2021-2022 Influenza Weekly Report

North Dakota Department of Health

Week 50

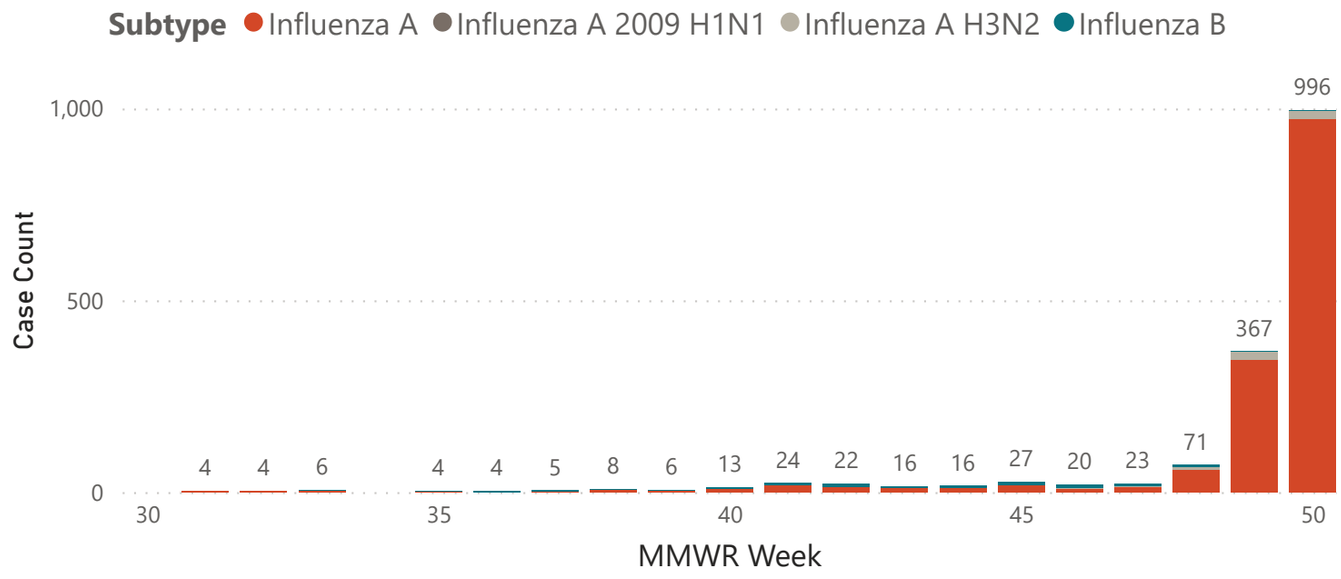
Last updated by Levi Schlosser on 12/21/2021

Influenza season again increases in a dramatic fashion, now with over 900 new laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza. Cumulative influenza cases for the season again more than doubled from the previous week. The timing of this increase in activity is also unusual; the 2019-20 influenza season saw a similar increase in flu activity in December, although not at this magnitude. This is also echoed by increases in outpatient influenza-like illness visits, lab positivity, and school absenteeism. The recent spike in influenza activity highlights the importance of influenza vaccination as the best and easiest way to protect against influenza; for more information regarding influenza vaccination, please visit health.nd.gov/immunize

	Last Week	Season Total
New Influenza Cases:	996	1,636
Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness:	3.80%	2.47%
Laboratory Specimens Positive for Influenza:	23.98%	5.89%
Percentage of Students Absent from School:	18.79%	13.95%
New Hospitalizations due to Influenza:	0	13
New Deaths due to Influenza:	0	0

Subtype	Cases in Previous Week	Total for Season
Influenza A	973	1,508
Influenza A 2009 H1N1	0	1
Influenza A H3N2	21	53
Influenza B	2	74
Total	**996**	**1,636**

Influenza Cases by Week Number



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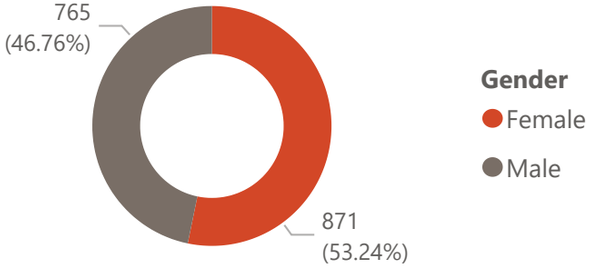
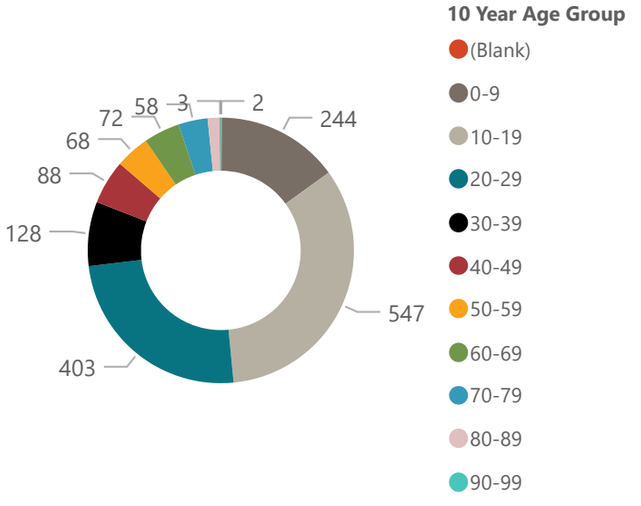
Laboratory-confirmed influenza is a reportable disease in North Dakota. Influenza "cases" include people that have tested positive for influenza in a healthcare setting. It does not include people with influenza who did not seek healthcare, or were diagnosed without a lab test, which is common. The true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

