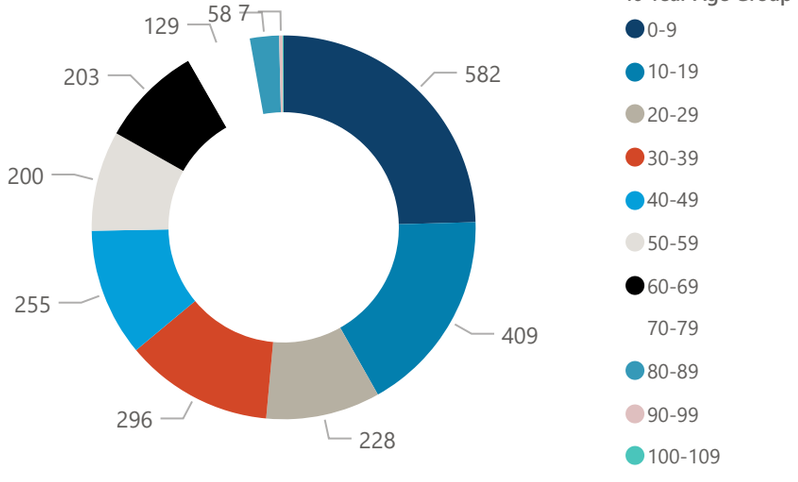
Laboratory-confirmed influenza is a reportable disease in North Dakota. Influenza "cases" include people that have tested positive for influenza in a healthcare setting. It does not include people with influenza who did not seek healthcare, or were diagnosed without a lab test, which is common. The true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

