



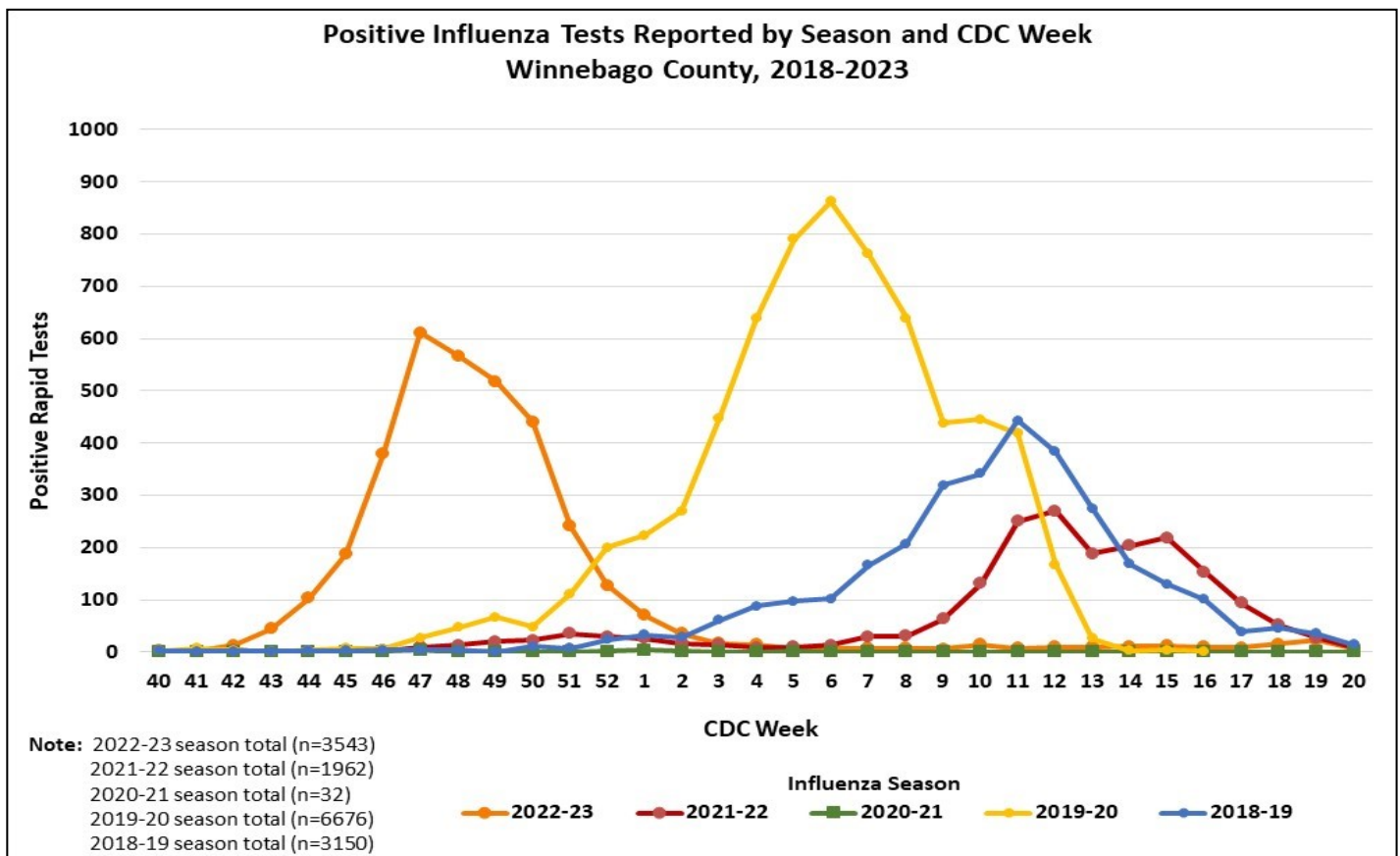
2022 - 2023 Influenza Season Surveillance Summary Report

The Health Department has concluded its annual influenza surveillance for Winnebago County for the 2022-2023 flu season. This year end report indicates what the community experienced during the season.

