

Weekly Disease Surveillance Report



2024 Reporting Week 30: July 21 – July 27

This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

Recent CDC Health Advisories

07/23/24: [HAN 00512 – Disruptions in Availability of Becton Dickinson \(BD\) BACTEC™ Blood Culture Bottles Blood Culture Bottles](#)

06/25/24: [HAN 00511 – Increased Risk of Dengue Virus Infections in the United States](#)

06/13/24: [HAN 00510 – Disrupted Access to Prescription Stimulant Medications Could Increase Risk of Injury and Overdose](#)

06/12/24: [HAN 00509 – Severe Illness Potentially Associated with Consuming Diamond Shroomz™ Brand Chocolate Bars, Cones, and Gummies](#)

05/20/24: [HAN 00508 – Meningococcal Disease Cases Linked to Travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia \(KSA\): Ensure Pilgrims are Current on Meningococcal Vaccination](#)

ILI Trends

Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Okaloosa increased during Week 30 and is consistent with the previous year's level (current level: 2.9%; last year: 3.0%). Please stay vigilant, promote vaccination, and visit the weekly [Florida FLU REVIEW](#).

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COVID-19 Corner

Week 30 Data Update

Effective May 1, 2024, hospitals are no longer required to report COVID-19 hospital admissions, hospital capacity, or hospital occupancy data to HHS through CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). CDC encourages ongoing, voluntary reporting of hospitalization data. Data voluntarily reported to NHSN after May 1, 2024, will be available starting May 10, 2024, at [COVID Data Tracker Hospitalizations](#).

The source of hospital information on the COVID Data Tracker home page will change from the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) to COVID-NET. Instead of displaying national counts of new hospital admissions, it will show COVID-19 hospitalization rates per 100,000 people. More information on COVID-Net is available on [COVID-NET Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 Hospitalizations](#).

In the Know: *Listeria* + Meats Sliced at Delis

The CDC has issued a [Food Safety Alert](#) related to *Listeria* found in meats sliced in delis. As of July 31, there are 34 people infected with the outbreak strain of *Listeria* from 13 states, including GA, IL, IN, MA, MD, MN, MO, NC, NJ, NY, PA, VA, and WI. These infections have resulted in 33 hospitalizations and two deaths.

Epidemiologic and laboratory data show that meats sliced at deli counters, including Boar's Head brand Liverwurst, are contaminated with the *Listeria* strain that is making people sick in this outbreak. Impacted Boar's Head and Old Country brand products related to this outbreak have been [recalled](#). A full list of recalled products can be found [here](#).

Listeria is especially harmful to people who are pregnant, aged 65 or older, or have weakened immune systems as it is more likely to result in a severe condition known as invasive listeriosis. Symptoms usually start within 2 weeks after eating food contaminated with *Listeria*, but may start as early as the same day or as late as 10 weeks after. People who are pregnant usually have fever, muscle aches, and tiredness, while others may also get a headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, or seizures.

For more information, please see the [Listeria Questions and Answers](#) page.



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 30: July 21 – July 27

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.