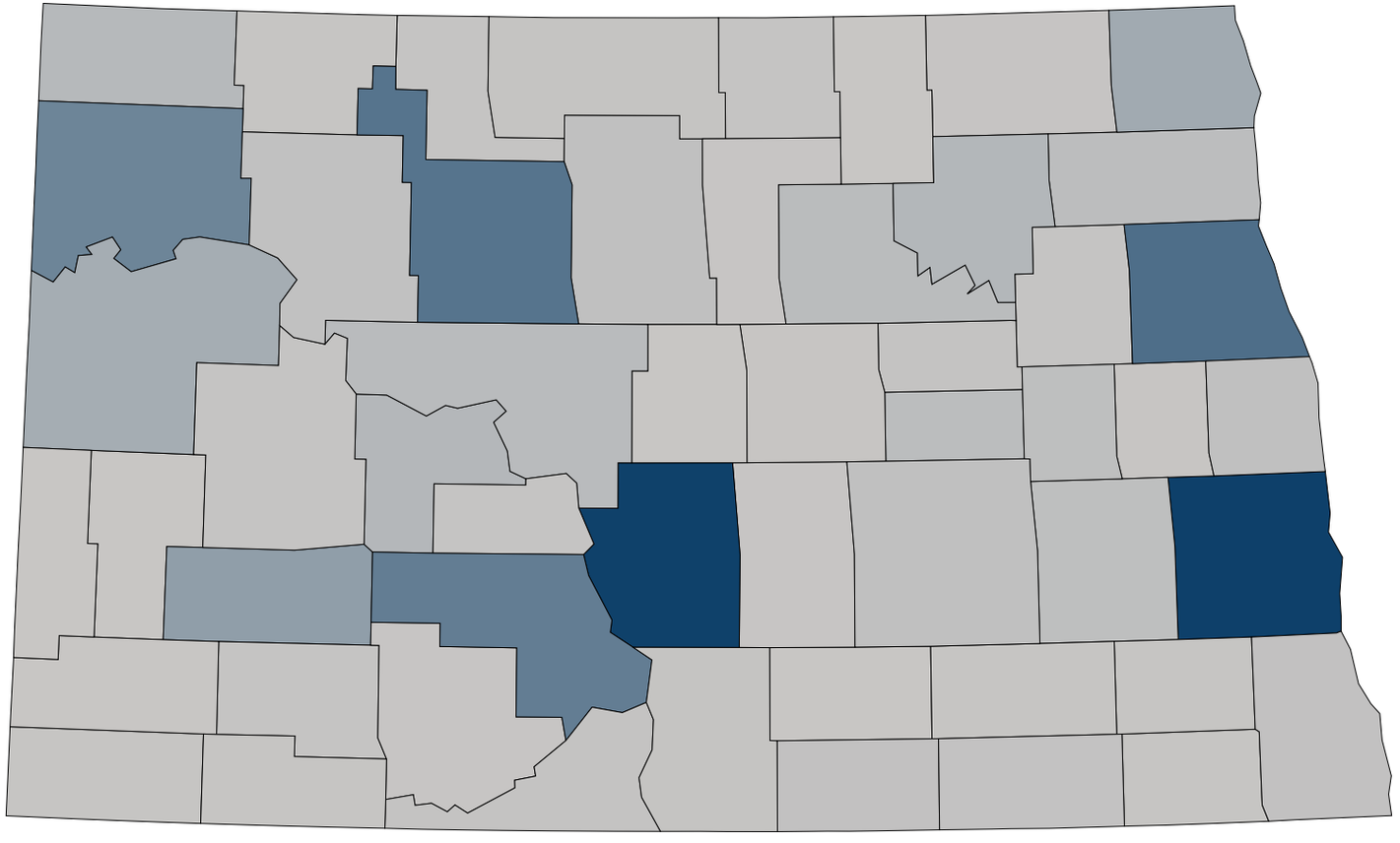
Influenza Cases by Gender



Influenza Cases by Age Group



Total Influenza Cases by County



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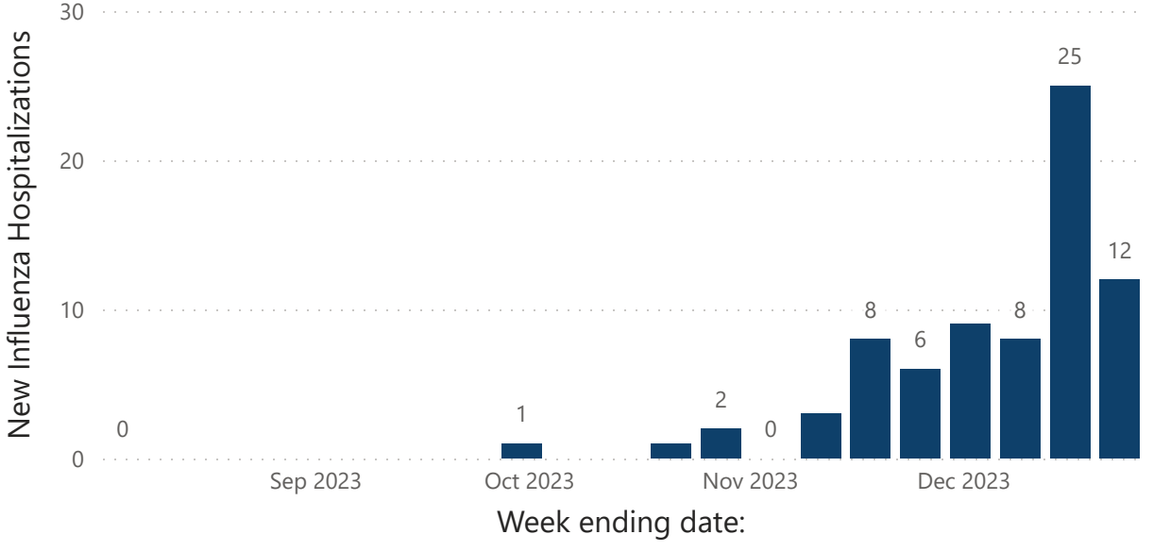
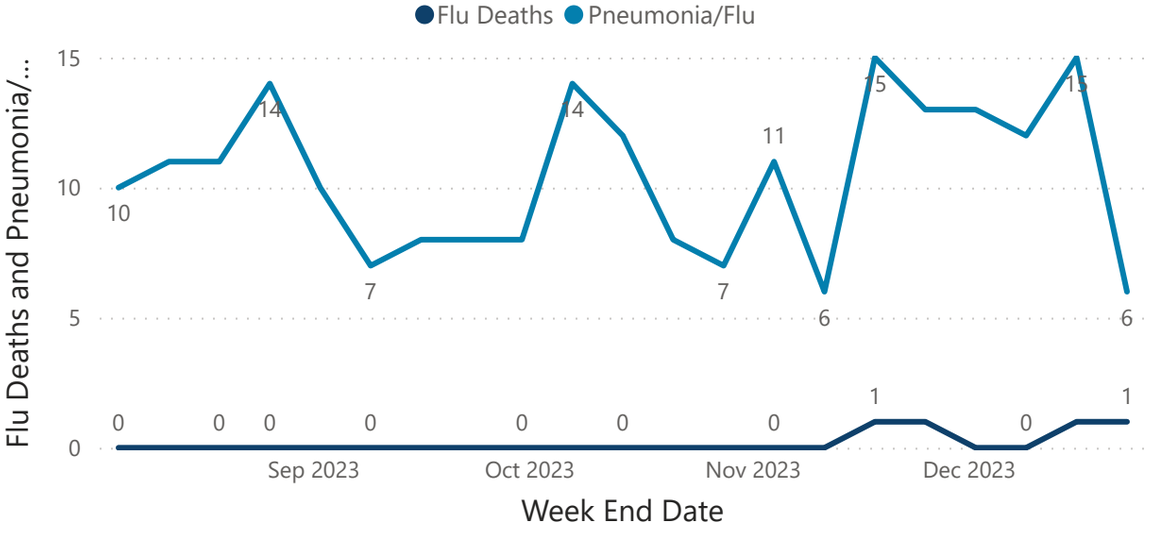
Influenza Hospitalization information is collected via daily aggregated reports to NDHHS. Because this surveillance methodology is new this year, hospitalization numbers this year may not be comparable to previous years.