The Health Department extends its gratitude to its community partners who provided the weekly collection of data from hospitals, clinics, congregate care facilities and laboratories. Without this effort, the Health Department would be unable to provide this important information to the community.

SEASON HIGHLIGHT:

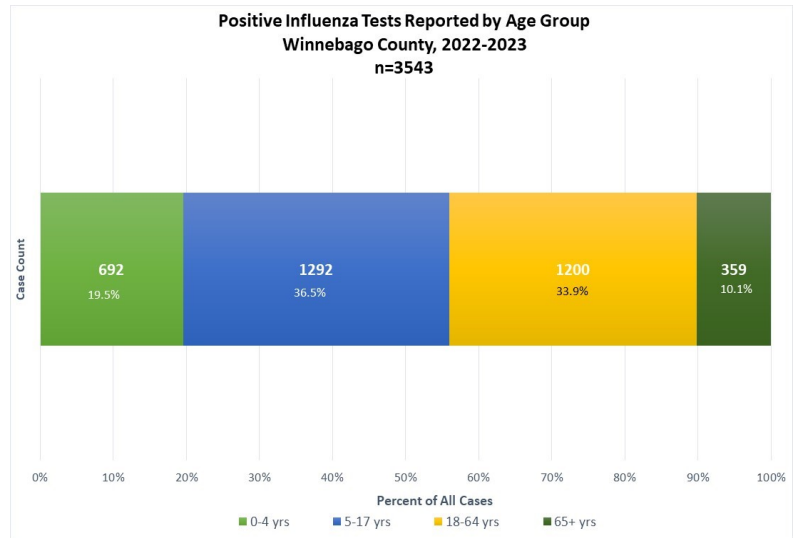
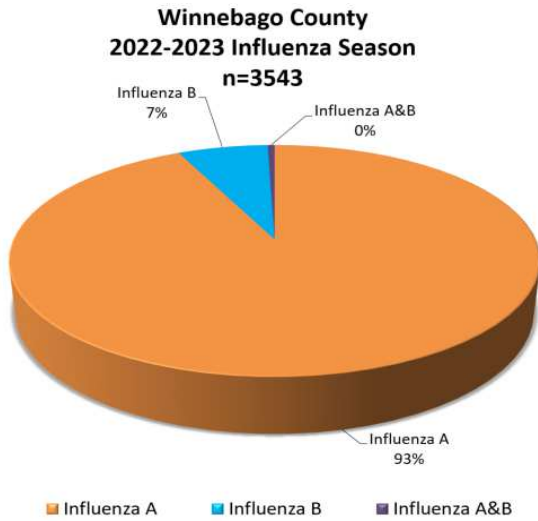
The 2022-23 influenza season was marked with higher influenza activity than during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 to 2022), wherein 3,543 individuals were reported testing positive for influenza. As the graph below illustrates, cases peaked earlier in the season.