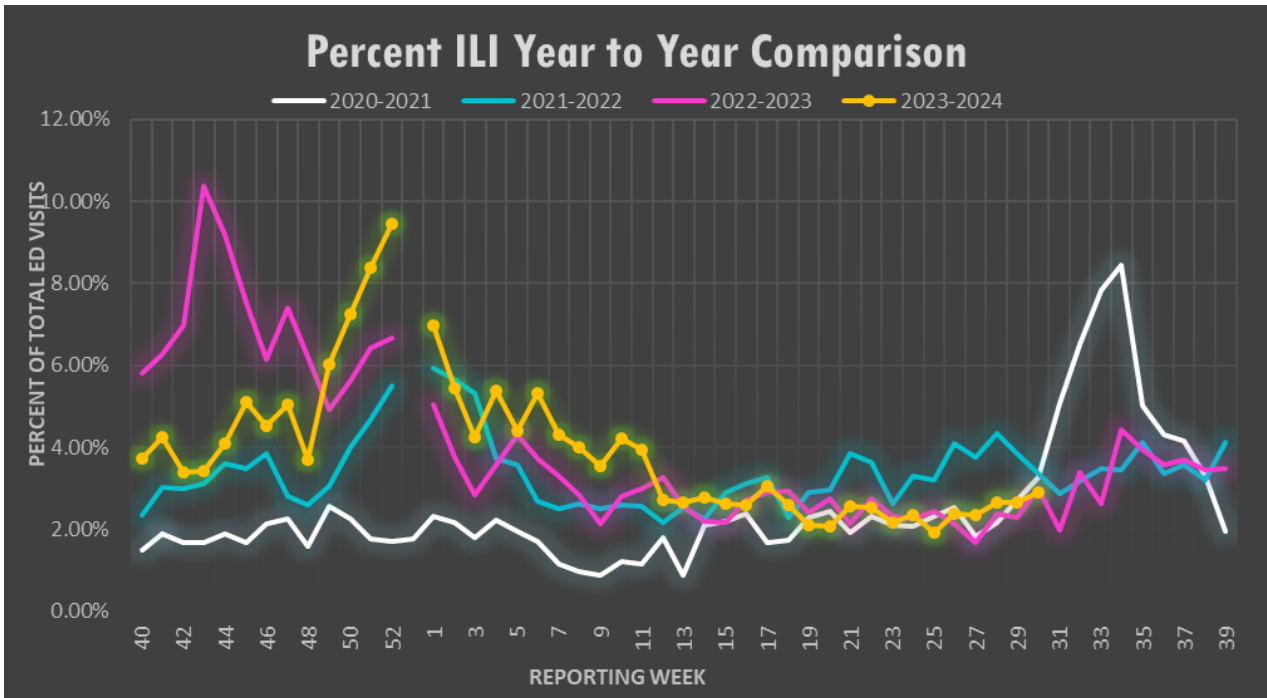


Figure 2: Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa county for the 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-2024 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 30, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported an increase in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County increased this week (2.65% during Week 29 to 2.90% during Week 30). Flu partners reported 7 positive rapid flu tests this week (2 Influenza A and 5 Influenza B). Over the past three weeks, no influenza specimens submitted to the state lab were positive. There were no ILI admissions or deaths reported by flu partners this week. No outbreaks have been reported in the past 3 weeks. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 30 is below than that of Week 30 last year.
Note: Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers.
 Data Source: ESSENCE

% ILI by Age Group Week 30, 2024			
Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	22	172	12.79%
5-19	11	317	3.47%
20-34	22	607	3.62%
35-54	16	710	2.25%
55-74	8	654	1.22%
75+	3	353	0.85%

Data Source: ESSENCE

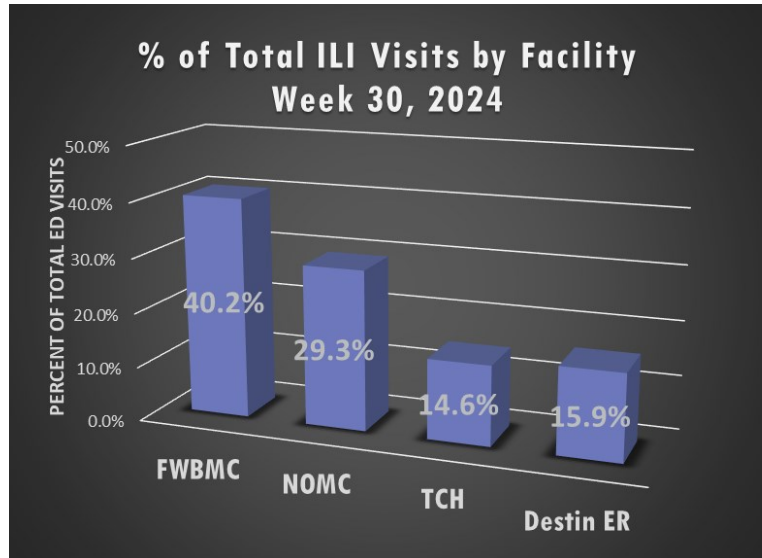


Figure 3: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=82). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

