Houston Respiratory Illness Dashboard

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Current Week: October 12, 2025 to October 18, 2025
Current Influenza Season: 2025-2026
Data in dashboard are updated weekly by Wednesdays during the influenza season (October - May).
Last update occurred on October 21, 2025.

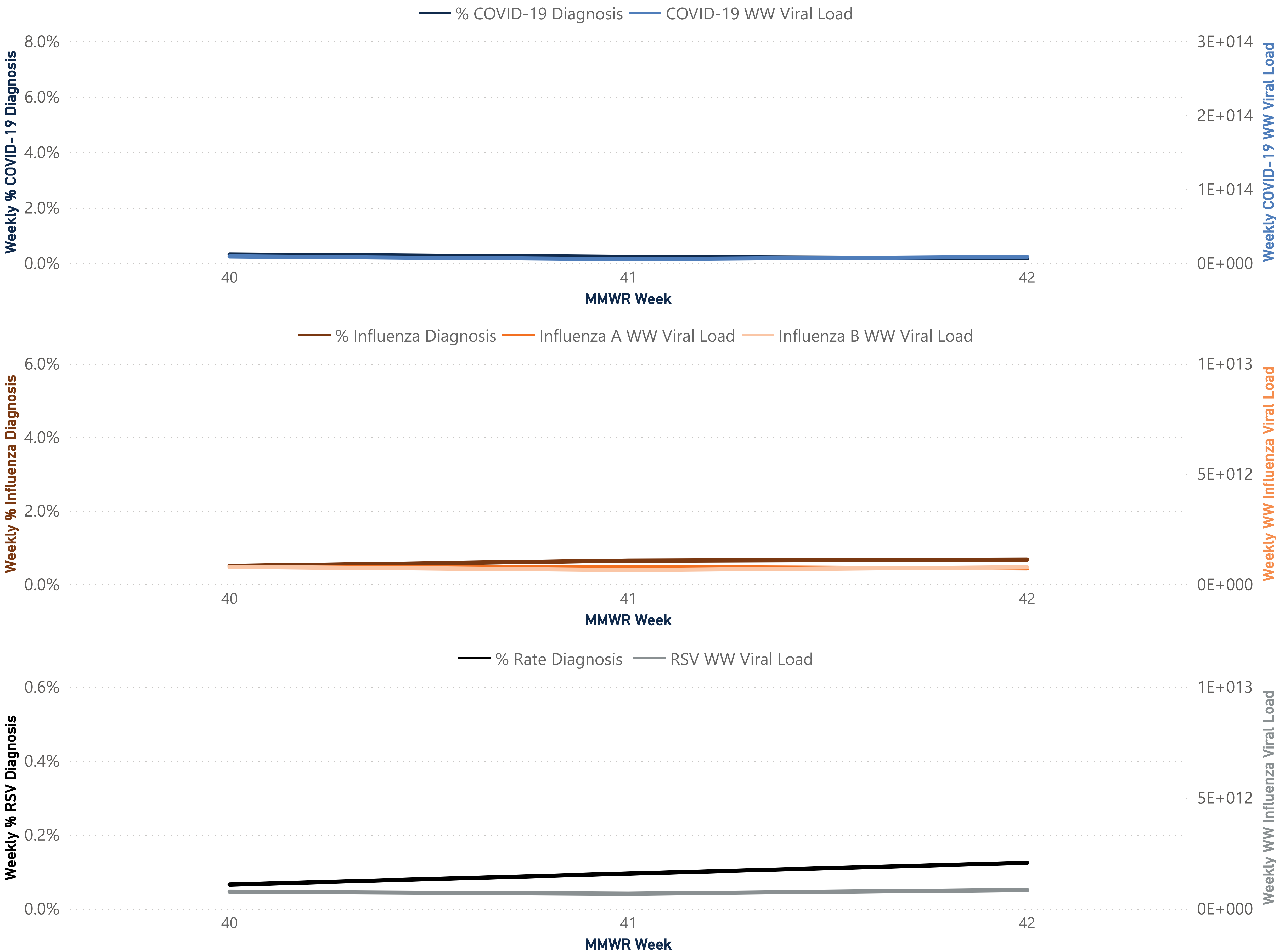
The **Houston Respiratory Illness dashboard tracks city-wide COVID-19, Influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity during the influenza season**, using both healthcare encounter and wastewater data. **Key figures highlight current seasonal trends, demographic profiles, and spatial patterns**. This dashboard will be updated weekly during the influenza season from October to May, and an abbreviated version is available year round.

Key Highlights for MMWR Week 2025-42 (ending October 18, 2025)

COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
Healthcare Encounter Level: **LOW** 5-week Encounter Trend: **DECREASING**	Healthcare Encounter Level: **LOW** 5-week Encounter Trend: **INCREASING**	Healthcare Encounter Level: **MODERATE** 5-week Encounter Trend: **INCREASING**
Wastewater Level: **LOW** Wastewater Trend: **STABLE**	Wastewater Level: **Flu A: LOW** **Flu B: LOW** Wastewater Trend: **Flu A: STABLE** **Flu B: STABLE**	Wastewater Level: **LOW** Wastewater Trend: **STABLE**

Levels (LOW, MODERATE, HIGH) indicates how the current respiratory activity compares to that of the previous season's low activity weeks. A "decreasing" trend indicates the recent linear trend is statistically significantly in a downward trend. An "increasing" trend indicates the recent linear trend is statistically significantly on an upward trend. A "stable" trend indicates the recent linear trend is neither significantly increasing or decreasing.
Data are generally presented at the weekly level. Week numberings follow the the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) reporting schedule set by the CDC. Data are also affected by various lags and updates, therefore, values and visualizations are subject to change through time. **Please see "Notes on Data" tab for more information about the data sources, methods, and resources.**

Current Season (2025-2026) Trends for Respiratory Encounters and City-wide Wastewater



This figure shows current season (2025-2026) city-wide weekly trends for both respiratory healthcare encounters (encounters with diagnosis codes relating to COVID-19, Influenza, or RSV) and corresponding wastewater (WW) viral loads. WW influenza is separated by Flu A and Flu B (see "City Respiratory Wastewater Level Trends" tab for additional details on wastewater data).

The figures start at MMWR Week 2025-40 (week ending October 4th, 2025) and will add data week-by-week through the season, ending MMWR Week 2026-39.

Left vertical axis is the reference axis for the encounter data. the Right vertical axis is the reference axis for the WW data (note: there maybe different ranges for each respiratory illness). The horizontal axis displays the MMWR week numbers.

