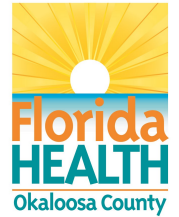


Weekly Disease Surveillance Report



2024 Reporting Week 17: April 21 — April 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.

CDC Health Advisory

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Virus: Identification of Human Infection and Recommendations for Investigations and Response

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) [Health Advisory](#) to inform clinicians and public health officials of a recently confirmed human infection with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1). This case has occurred in Texas following exposure to presumably infected dairy cattle. No additional cases of human infection associated with the current infections in dairy cattle and birds in the US and no human-to-human transmission of HPAI A(H5N1) virus have been identified.

Unprotected exposure to any infected animal or to an environment in which infected birds or other animals are or have been present can pose a risk of infection. For more information and guidance on how to prevent, monitor, and conduct investigations of potential human infections of HPAI A(H5N1), please visit [CDC HPAI Interim Recommendations](#). Clinicians may access guidance for patients exposed to avian influenza at [CDC For Clinicians: Evaluating and Managing Patients](#).

ILI Trends

Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Okaloosa continued to decrease during Week 17 and matches the previous year's level (current level: 3.05%; last year: 2.99%). Please stay vigilant, promote vaccination, and visit the weekly [Florida FLU REVIEW](#).

COVID-19 Trends

COVID-19 hospital admission levels for Okaloosa County remained LOW for Week 17. For more information on the recommended actions based on the current levels, please visit the [CDC COVID-19 by County](#) webpage.

Contact Us:

Florida Department of Health
in Okaloosa County

Epidemiology Section

24/7 Disease Reporting:
850-833-9065

Confidential Fax:
850-833-7577

okaloosaepi@flhealth.gov

COVID-19 Corner

Week 17 Hospital Admission Level



COVID-19 Hospital Admissions Level	New Hospital Admissions per 100K Population per Week
LOW	1.4

PREVIOUS WEEK LEVEL: LOW

The Community Level has been retired with the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

As a replacement, COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level will be used as an indicator for recommended interventions in the community based on each level and individual or community focus.

For more information on the levels and recommended actions based on the current level, please visit the [CDC COVID-19 by County](#) webpage.

HIGH		≥ 20.0
MEDIUM		10.0 - 19.9
LOW		<10.0

In the Know: Measles in the US

As of May 2, 2024, a total of 131 measles cases were reported by 21 jurisdictions: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York City, New York State, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Because measles is highly contagious, the Florida Department of Health is providing this [linked information](#) to health care providers regarding the identification, testing, and management of suspected cases.

If you suspect measles in a patient with a febrile rash illness, please contact DOH-Okaloosa at 850-833-9065 (or your local [county health department](#)) **immediately** and review the linked information mentioned above. Suspected measles cases are required to be reported immediately to ensure prompt response and public health efforts.

For the latest information about measles, please visit the CDC Measles [For Healthcare Providers](#) resource.



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 17: April 21 – April 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.