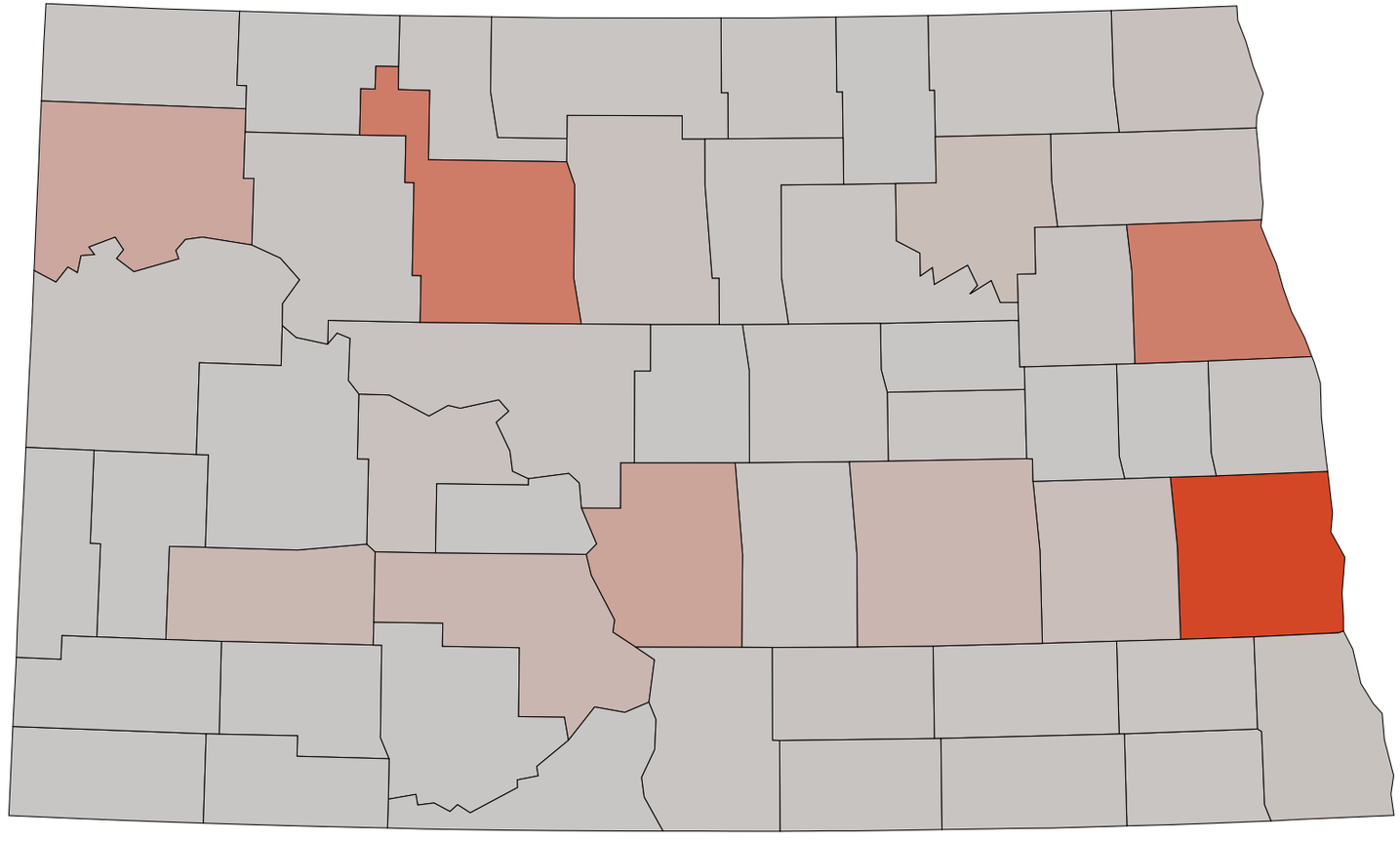
Influenza Cases by Gender



Influenza Cases by Age Group



Total Influenza Cases by County



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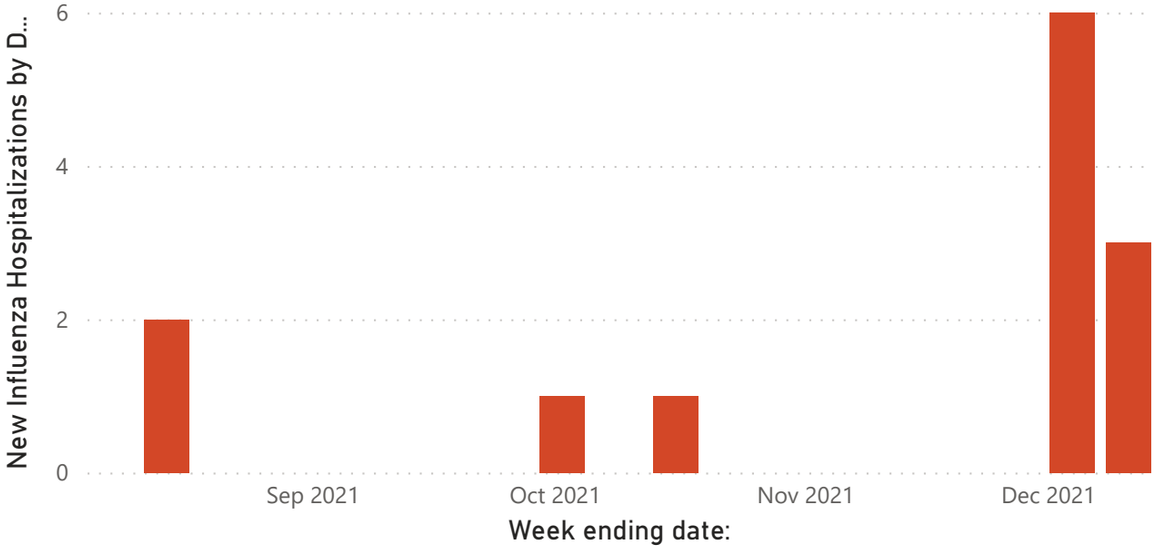
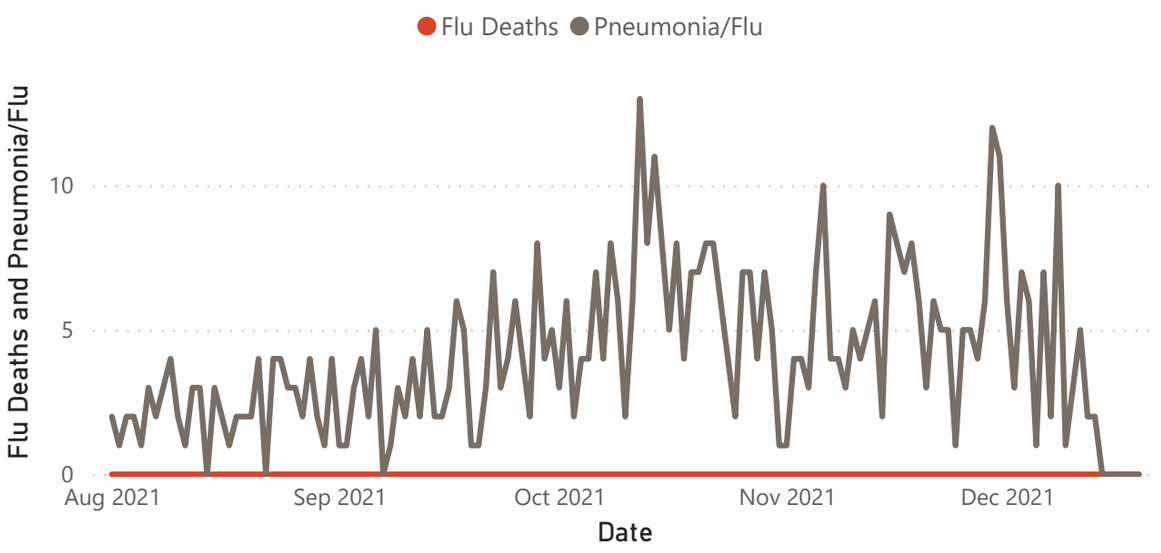
Influenza Hospitalization information is collected via daily aggregated reports to the NDDoH. Because this surveillance methodology is new this year, hospitalization numbers this year may not be comparable to previous years.

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



0	13	0	979