Influenza Death information is obtained from Vital Records, and is based on the listed cause of death on the individuals death certificate. For more information about the seasonal death estimates, click here.

New Influenza Hospitalizations by Date



Influenza and Pneumonia Deaths by Date



12
New Weekly Hospitalizations

75
Total Hospitalizations for Season

4
Flu Deaths

214
Pneumonia/Flu Deaths

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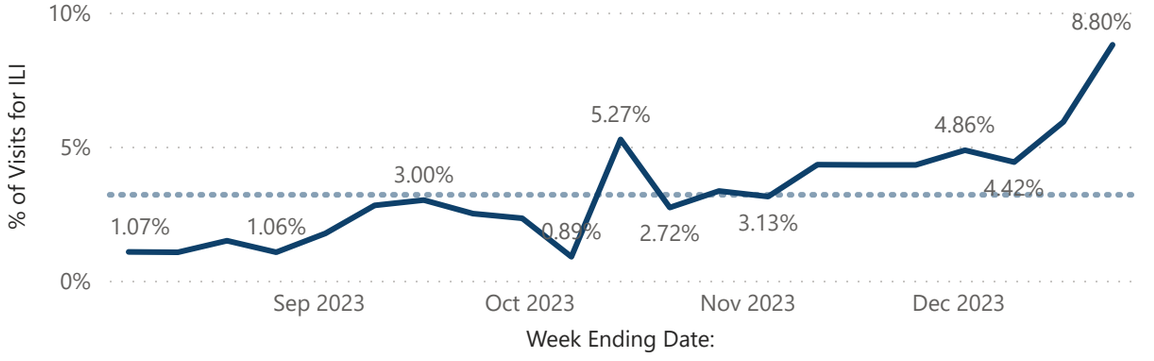
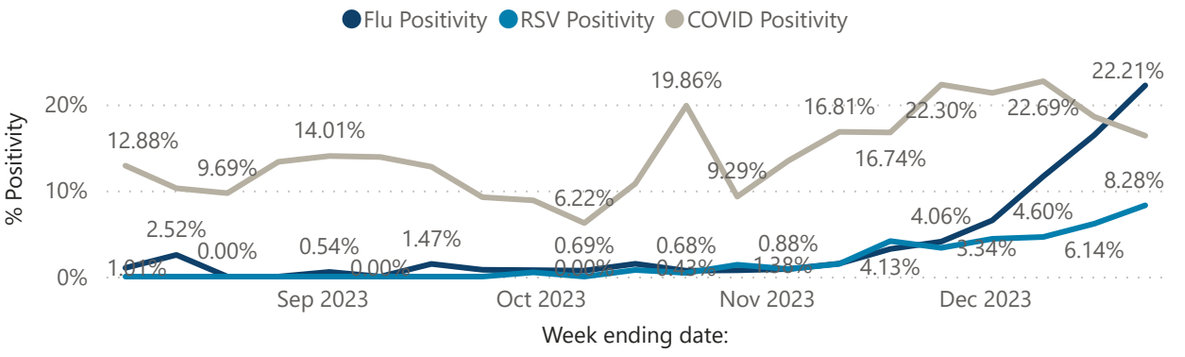
Outpatient Influenza-like Illness (ILI) NDHHS participates in the national U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet). Data from participating outpatient providers in North Dakota are pooled to create a state-wide estimate for the weekly percent of healthcare visists due to 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 NDHHS 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. RSV is not a reportable condition in North Dakota, but aggregate positivity is reported by participating sentinel laboratories.

