

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) monitors COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity in the County, especially during the respiratory season between October and May. This fact sheet provides preliminary surveillance data on these pan-respiratory diseases for the 2023-2024 season.

Pan-Respiratory

During the 2023-2024 respiratory season, the percent of emergency department (ED) visits¹ in Sacramento County peaked during the last week of December for COVID-19 and influenza and during the first week of January for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) [Figure 1]. At the peak, the percent of ED visits was almost two times higher for influenza (4.9%) than COVID-19 (2.5%).

Influenza

During the previous season (2022-2023), influenza activity increased early with ED visits peaking during the second week of December [Figure 2]. During the 2023-2024 season, influenza activity peaked three weeks later and was 42.7% lower than the previous season.

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) confirmed 92 severe influenza cases for the 2023-2024 season, with 56 influenza-associated intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and 36 influenza-associated deaths [Figure 3]. The highest rates were among those aged 65 and older and lowest among those 18-64 years old [Figure 4].

Among all severe cases where underlying medical conditions were known (95.7%), 85.2% had at least one underlying condition. Among those aged 65 and older, 69.4% had three or more underlying conditions [Figure 5]. Those aged 0-17 had the second highest percent of cases with three or more underlying conditions (60.0%). Overall, the most common medical conditions were related to

Figure 1. Percent of Pan-Respiratory Disease-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits¹, Sacramento County, 2023-2024

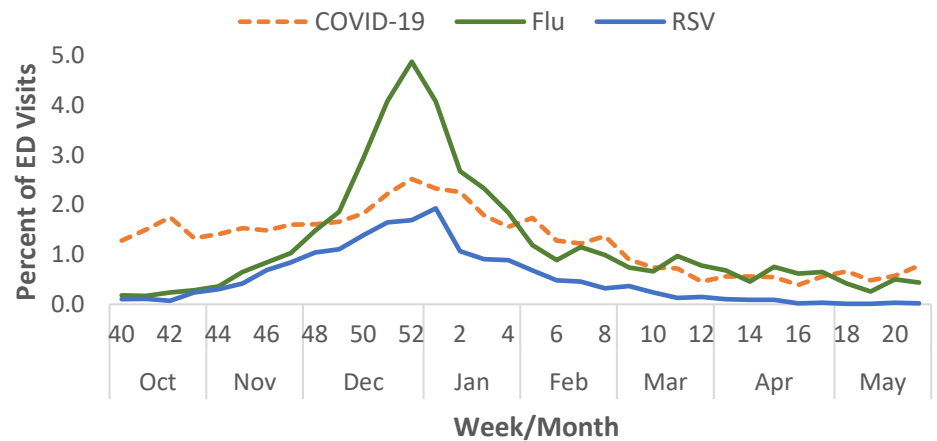


Figure 2. Percent of Influenza-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits, Sacramento County, 2019-2020² vs. 2022-2024²

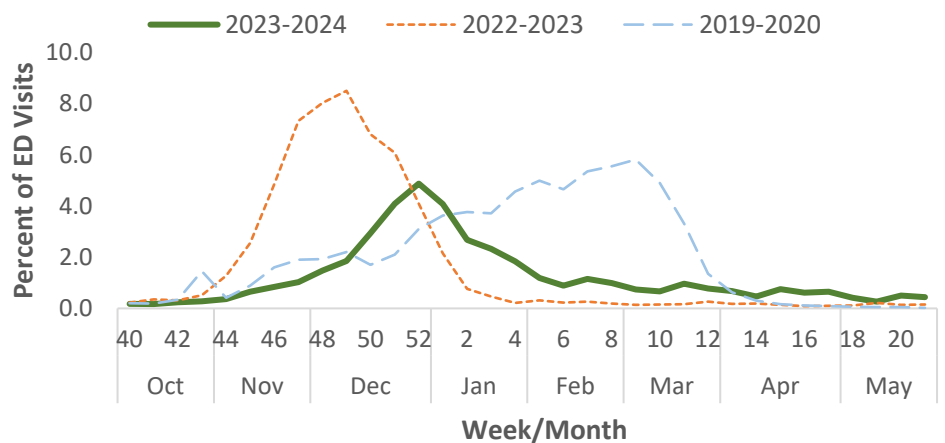


Figure 3. Severe Influenza Cases by Season, Sacramento County, 2019-2020 and 2022-2024²

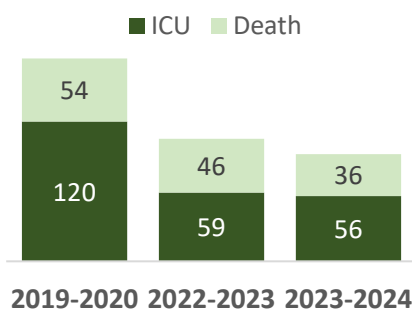
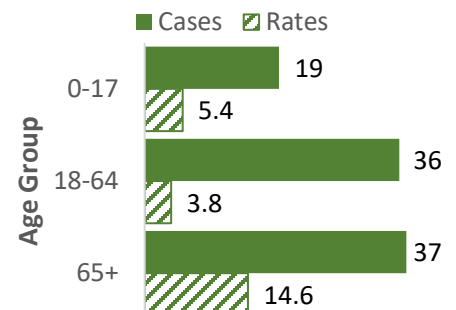


Figure 4. Severe Influenza Cases and Rates by Age Group, Sacramento County, 2023-2024



the lungs (54.7%), heart (50.7%), or metabolism (50.7%) [data not shown]. However, the most frequent conditions differed among the oldest and youngest age groups.