New Weekly Hospitalizations	Total Hospitalizations for Season	Flu Deaths	Pneumonia/Flu

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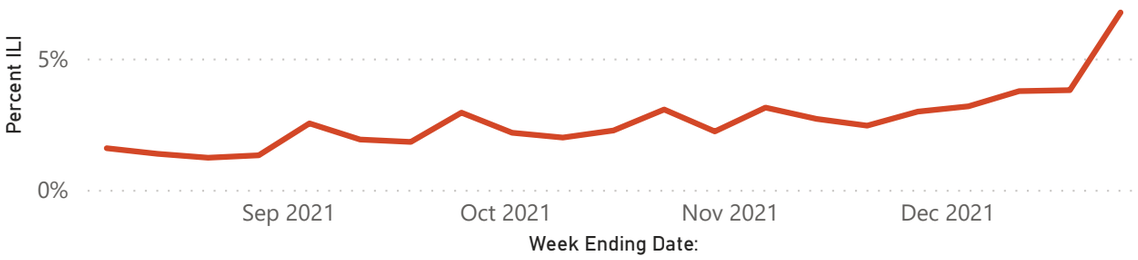
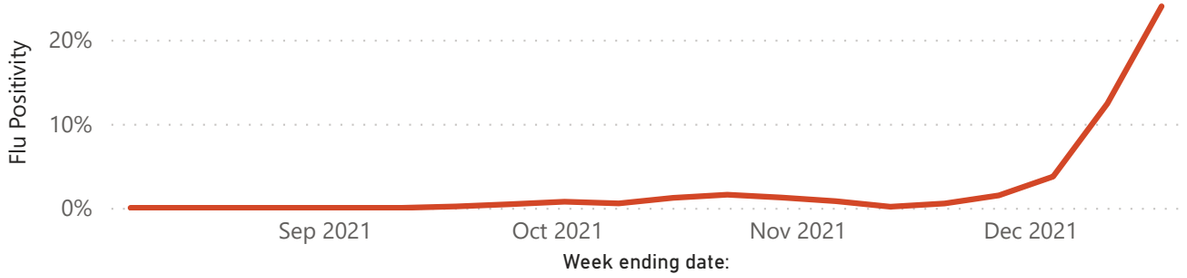
Outpatient Influenza-like Illness (ILI) The NDDoH participates in the national U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet). Data from participating outpatient providers in north Dakota are pooled to create a state-wide estimate for the weekly percent of healthcare visists due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