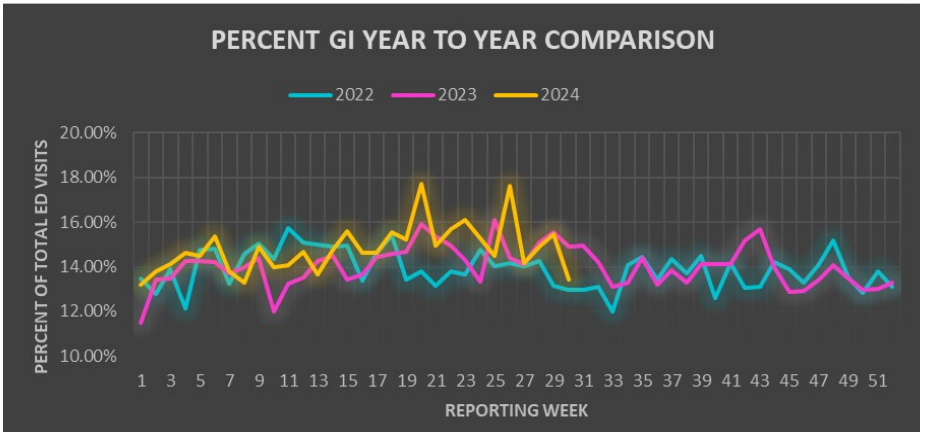
Week 30: July 21 — July 27

Gastro-intestinal Illness (GI)

Figure 4:

Annual comparison for the percent of GI for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Data Source: ESSENCE

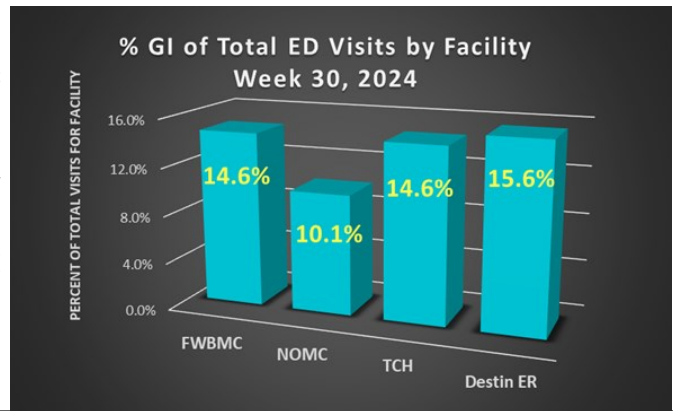


% GI by Age Group Week 30, 2024			
Age Range	GI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total GI Visits
0-4	30	172	17.44%
5-19	53	317	16.72%
20-34	98	607	16.14%
35-54	99	710	13.94%
55-74	72	654	11.01%
75+	26	353	7.37%

Figure 5:

Hospital emergency room visits due to GI illness stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE

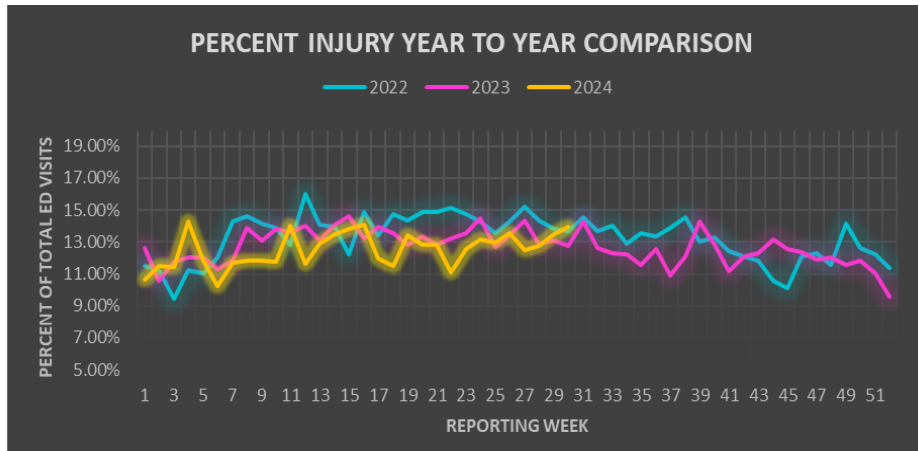


Injury

Figure 6:

Annual comparison for the percent of Injury for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

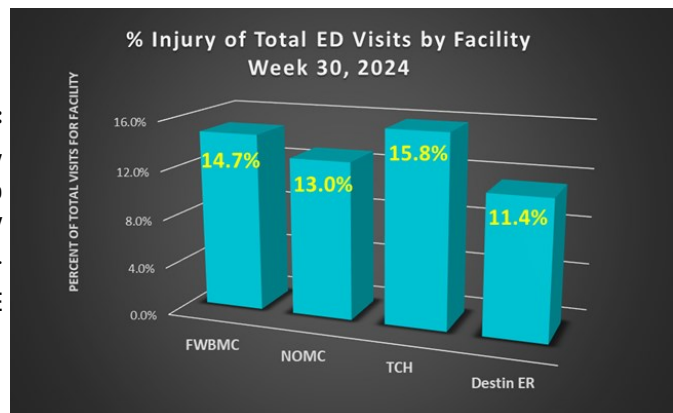


% Injury by Age Group Week 30, 2024			
Age Range	Injury Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total Injury Visits
0-4	20	172	11.63%
5-19	6	317	1.89%
20-34	84	607	13.84%
35-54	84	710	11.83%
55-74	65	654	9.94%
75+	74	353	20.96%

Figure 7:

Hospital emergency room visits due to Injury stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE





Syndromic Surveillance

Week 30: July 21 – July 27

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

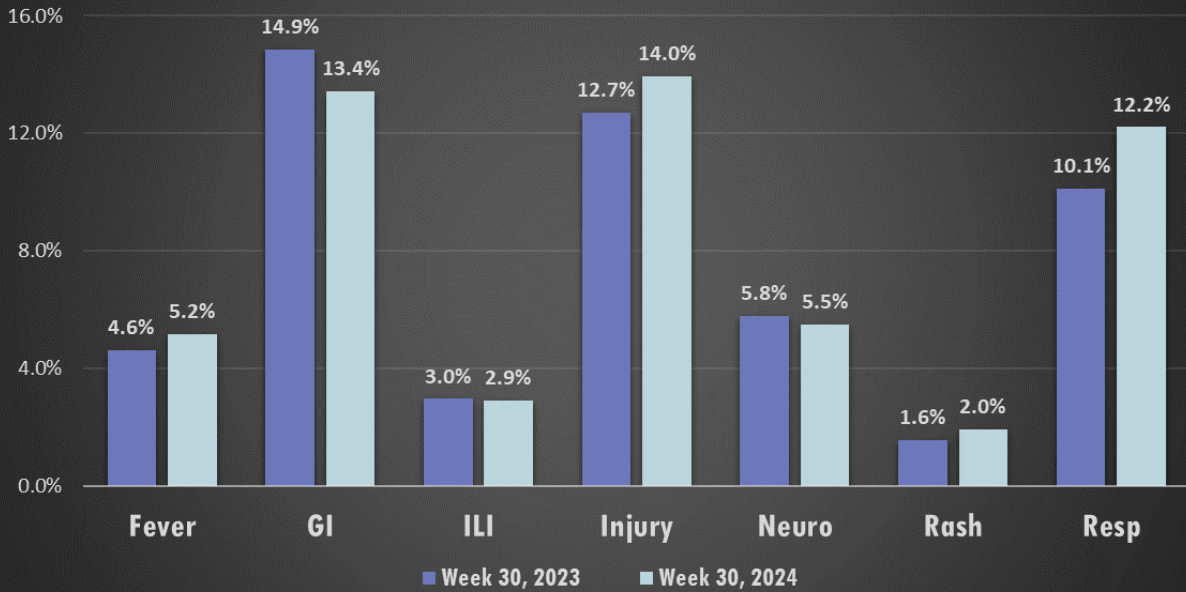
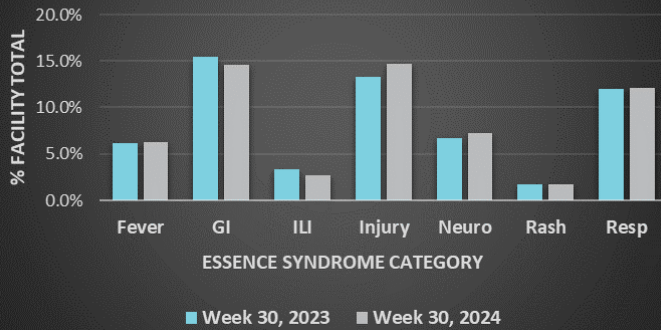