Outpatient ILI by Week



Flu Positivity by Week



Week Ending Date:	Total # of Patients Seen for Any Reason	Percent ILI
Saturday, November 18, 2023	3,941	4.31%
Saturday, November 25, 2023	3,570	4.31%
Saturday, December 02, 2023	3,907	4.86%
Saturday, December 09, 2023	3,733	4.42%
Saturday, December 16, 2023	3,751	5.92%
Saturday, December 23, 2023	3,570	8.80%
Total	**22,472**	**5.41%**

Week ending date:	Total # of Specimens Tested	Flu Positivity	RSV Positivity
Saturday, November 18, 2023	748	3.21%	4.13%
Saturday, November 25, 2023	689	4.06%	3.34%
Saturday, December 02, 2023	1,348	6.53%	4.39%
Saturday, December 09, 2023	1,822	11.64%	4.60%
Saturday, December 16, 2023	1,582	16.43%	6.14%
Saturday, December 23, 2023	1,495	22.21%	8.28%
Total	**7,684**	**12.29%**	**5.29%**

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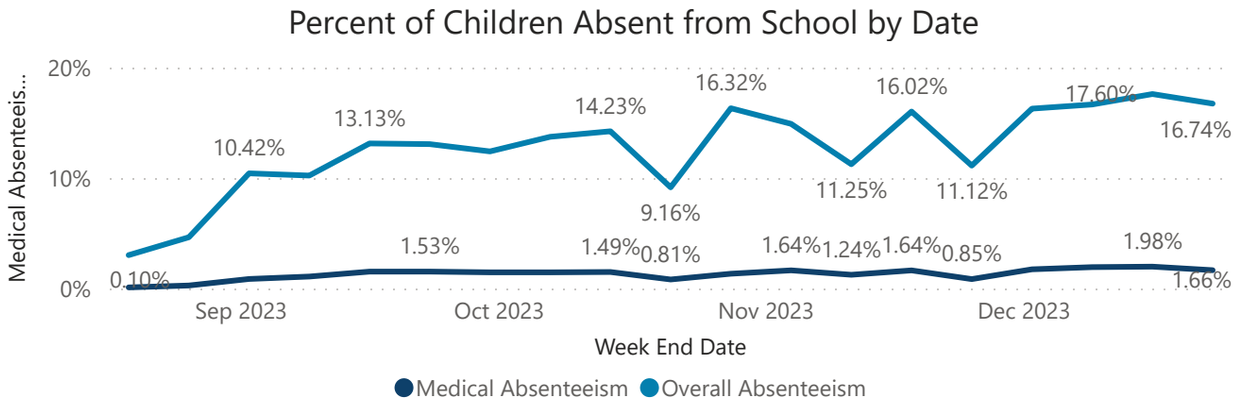
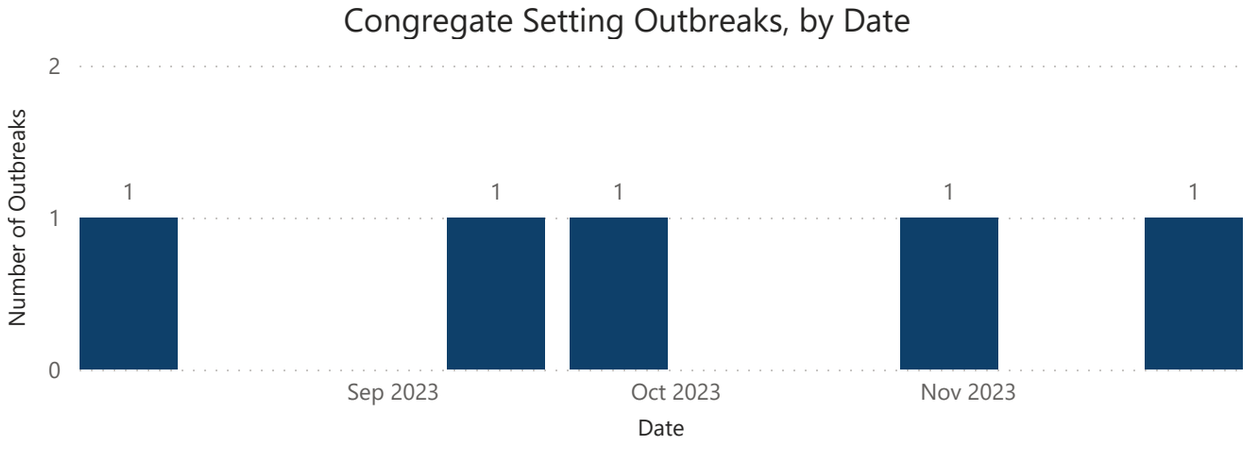
During the influenza season, increases in the **school absenteeism** data cab be used as an early indicator for influenza circulation. NDHHS received absenteeism data from a majority of schools in the state. Data here include absences for medical reasons as well as overall absenteeism.