Flu Positivity by Week



Week Ending Date:	Total # of Patients Seen for Any Reason	Percent ILI
Saturday, November 13, 2021	3,702	2.70%
Saturday, November 20, 2021	3,642	2.44%
Saturday, November 27, 2021	3,626	2.98%
Saturday, December 04, 2021	4,025	3.18%
Saturday, December 11, 2021	3,698	3.76%
Saturday, December 18, 2021	3,083	3.80%
Total	**21,776**	**3.13%**

Week ending date:	Total Number of Specimens Tested	Flu Positivity
Saturday, November 13, 2021	752	0.13%
Saturday, November 20, 2021	772	0.52%
Saturday, November 27, 2021	743	1.48%
Saturday, December 04, 2021	1,076	3.72%
Saturday, December 11, 2021	1,621	12.40%
Saturday, December 18, 2021	1,914	23.98%
Total	**6,878**	**10.41%**

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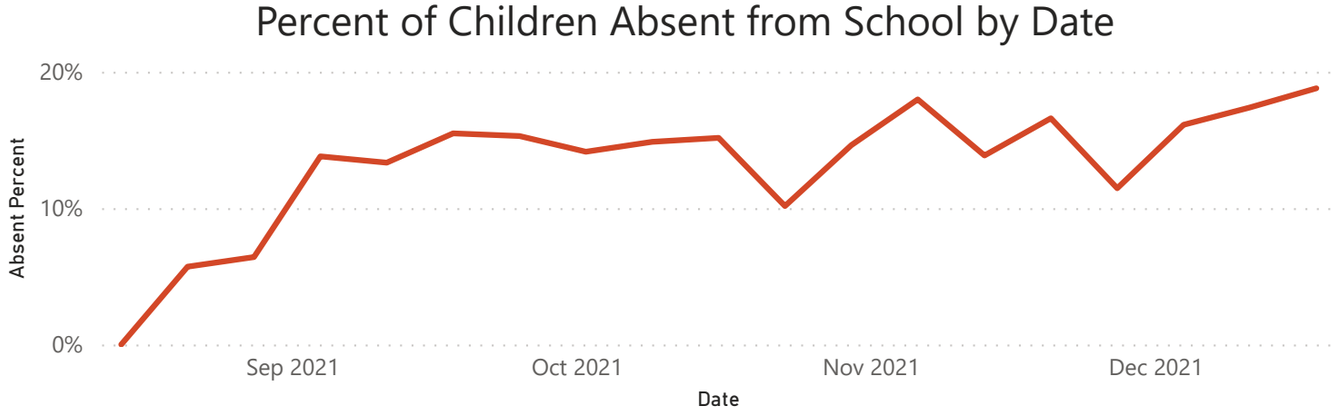
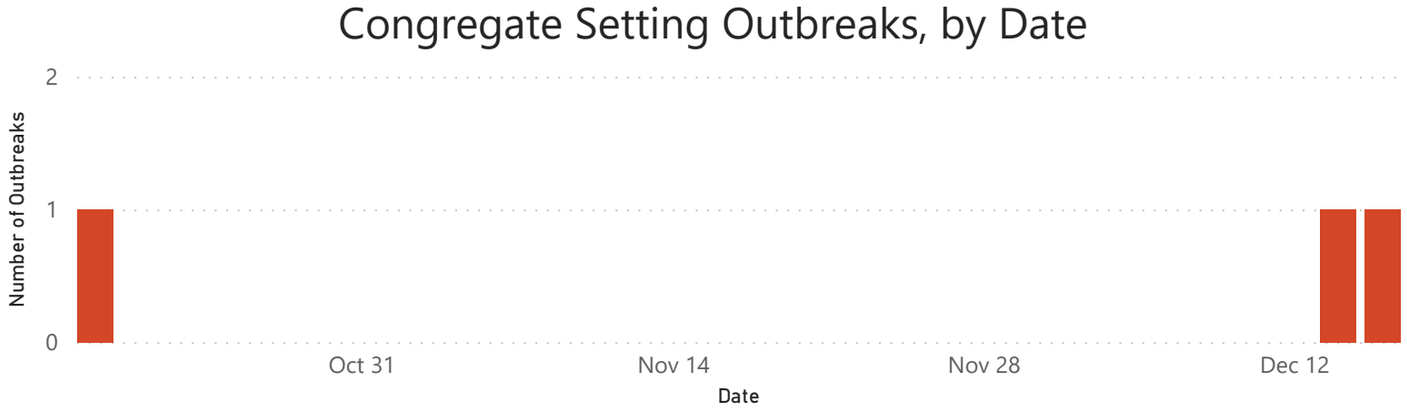
During the influenza season, increases in the **school absenteeism** data cab be used as an early indicator for influenza circulation. The NDDoH received absenteeism data from a majority of schools in the state. Data here include absences for all reasons.



Week End Date	Total Enrollment	Percent Absent
Saturday, November 20, 2021	122,955	16.59%
Saturday, November 27, 2021	123,138	11.46%
Saturday, December 04, 2021	123,533	16.11%
Saturday, December 11, 2021	123,765	17.38%
Saturday, December 18, 2021	124,347	18.79%

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 or influenza-like illness may be reported to the NDDoH. The following outbreaks have been reported this season.