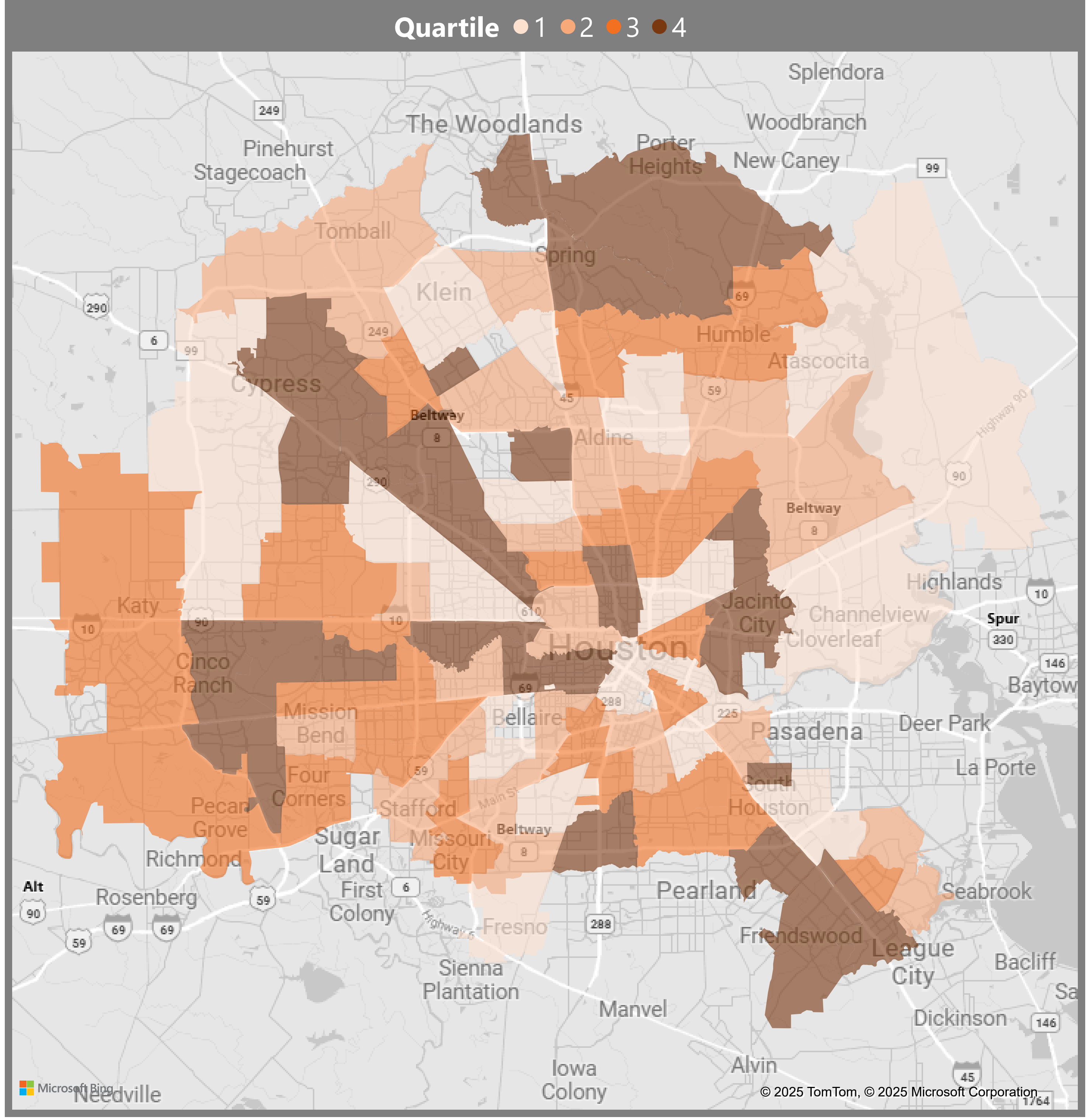
Demographic Profiles of Respiratory Healthcare Encounters for Current Season (2025-2026)

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Select Respiratory Illness:

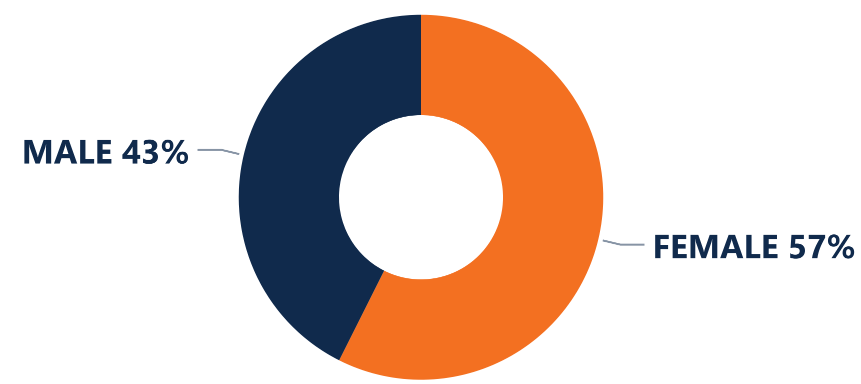
COVID-19	INFLUENZA	RSV

Percent Respiratory Encounters out of Total Encounters, by ZIP Code of Patient Residence

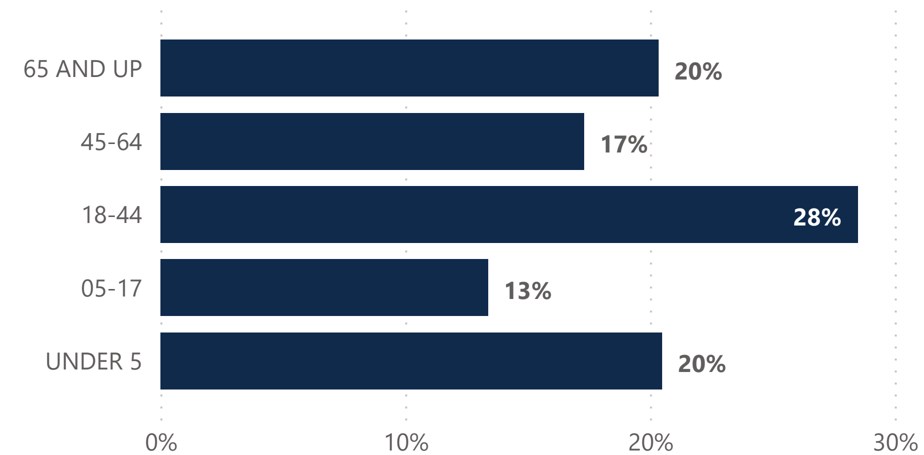


Demographic Profile of Healthcare Encounters for the Selected Respiratory Illness