Week End Date	Total Enrollment	Medical Absenteeism	Overall Absenteeism
Saturday, November 11, 2023	128,123	1.64%	14.90%
Saturday, November 18, 2023	128,425	1.24%	11.25%
Saturday, November 25, 2023	128,735	1.64%	16.02%
Saturday, December 02, 2023	128,918	0.85%	11.12%
Saturday, December 09, 2023	129,268	1.74%	16.28%
Saturday, December 16, 2023	129,514	1.93%	16.66%
Saturday, December 23, 2023	129,750	1.98%	17.60%

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 NDHHS. The following outbreaks have been reported this season.



Number of Outbreaks	Congregate Setting Type	Identified Pathogen
1	Assisted Living	Influenza A
1	Assisted Living	Rhinovirus
1	Long-term Care	Influenza A
1	Long-term Care	Influenza B
1	Long-term Care	Strep
5		

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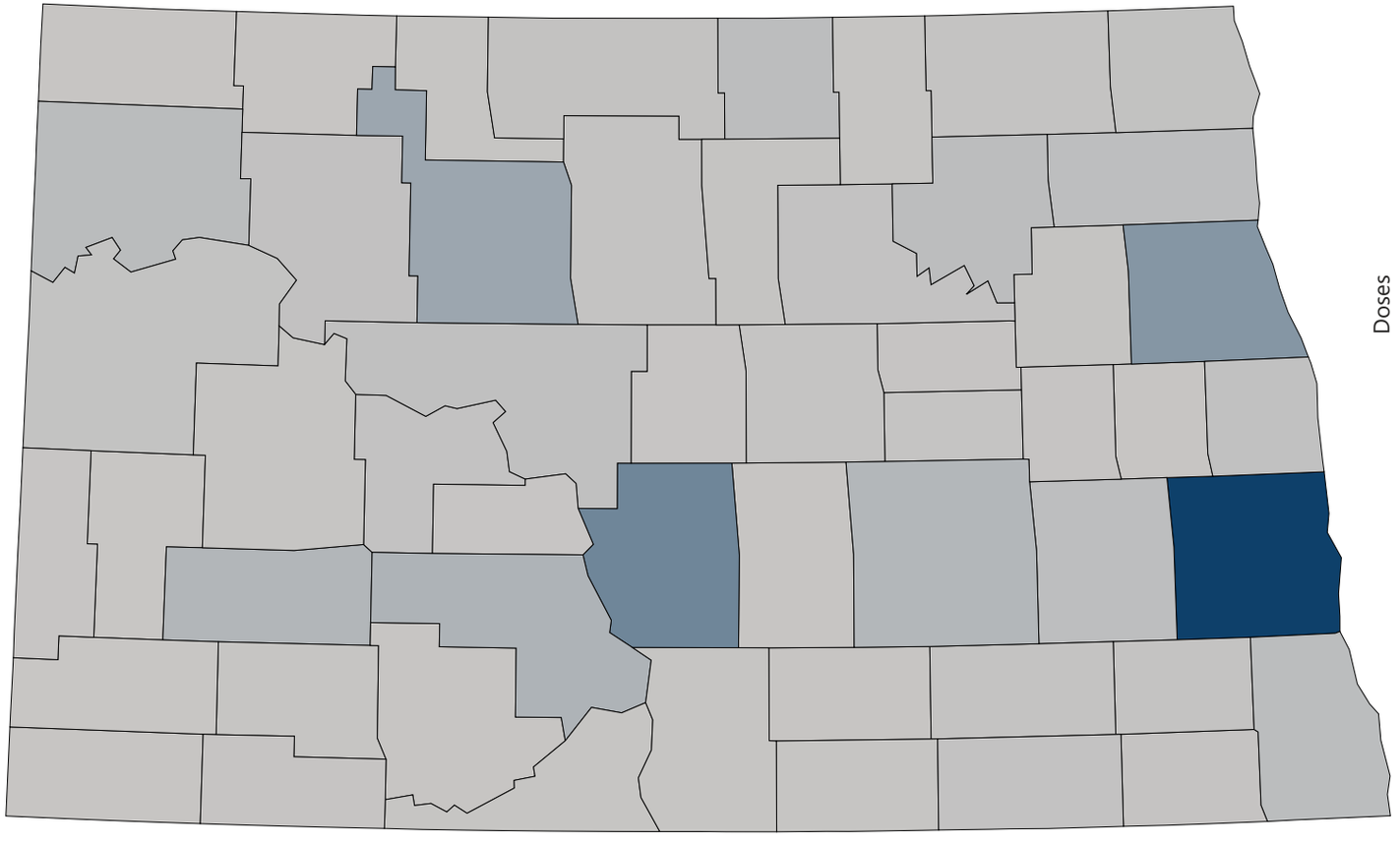
Total Influenza Vaccine Doses Administered by County