Number of Outbreaks	Congregate Setting Type
3	Skilled Nursing
3	

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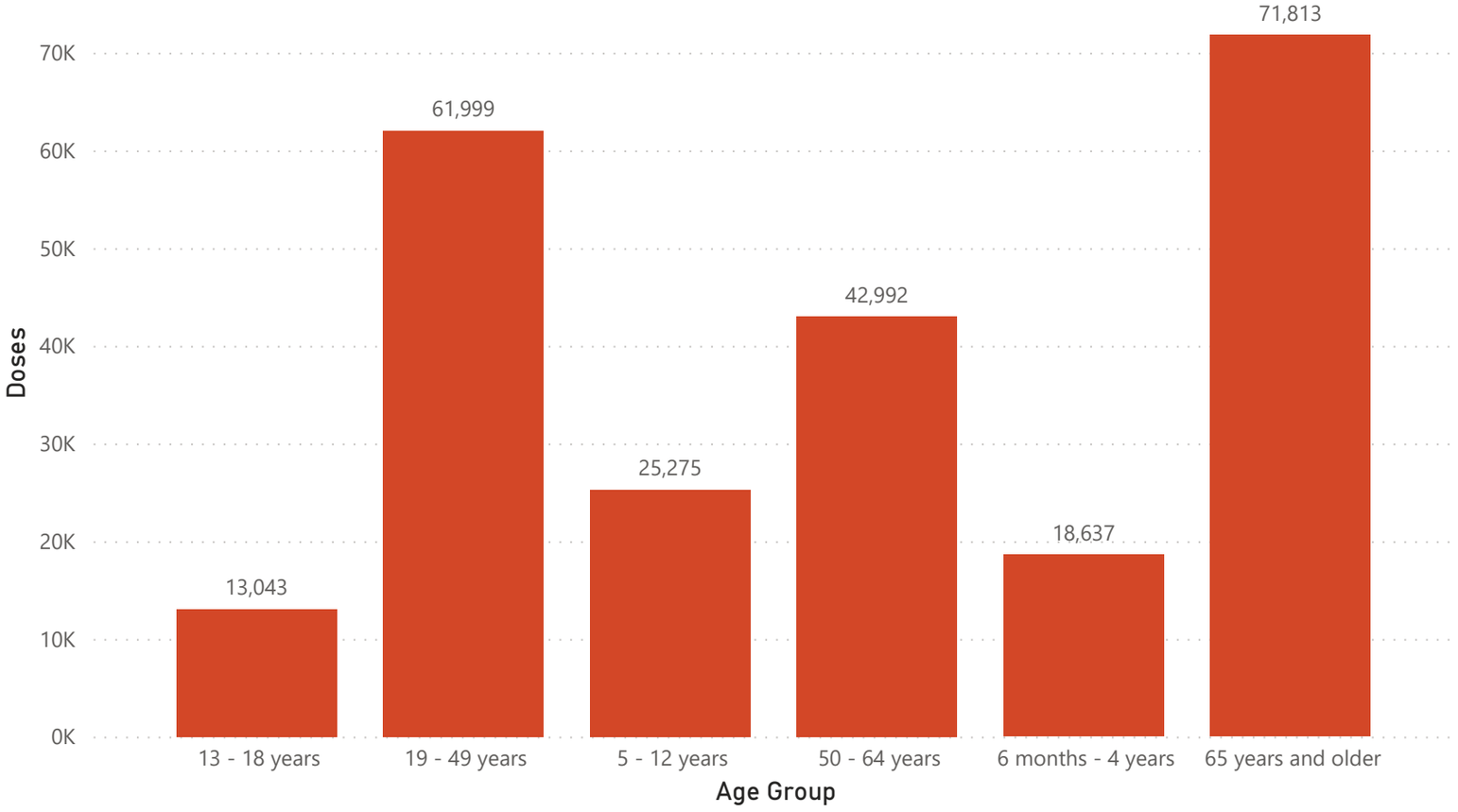
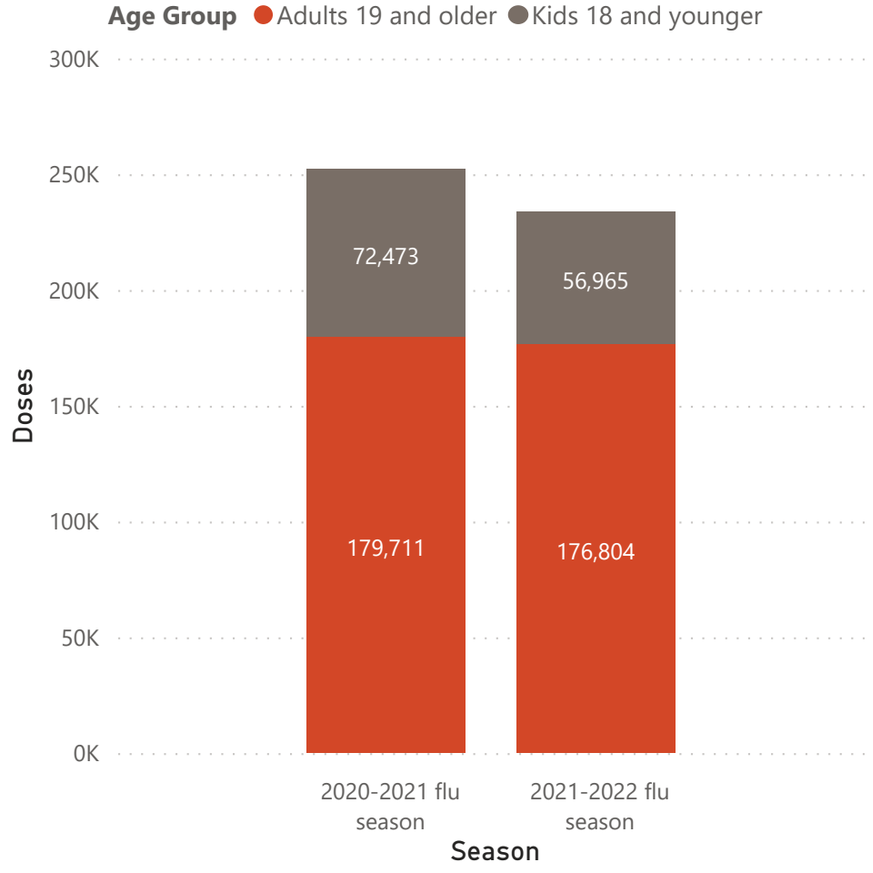
Influenza vaccine doses administered data from the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) includes all administered