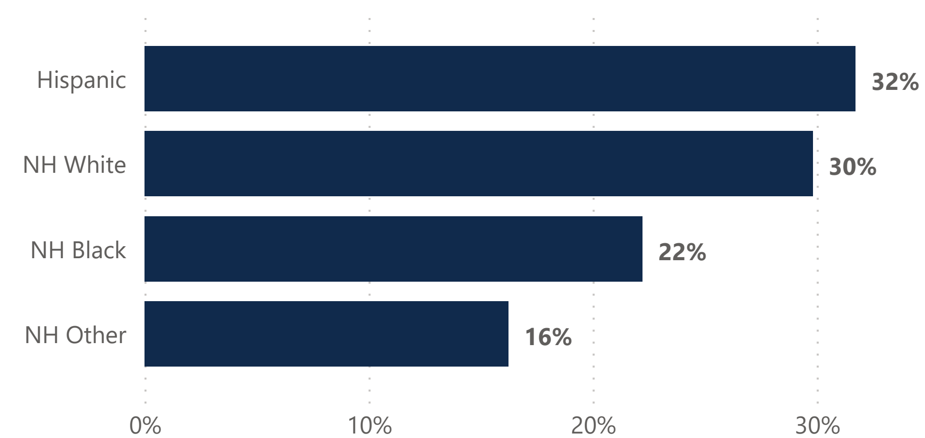
By Sex



By Age Group



By Race-Ethnicity Group



For the selected respiratory illness of interest (select one from the buttons on the top left of this page), the figures updated to give the percent respiratory encounters out of total encounters by ZIP code (map on the left) and key demographic breakdowns (sex, age group, and race-ethnicity group).

The **ZIP code-level map (on the left) is colored by the quartiles of the current season's values** to date for each respiratory illness. The darkest color means the ZIP code's percentage of respiratory encounters is in the upper 25% of ZIP code values for the selected respiratory illness. Conversely, the lightest color indicates the percentage falls in the bottom 25%.

Please note that being in the upper quartile means the ZIP code percentage is "high" comparatively to other ZIP codes for the current season, but may not necessarily indicate that the respiratory activity is high compared to that seen in previous seasons

The donut chart (top right) shows the proportion of encounters for a given sex. The bar chart (middle right) shows the proportion of encounters for a given age group (in years). The bar chart (bottom right) shows the proportion of encounters for a given race-ethnicity group (NH=non-Hispanic or Latino).

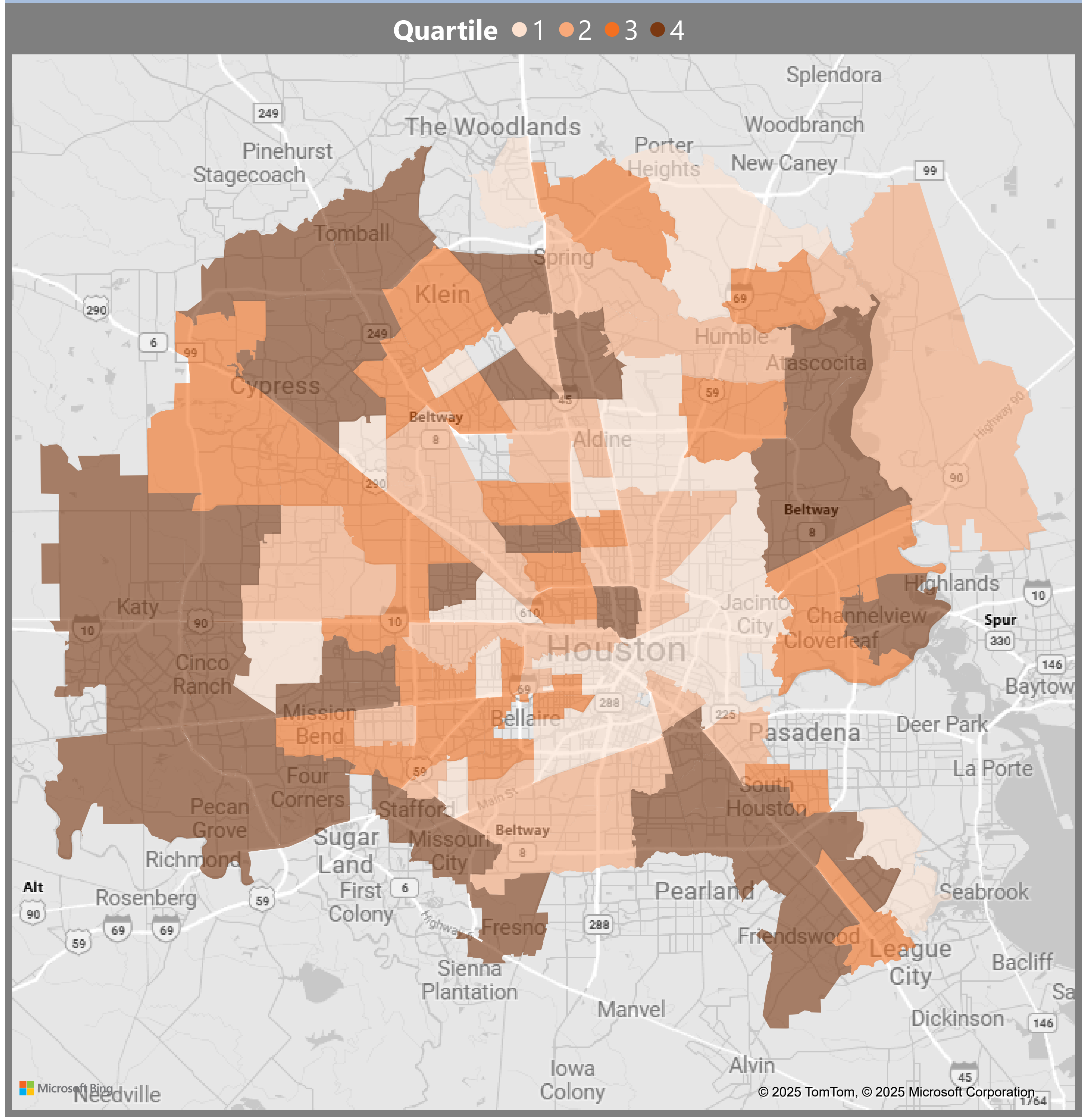
Demographic Profiles of Respiratory Healthcare Encounters for Current Season (2025-2026)