The majority of severe influenza cases were influenza type A (92.4%), with a higher percent of A (H1N1)pdm09 than A (H3) among those subtyped [Figure 6]. A small percent of cases were influenza type B (6.5%) later in the season.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

RSV activity peaked for both children less than 18 and adults 65 years and older during first week of January. At the peak, RSV-related ED visits were three times higher among children <18 than the older adult group.

SCPH confirmed 45 severe cases among children less than five years old during the 2023-2024 season³, a 23.7% decrease compared to the previous season. All of these cases were ICU admissions; no RSV-related deaths were reported among those less than 5 years old.

COVID-19

Trends among COVID-19 case rates and ED visits were mostly consistent throughout the season with both peaking during the last week of December [Figure 8]. At the peak, 2.5% of ED visits were related to COVID-19, a 30.6% and 83.2% decrease compared to the same time period between 2022-2023 and 2021-2022, respectively [data not shown].

Data Sources: National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP); California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE).

Figure 5. Number of Medical Conditions among Severe Influenza Cases by Age Group, Sacramento County, 2023-2024

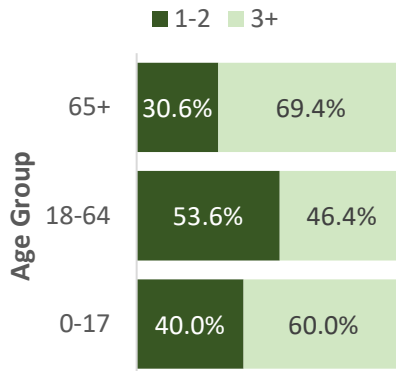


Figure 6. Severe Influenza Cases by Influenza Type, Sacramento County, 2023-2024

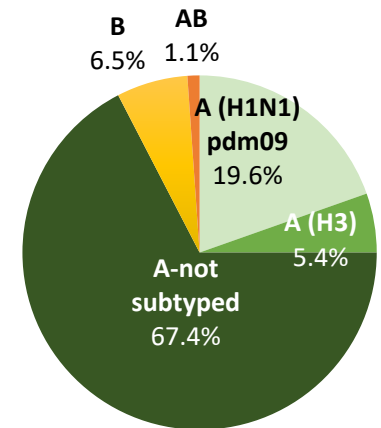


Figure 7. Percent of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits by Age Group, Sacramento County, 2023-2024

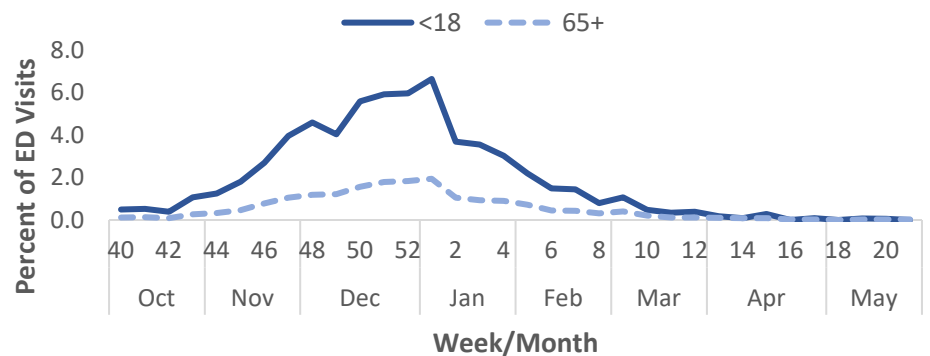
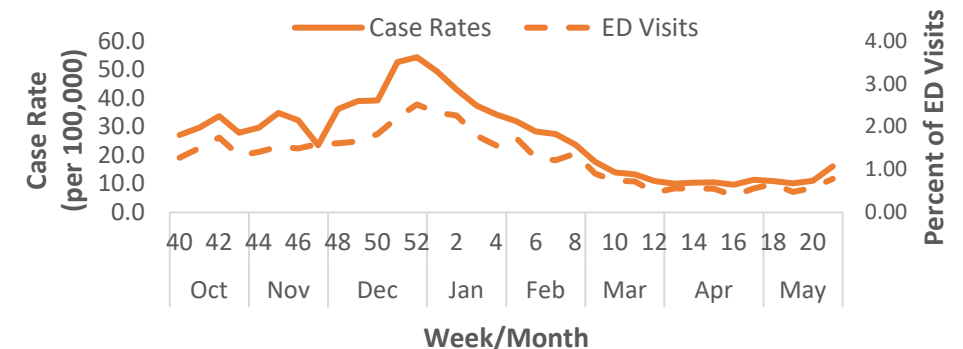


Figure 8. COVID-19 Case Rates vs. Emergency Department (ED) Visits, Sacramento County, 2023-2024



Notes: ¹Pan-respiratory disease-related ED visits include visits with discharge diagnosis specific to the disease. ²Influenza activity was low during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 respiratory seasons. Data for the 2023-2024 season is compared to the previous season (2022-2023) and pre-pandemic season (2019-2020). ³SCPH required health care facilities to report RSV-related ICU hospitalization among those <5 years old starting in the 2022-2023 season.