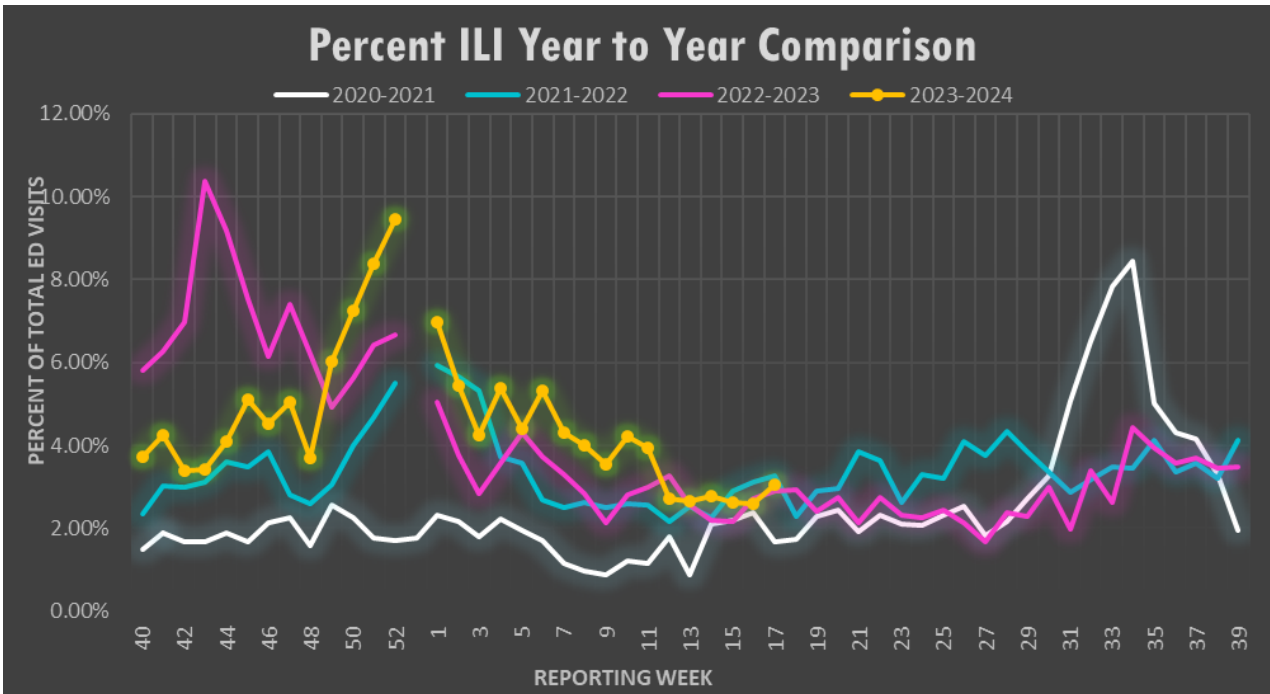


Figure 2: Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa county for the 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-2024 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 17, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported a increase in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County decreased this week (2.59% during Week 16 to 3.05% during Week 17). Flu partners reported 17 positive rapid flu tests this week (14 Influenza A and 3 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 17 is higher than that of Week 17 last year.
Note: Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers.
 Data Source: ESSENCE

% ILI by Age Group Week 17, 2024			
Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	20	181	11.05%
5-19	35	364	9.62%
20-34	15	539	2.78%
35-54	10	581	1.72%
55-74	8	530	1.51%
75+	0	323	0.00%

Data Source: ESSENCE

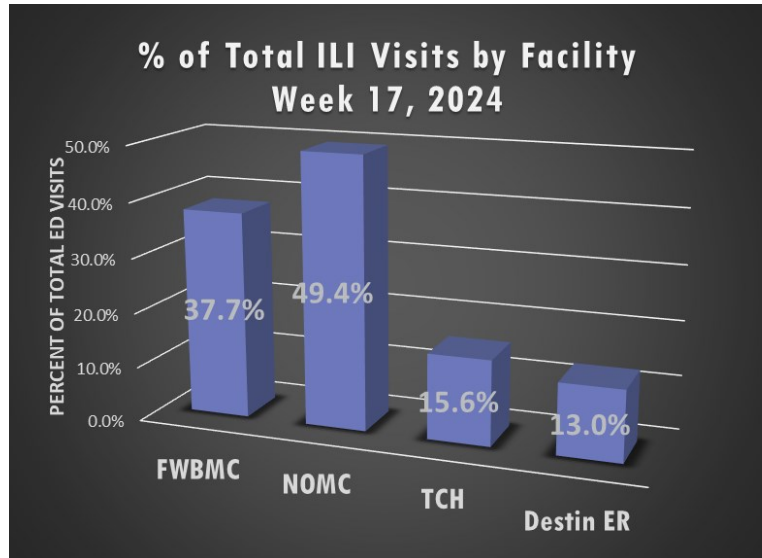


Figure 3: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=88). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