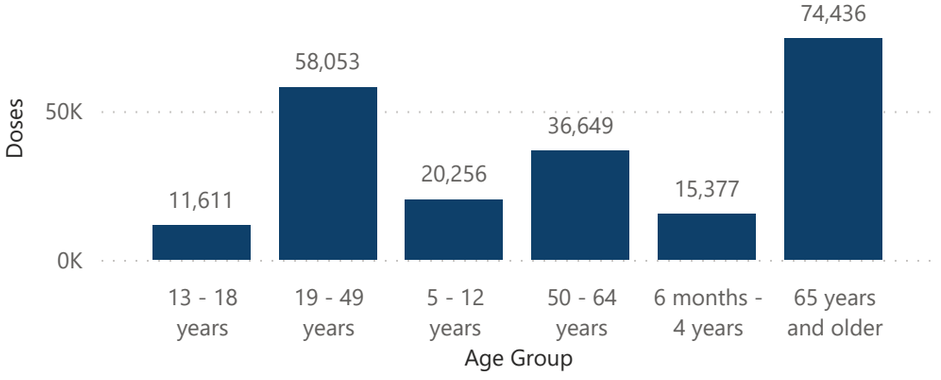


Age Group

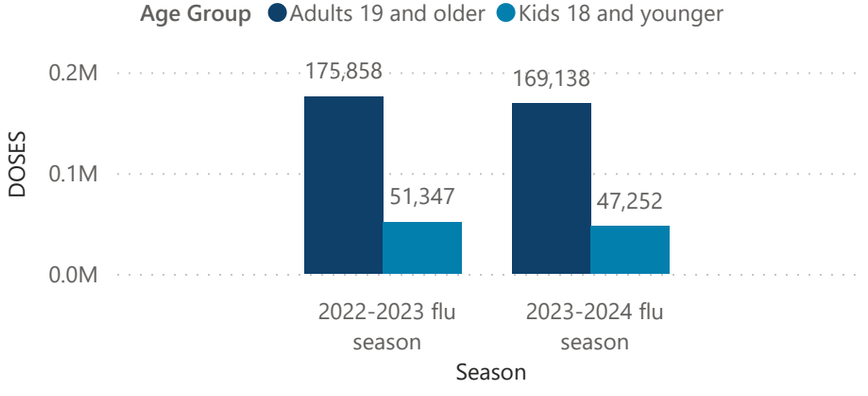
ADULT | CHILD

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.