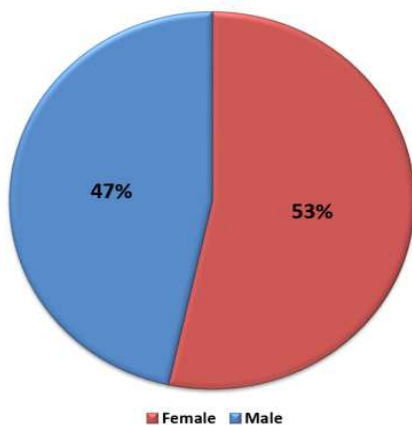
Influenza Surveillance Season

2022-2023 Distribution and Demographics

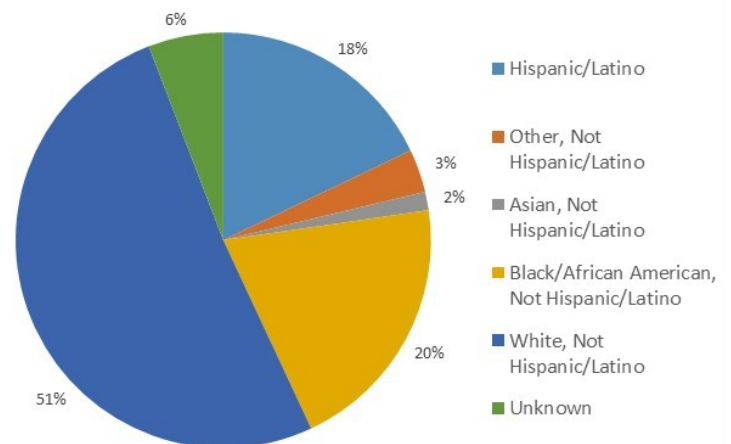
The distribution of the total number of positive influenza tests reported to the Health Department during the 2022-2023 season indicates Influenza A was the predominant circulating virus, accounting for 93% of the positive tests during the season, following the pattern seen in the previous season. The figures below illustrate the demographic distribution of the positive influenza tests reported this season.



**Distribution of Positive Influenza Tests by Gender
Winnebago County, 2022-2023
n=3543**



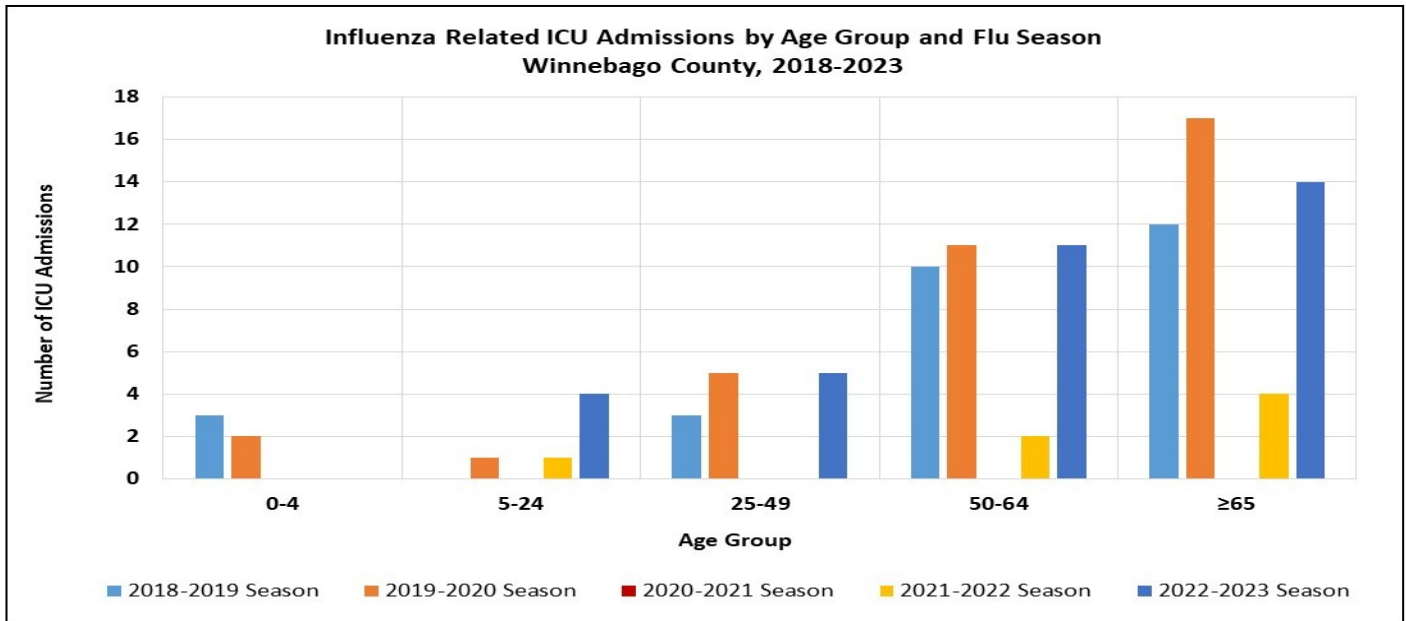
**Distribution of Positive Influenza Tests by Race/Ethnicity
Winnebago County, 2022-2023**