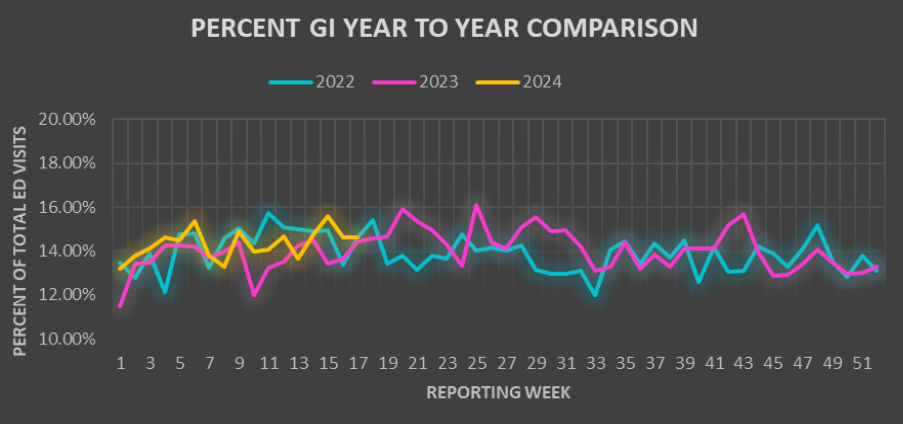
Week 17: April 21 – April 27

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

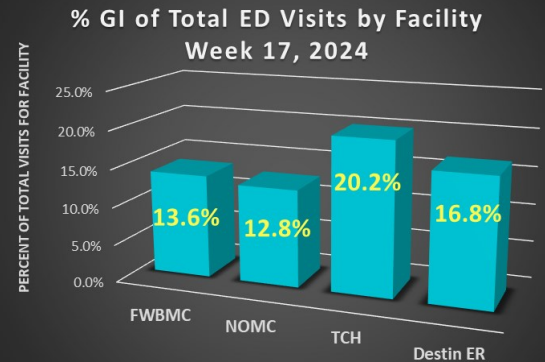


% GI by Age Group Week 17, 2024			
Age Range	GI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total GI Visits
0-4	31	181	17.13%
5-19	54	364	14.84%
20-34	92	539	17.07%
35-54	78	581	13.43%
55-74	71	530	13.40%
75+	43	323	13.31%

Figure 5:

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

Data source: ESSENCE

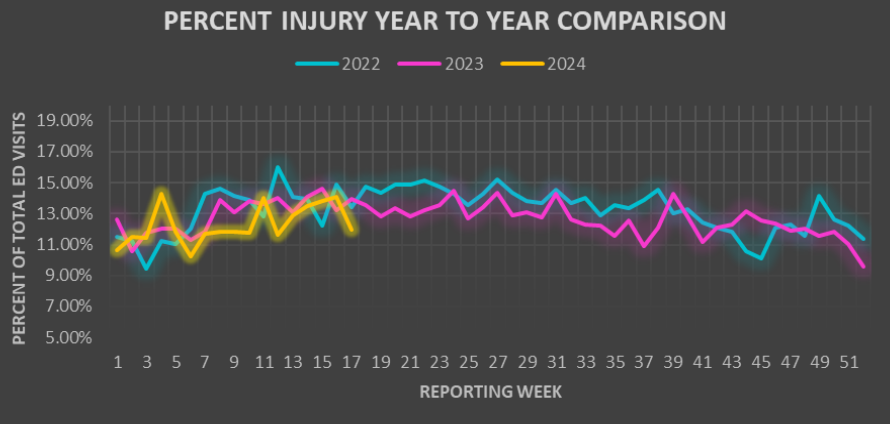


Injury

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

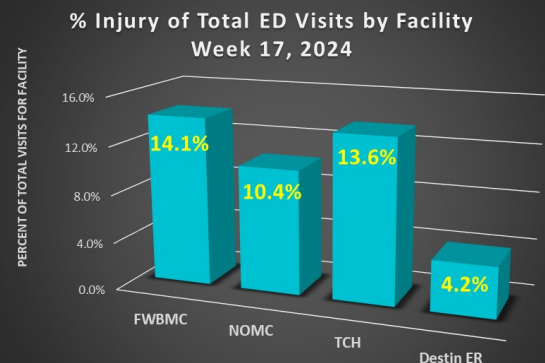


% Injury by Age Group Week 17, 2024			
Age Range	Injury Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total Injury Visits
0-4	17	181	9.39%
5-19	48	364	13.19%
20-34	67	539	12.43%
35-54	63	581	10.84%
55-74	60	530	11.32%
75+	47	323	14.55%

Figure 7:

Hospital emergency room visits due to Injury stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE





Syndromic Surveillance

Week 17: April 21 – April 27

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

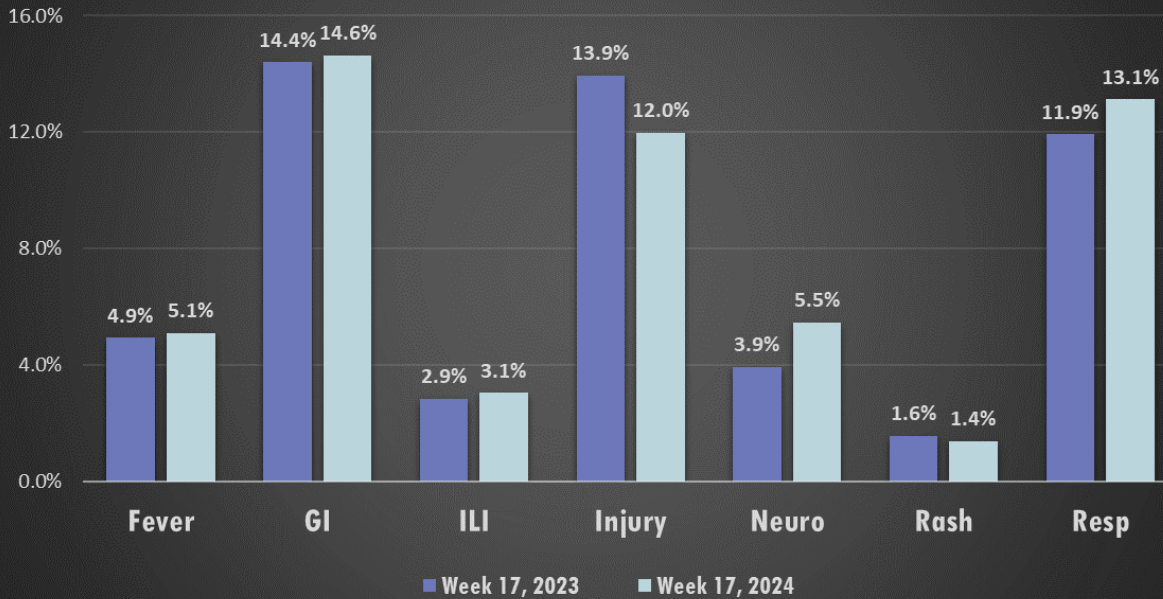
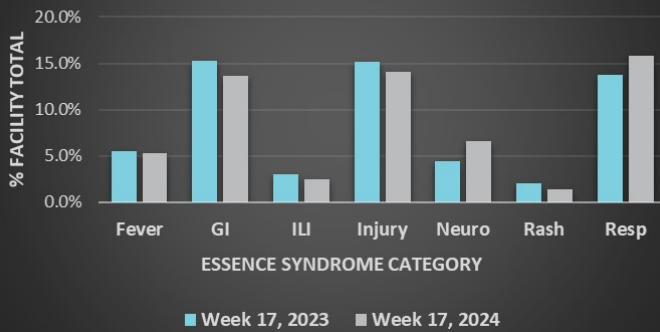