Doses Administered by Age Group



Statewide Doses Administered



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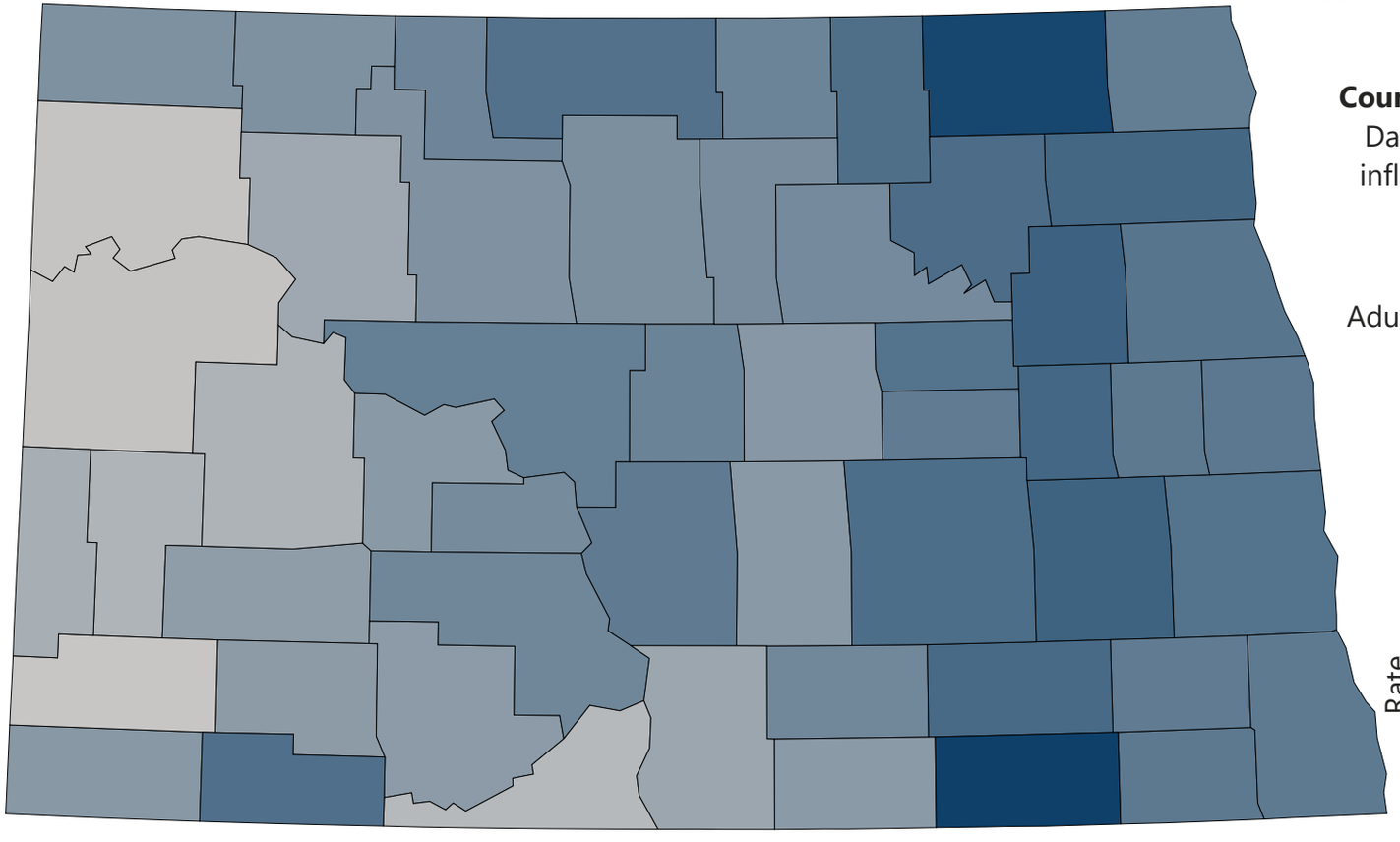
Influenza Vaccine County Coverage Rates



Week Number

WEEK51

Age Group

All ND 6 months and older

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.

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.

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

Statewide Flu Coverage for 2023-24 Season