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Select Respiratory Illness:

COVID-19 | INFLUENZA | RSV

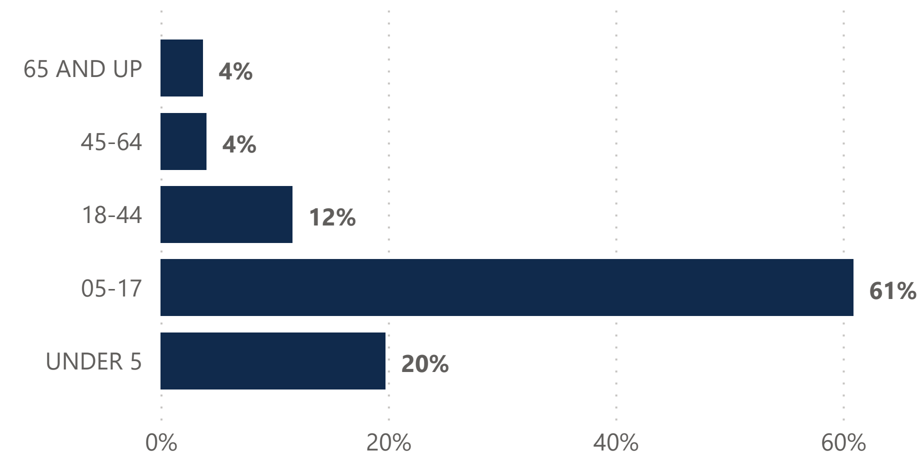
Percent Respiratory Encounters out of Total Encounters, by ZIP Code of Patient Residence



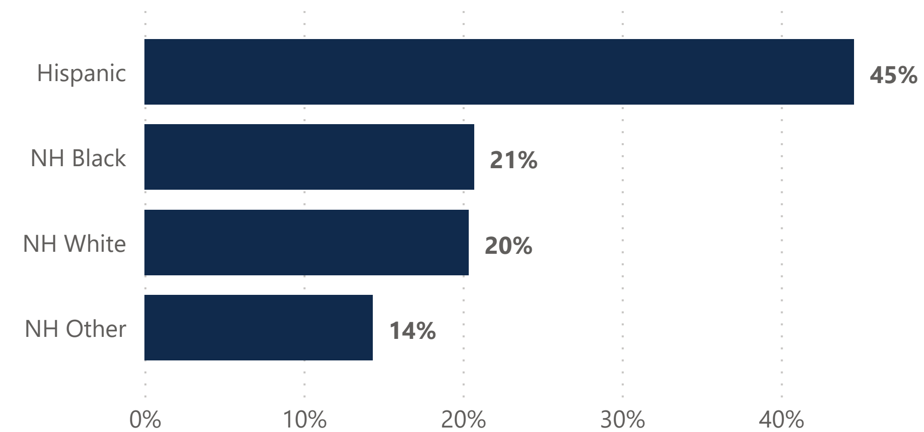
Demographic Profile of Healthcare Encounters for the Selected Respiratory Illness

By Sex

By Age Group



By Race-Ethnicity Group



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Demographic Profiles of Respiratory Healthcare Encounters for Current Season (2025-2026)

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Select Respiratory Illness:

COVID-19	INFLUENZA	RSV

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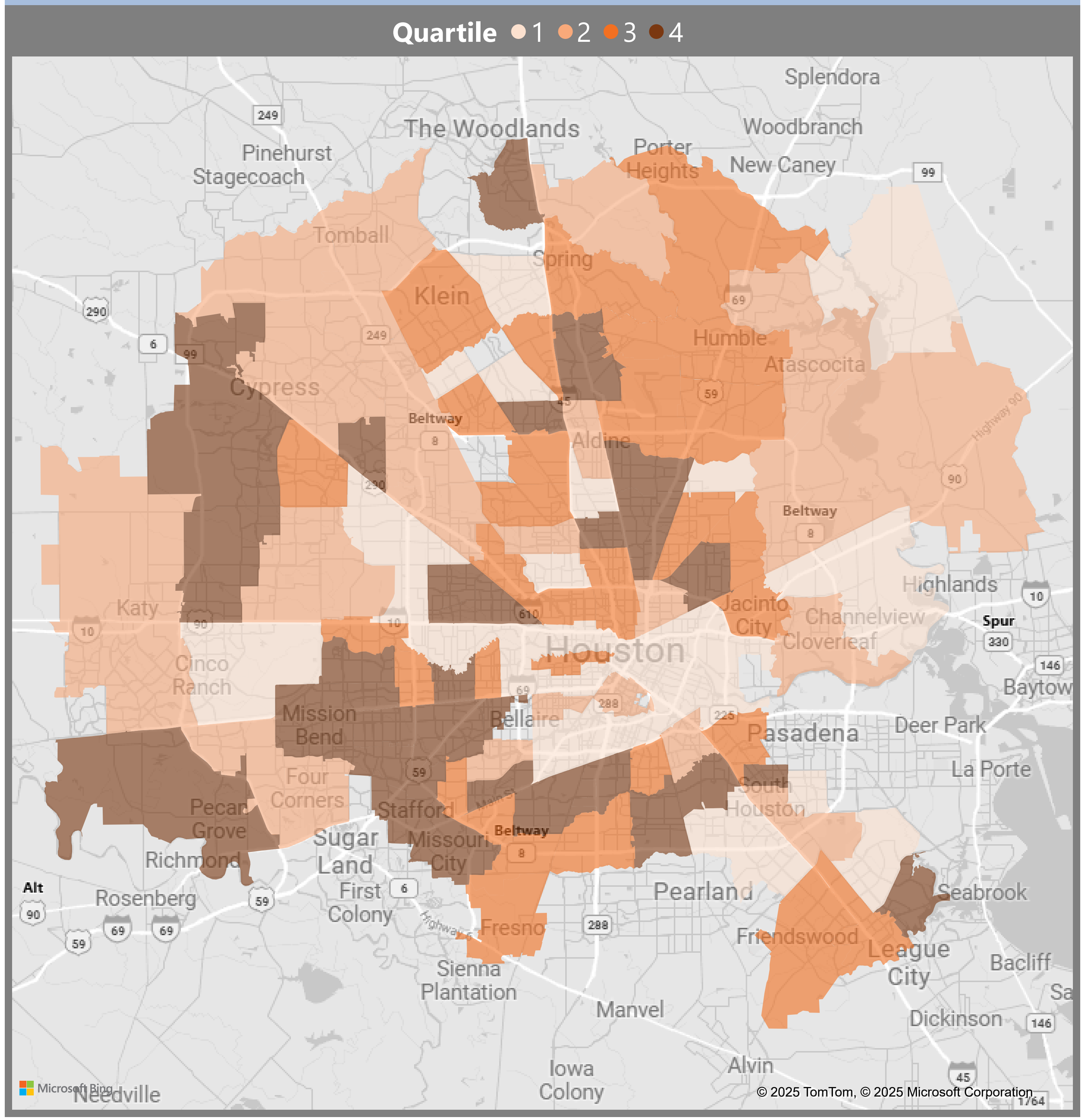