Figure 8: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2024 Week 17 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2522). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%. Data source: ESSENCE

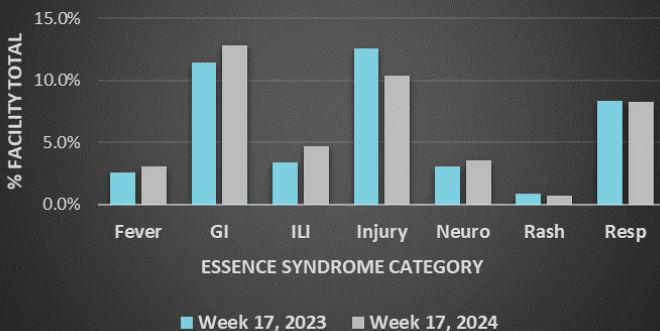
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 17 - Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	29
5-19	RESP	41
20-34	GI	36
35-54	INJURY	30
55-74	INJURY, RESP	36, 36
75+	RESP	25

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 17 - North Okaloosa Medical Center

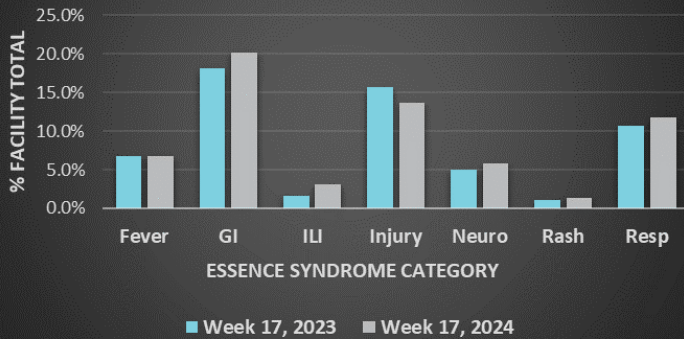
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	9
5-19	GI	14
20-34	GI	27
35-54	INJURY	23
55-74	GI	26
75+	INJURY	14



Syndromic Surveillance

Week 17: April 21 – April 27

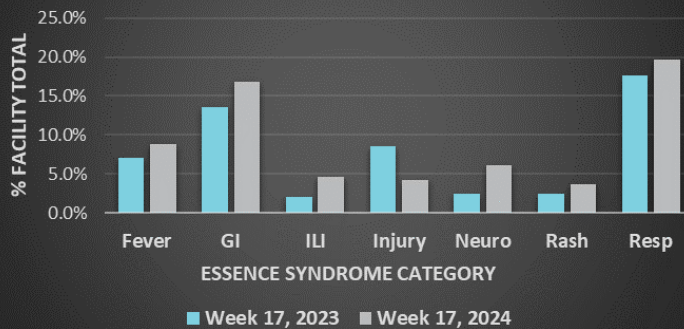
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 17 - Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	INJURY	6
5-19	RESP	12
20-34	GI	21
35-54	GI	21
55-74	GI	12
75+	GI, INJURY	11, 11

Destin ER ED Presentations



Week 17 - Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	9
5-19	RESP	11
20-34	RESP	9
35-54	GI	10
55-74	GI	7
75+	GI	3

Week 17 - Okaloosa County

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



Data Source: ESSENCE