doses of flu vaccine documented in the NDIIS to records with a North Dakota address. Adult immunizations do not have to be reported to the NDIIS so there may be more influenza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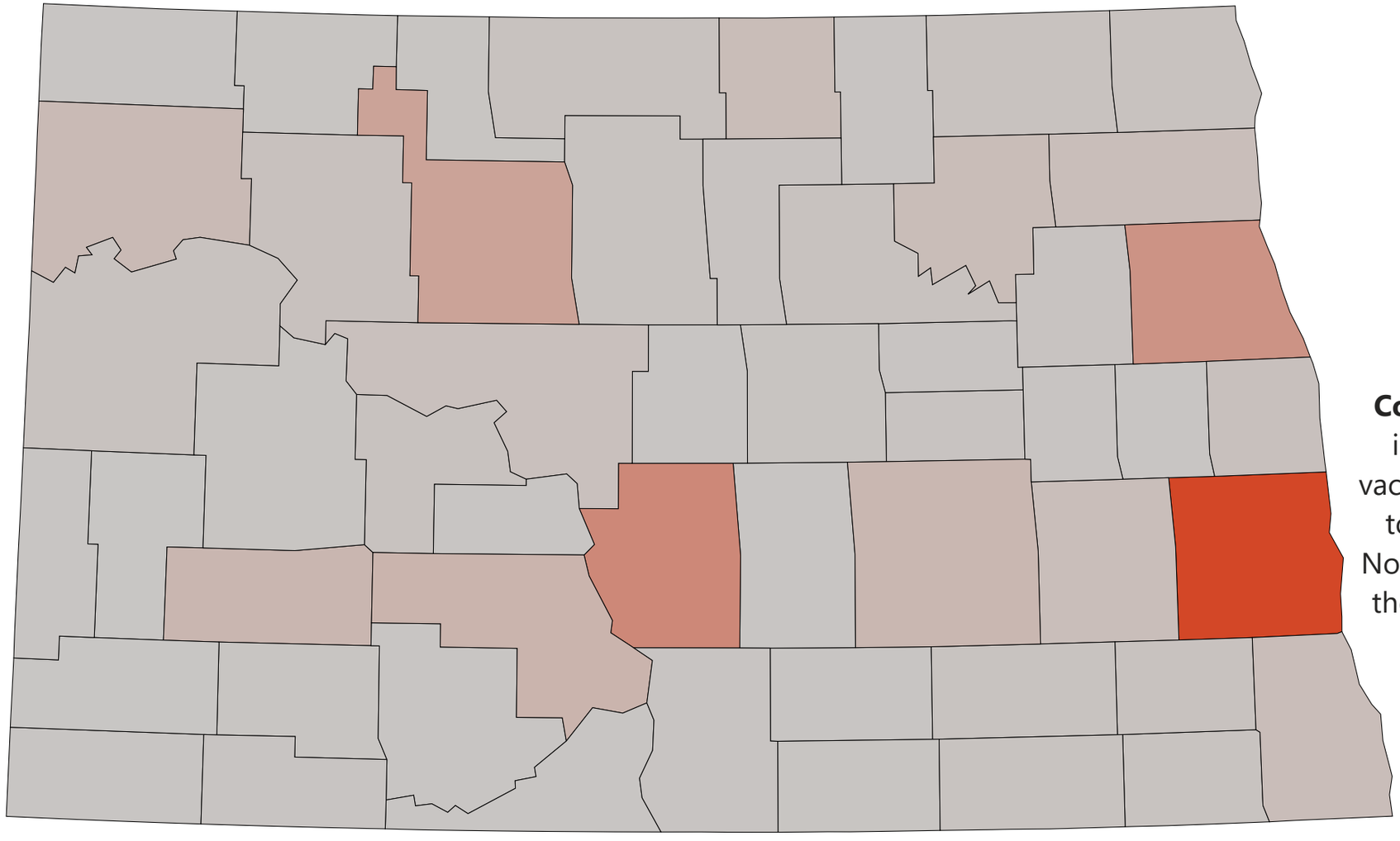
Total Influenza Vaccine Doses Administered by County