Influenza Surveillance Season

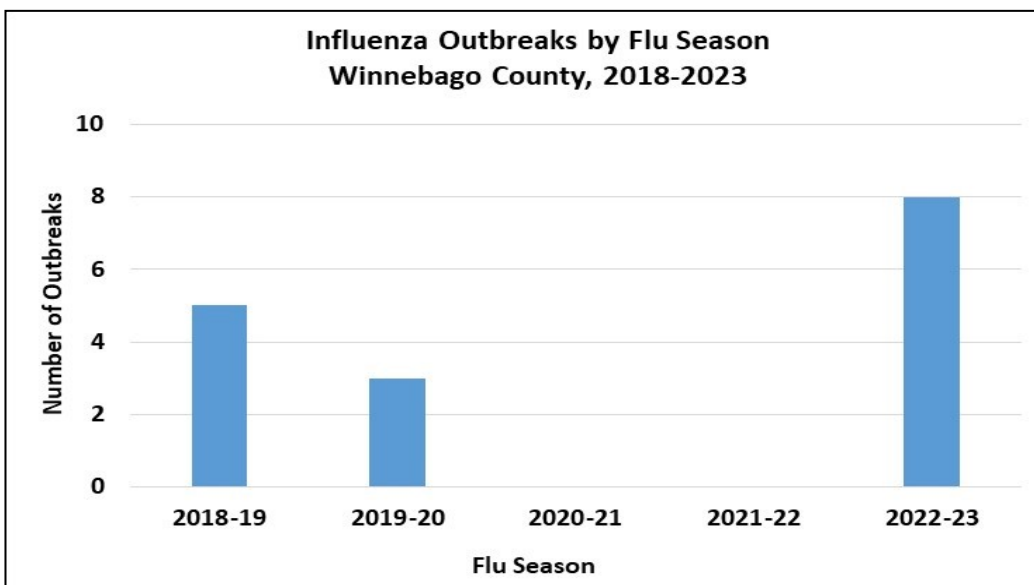
Influenza Related ICU Admissions

There were 34 influenza-related ICU admissions that occurred over the course of the 2022-23 influenza season—making up approximately 1.0% of the season’s positive tests. The majority of the admissions occurred among individuals aged 50 years and older—a consistent trend among this demographic, as they may have other conditions that leave them more susceptible to both the flu and any associated complications that may arise as a result of the flu.



Influenza Surveillance Season

The number of influenza outbreaks has increased with a total of 8 influenza outbreaks occurring during the 2022-23 influenza season compared to no outbreaks in 2020-21 and 2021-22. There were more outbreaks in 2022-2023 than in 2018-19 and 2019-20.