Demographic Profile of Healthcare Encounters for the Selected Respiratory Illness

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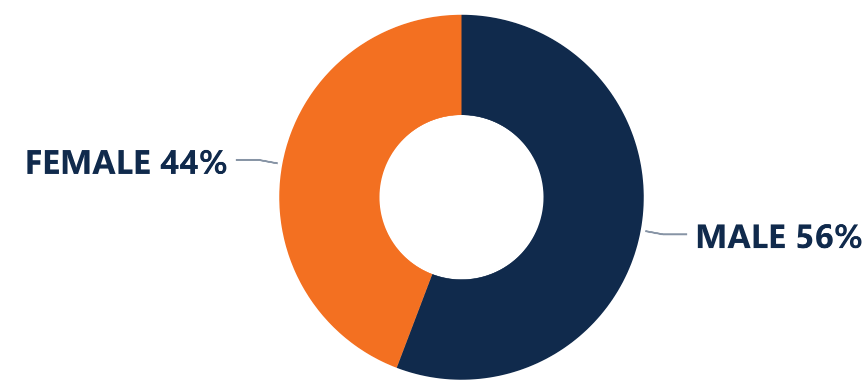
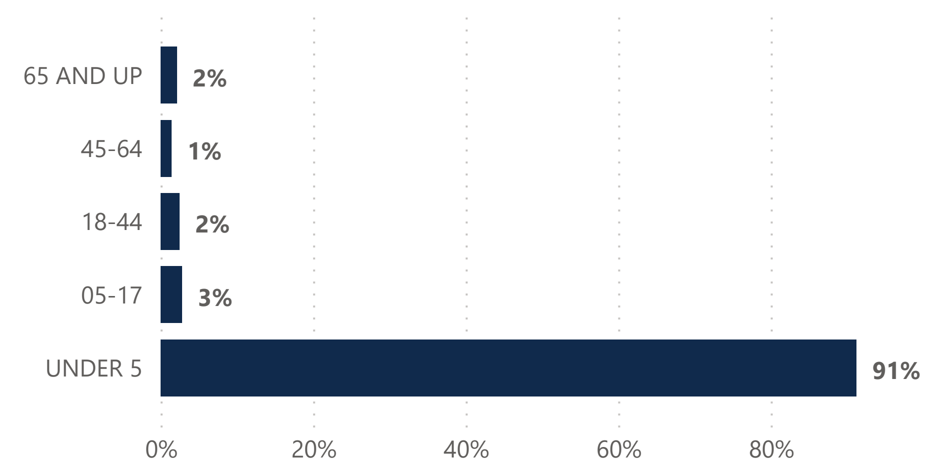
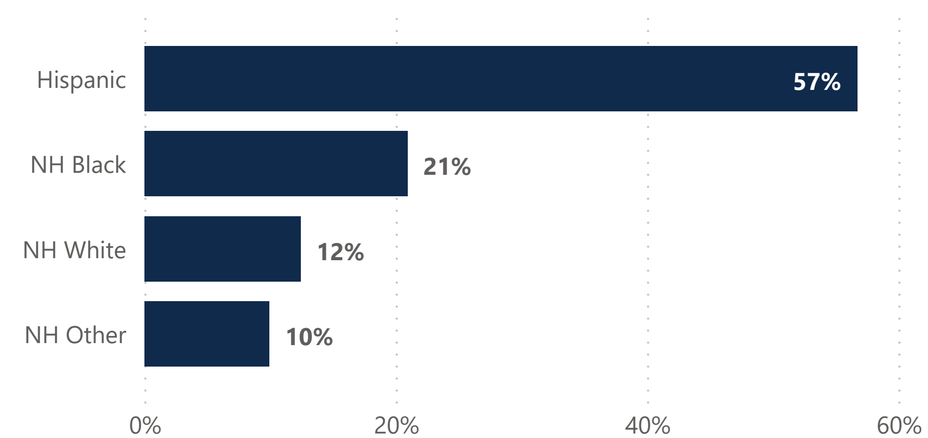