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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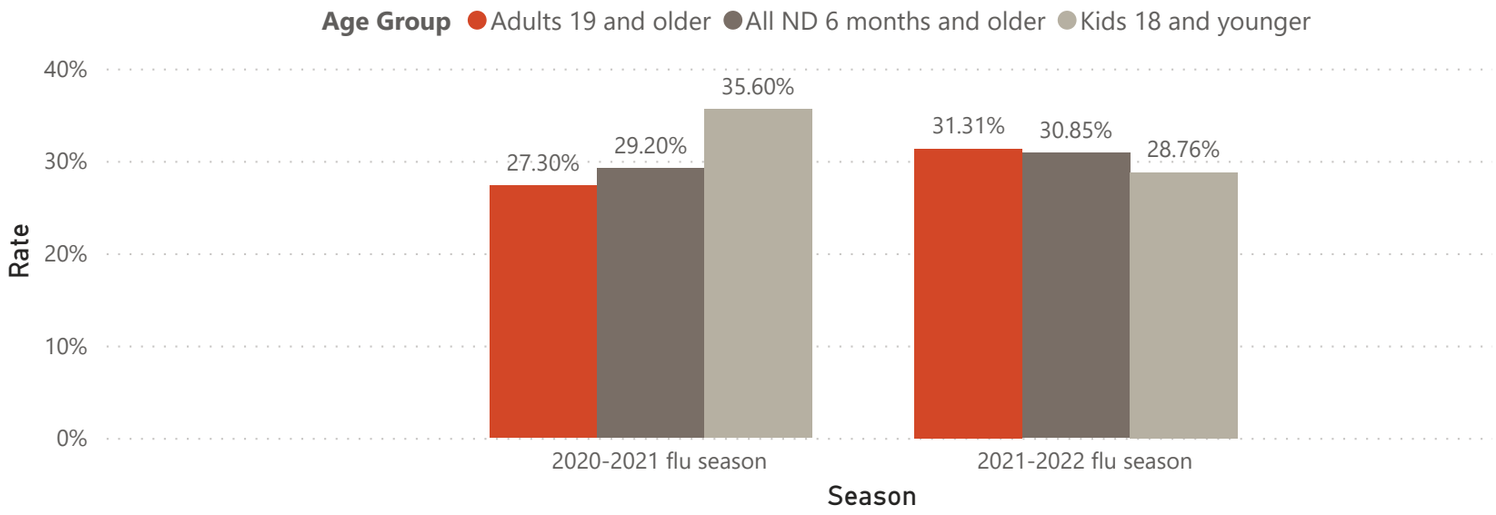
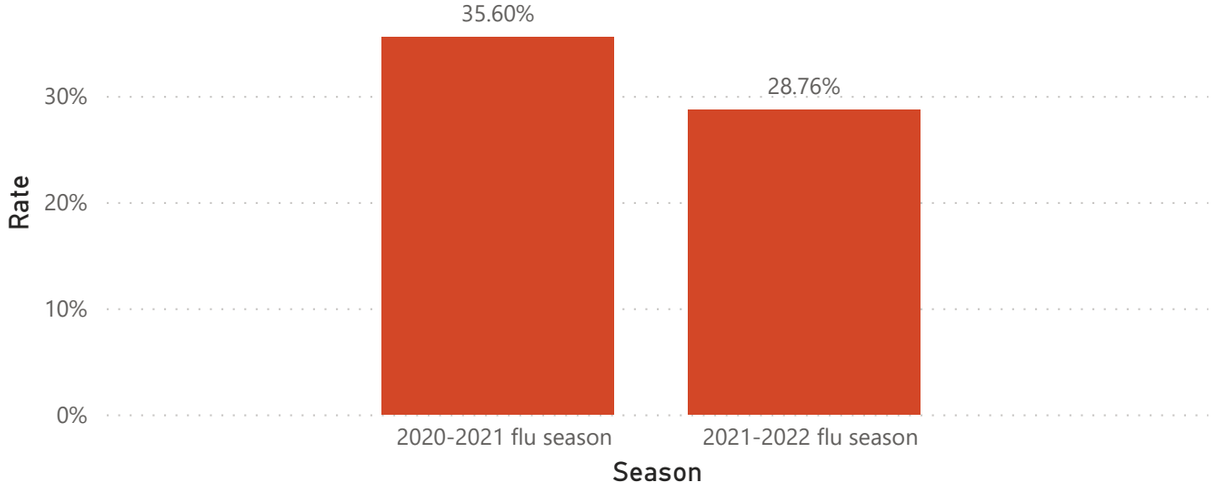
Statewide Flu Coverage for 2021-22 Season