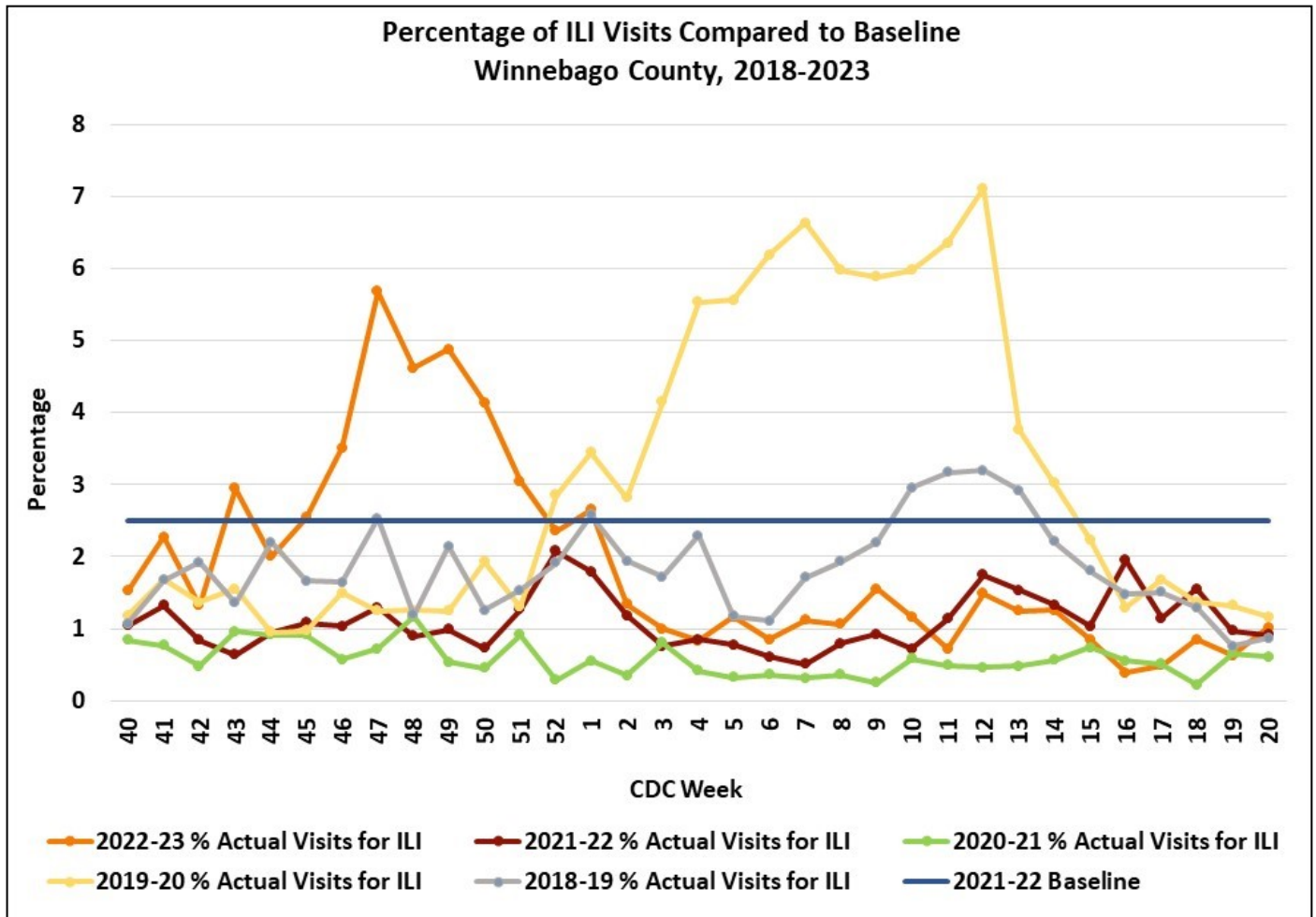


According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), an influenza outbreak occurs when there are two or more cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) occurring within 72 hours among residents in a unit of a facility (congregate settings such as: long-term care facilities, correctional facilities, group homes) with at least one ill resident having lab-confirmed influenza.

Influenza Surveillance Season

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)

Throughout the influenza season, the Health Department also monitored emergency department visits presenting with influenza-like illness (ILI). As the graph below illustrates, ILI during the 2022-23 season was above the baseline percentage for the region (2.5%) early in the season. This is in contrast to the 2020-21 and 2021-2022 seasons which remained low coinciding with the continuation of COVID-19 precautions. This is also in contrast to the 2019-20 season which had a greater percentage of ILI visits.



ILI “Influenza like Illness” is defined as fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ and cough and/or sore throat.