By Age Group



By Race-Ethnicity Group



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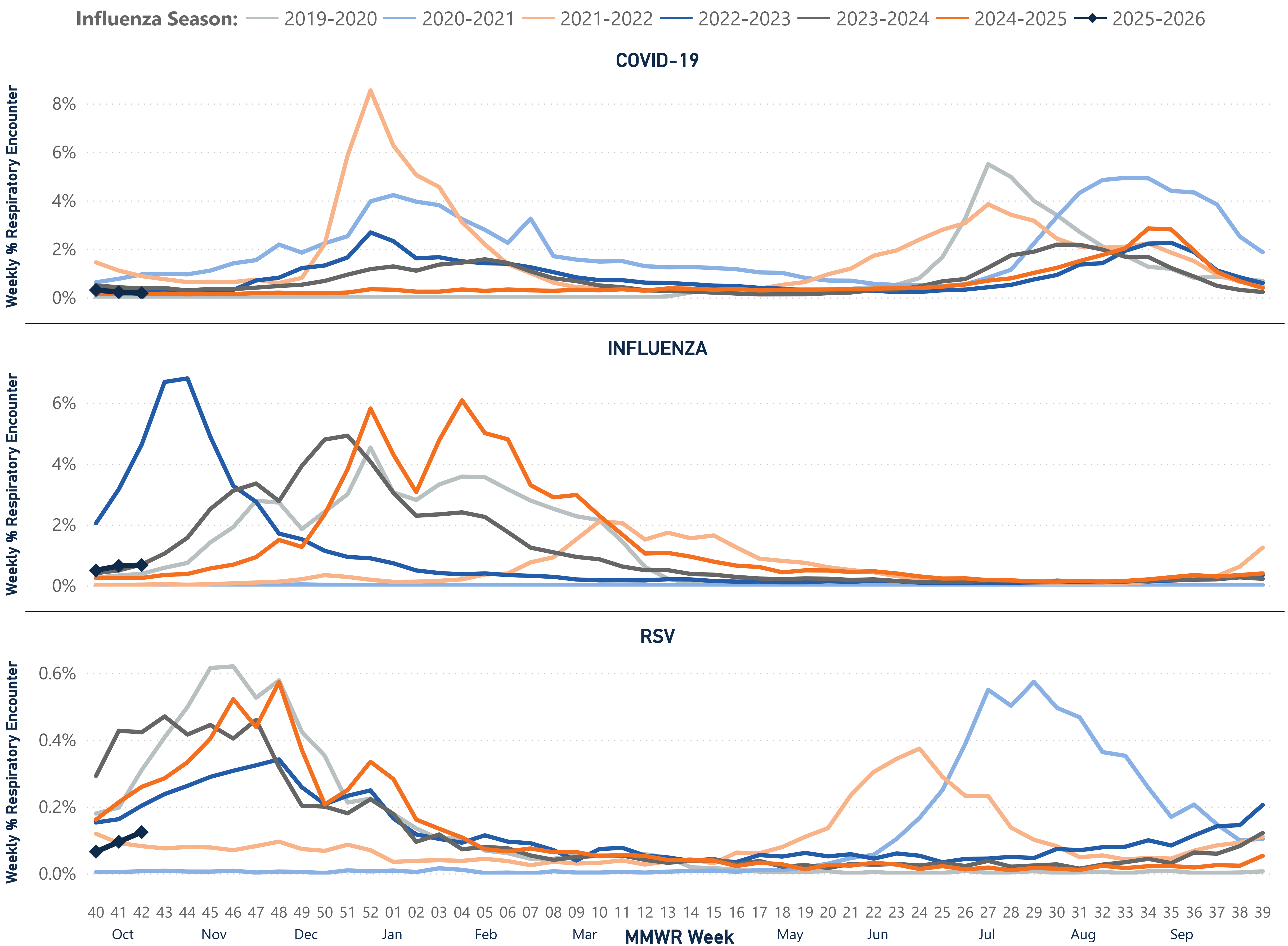
Respiratory Encounters Trends through Time, by Influenza Season



The figures to the left show percent COVID-19 (top), Influenza (middle), and RSV (bottom) encounter trends through time to compare our current respiratory activity to past activity for historical influenza seasons.

Please note that the vertical axis ranges may differ between respiratory illnesses. The horizontal axis displays the MMWR week number. Additionally, months displayed on horizontal axis are to give an idea of when in the year MMWR weeks generally fall and may not perfectly align to actual dates.

Respiratory Illness City-wide Wastewater (WW) Viral Loads, by Flu Season

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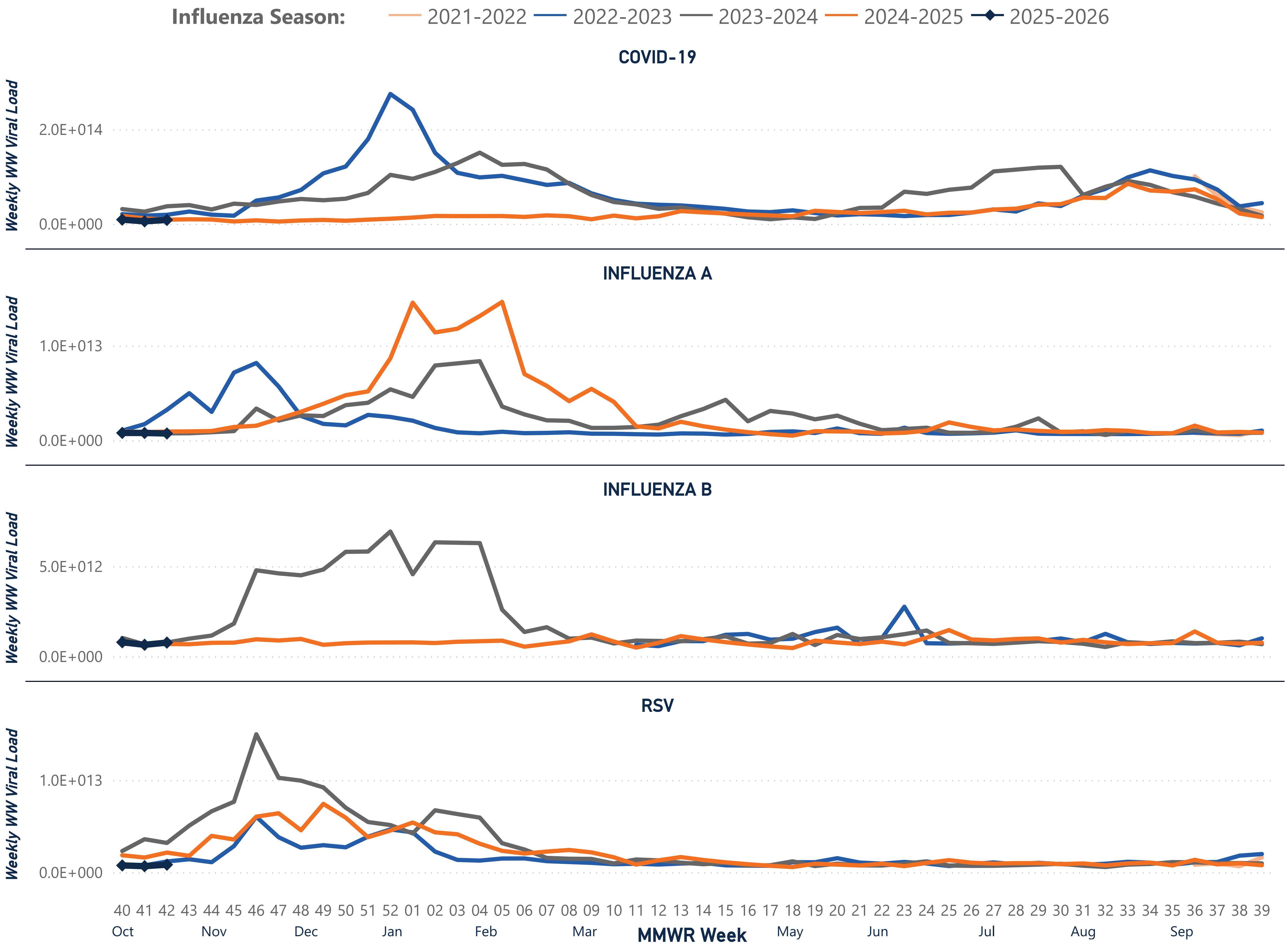

The figures to the left show city-level COVID-19 (top), Influenza A (2nd from the top), Influenza B (2nd from the bottom), and RSV (bottom) wastewater viral load trends through time to compare our current respiratory wastewater activity to past activity for historical influenza seasons. Influenza A and Influenza B are analyzed separately and therefore separated into two figures. Gaps in data indicate wastewater sampling did not occur for that week (usually due to a holiday or an extreme weather event).