Figure 8: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2024 Week 30 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2816). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%. Data source: ESSENCE

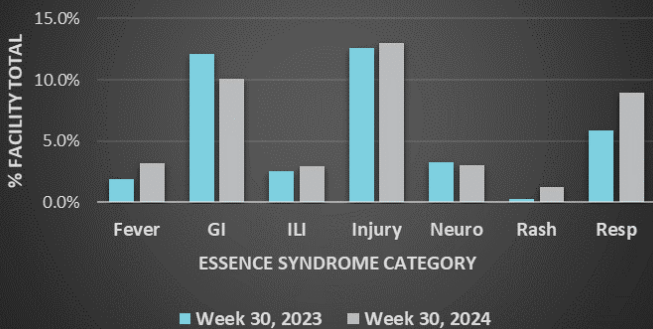
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 30 - Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	26
5-19	INJURY	25
20-34	GI	43
35-54	GI, INJURY	47, 47
55-74	GI	38
75+	INJURY	28

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 30 - North Okaloosa Medical Center

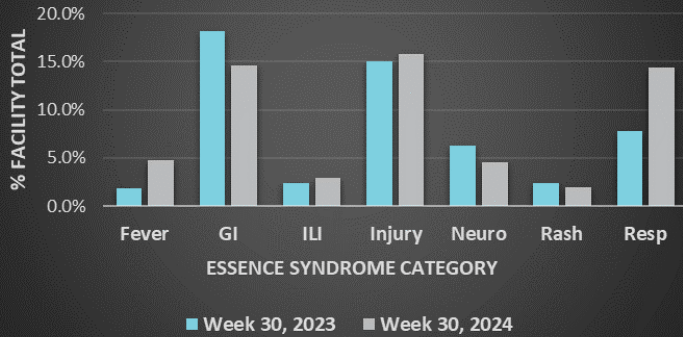
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	18
5-19	INJURY	21
20-34	GI	24
35-54	GI	23
55-74	RESP	18
75+	INJURY	25



Syndromic Surveillance

Week 30: July 21 — July 27

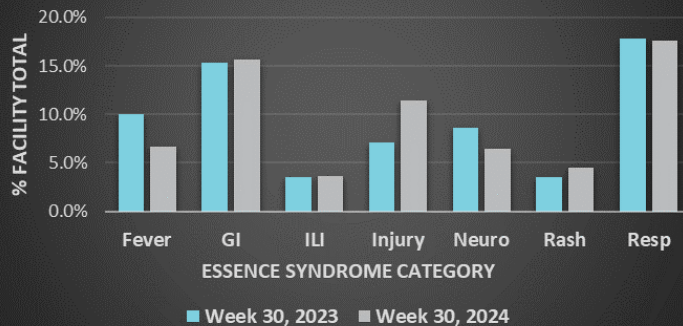
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 30 - Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	7
5-19	RESP	11
20-34	GI	15
35-54	GI	17
55-74	INJURY , RESP	15, 15
75+	INJURY	16

Destin ER ED Presentations



Week 30- Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	7
5-19	GI	15
20-34	RESP	17
35-54	GI	12
55-74	RESP	11
75+	INJURY, RESP	5, 5

Week 30 - Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	RESP
5-19	INJURY
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	RESP
75+	INJURY



Data Source: ESSENCE