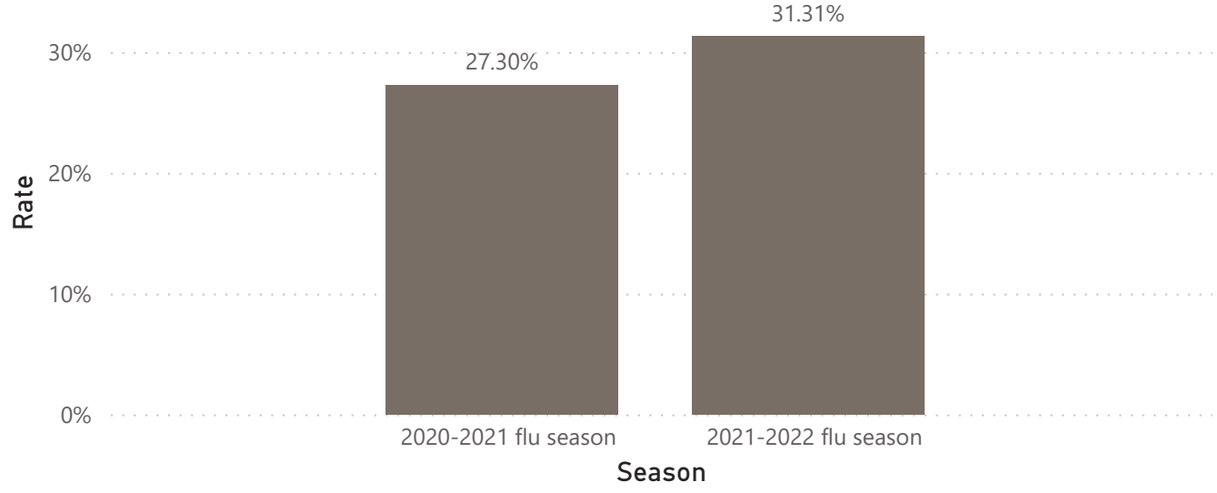
NDIIS data can also be used to estimate the percent of North Dakotans in each age group that have received at least one dose of influenza vaccine so far this flu season. NDIIS records included in **statewide coverage rates** must have a North Dakota address.

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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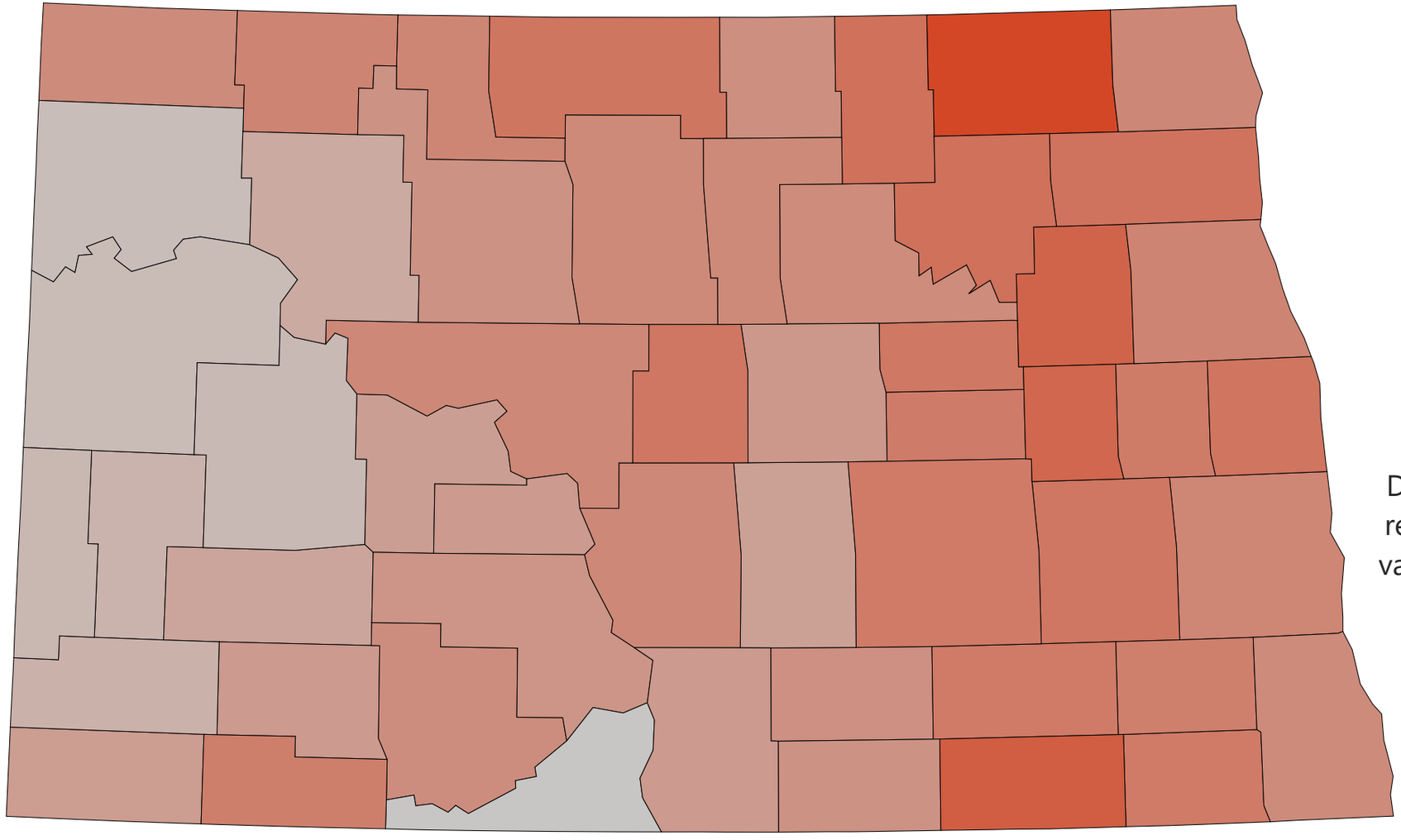
Influenza Vaccine County Coverage Rates



Week Number

WEEK45

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.