Wastewater (WW) Viral Load refers to the estimated amount of virus particles present in the wastewater samples collected. People infected with diseases like COVID-19, the flu, or RSV, can shed the virus into the wastewater when they use the bathroom. Wastewater samples are pooled samples of the entire community that contributes to the wastewater, so by measuring these virus particles we can monitor the level of virus in a community and track its trend.

Please note that the vertical axis ranges may differ between respiratory illnesses. The horizontal axis displays the MMWR week numbers. Additionally, months displayed on horizontal axis are to give an idea of when in the year MMWR weeks generally fall and may not perfectly align to actual dates.

The City of Houston Wastewater Monitoring Dashboard houses more data and information from the wastewater monitoring program. The interactive dashboard can be found at this link.

School Wastewater Monitoring for Respiratory Illnesses

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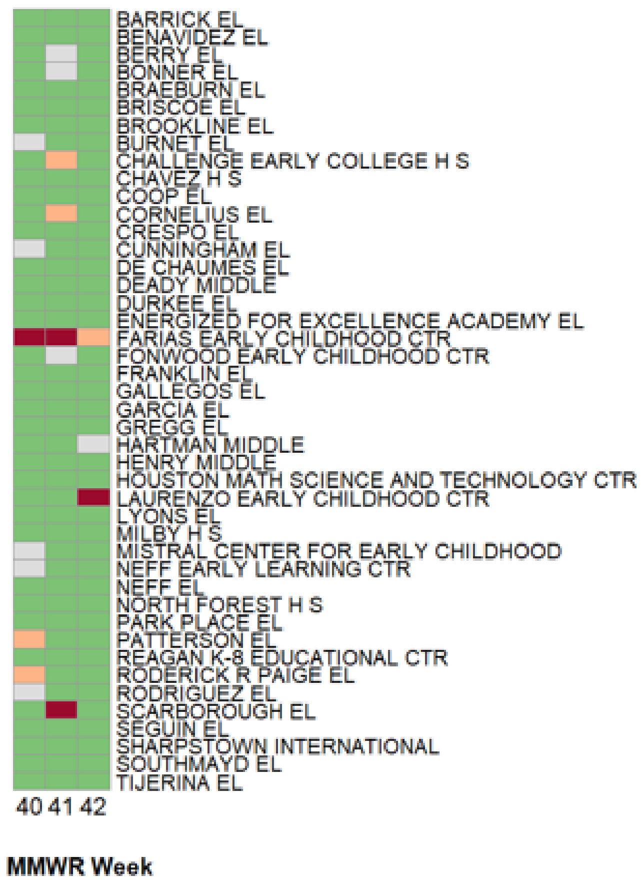
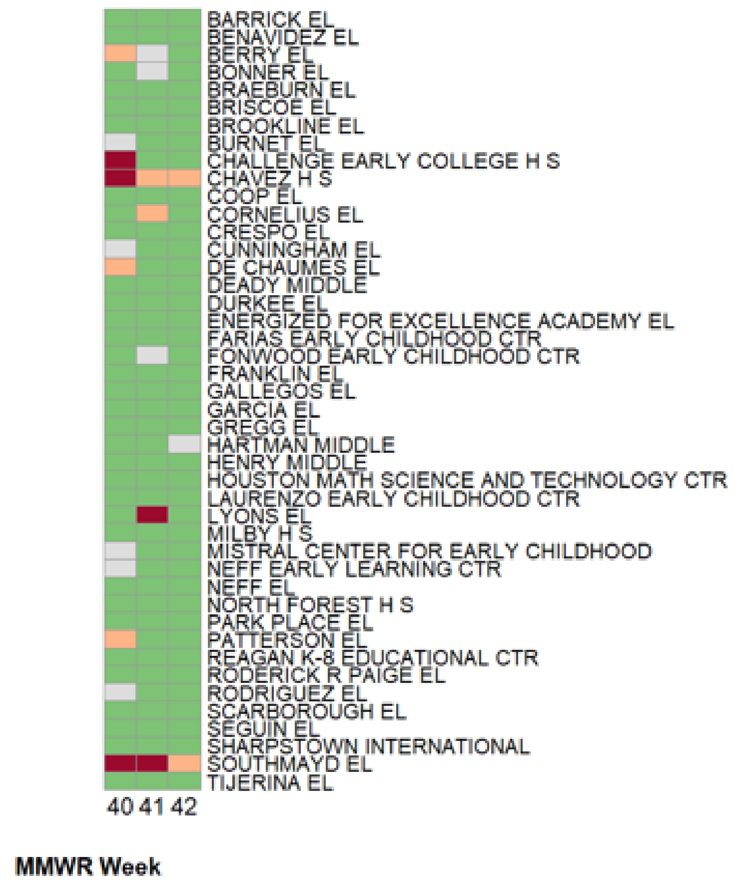
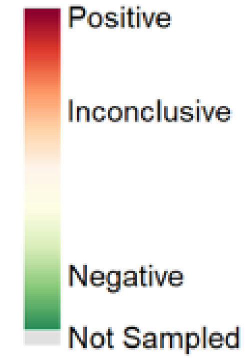
RSV

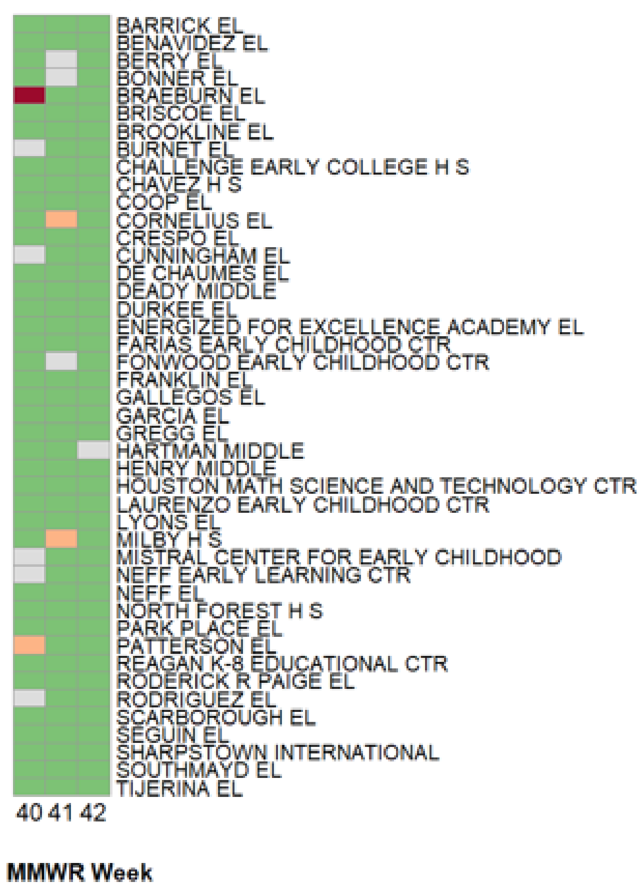


SARS-CoV-2

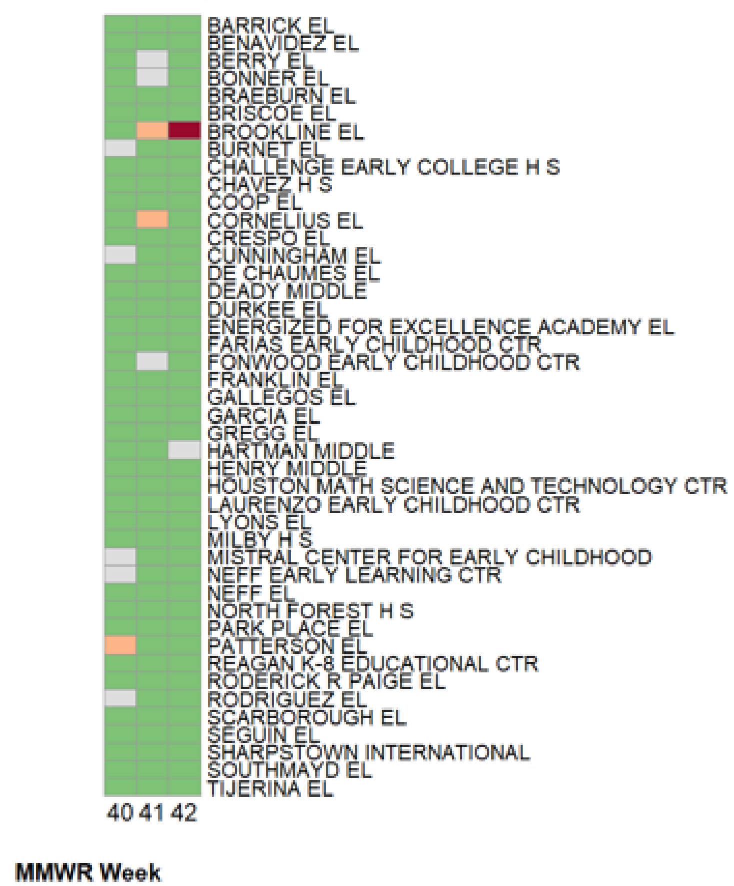




Influenza-A



Influenza-B



The heatmaps to the left show the results of the Wastewater Monitoring Program for selected HISD schools during their academic year for RSV, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), influenza A, and influenza B.

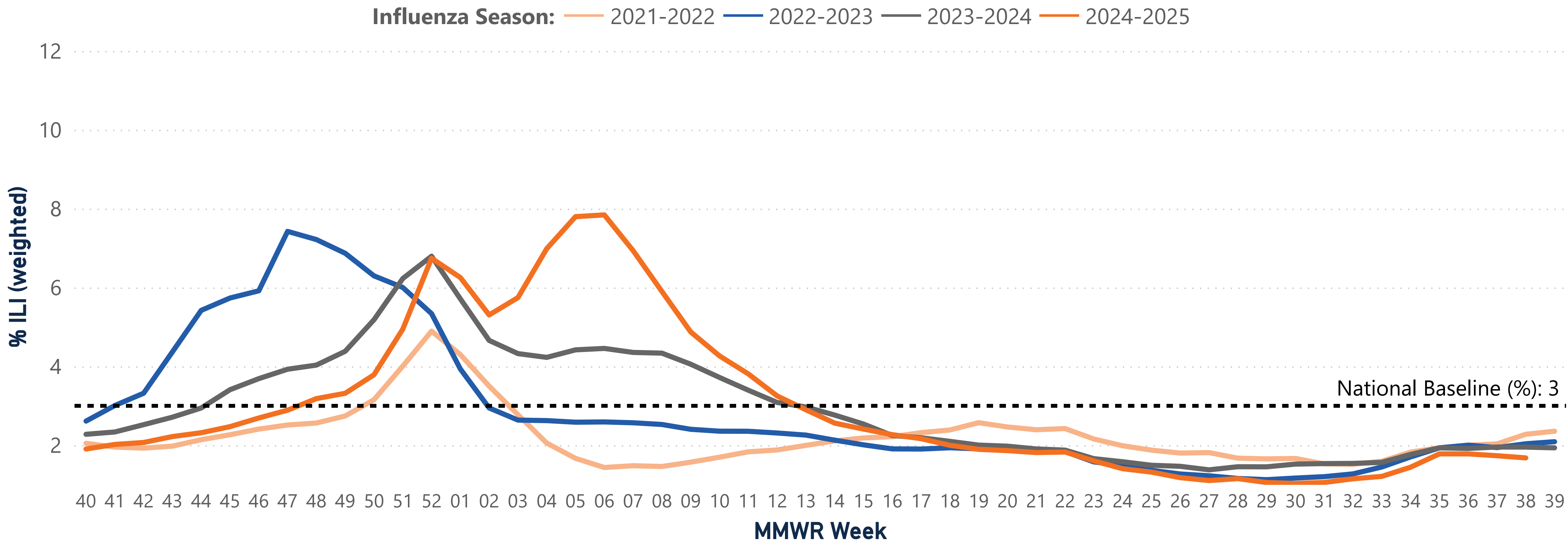
Each week, two samples from a school's manhole are analyzed for disease presence. A "**Positive**" means the disease was detected in both samples from that school on that date. A "**Negative**" means the disease was not in either of the samples from that school on that date. An "**Inconclusive**" means the disease was detected in one sample from the school on that date but not in the other sample. **Schools may not be sampled** for various reasons, including on school holidays or days with low flow rates, sampling errors, or equipment issues.

The City of Houston Wastewater Monitoring Dashboard houses more data and information from the wastewater monitoring program. The interactive dashboard can be found at this link.

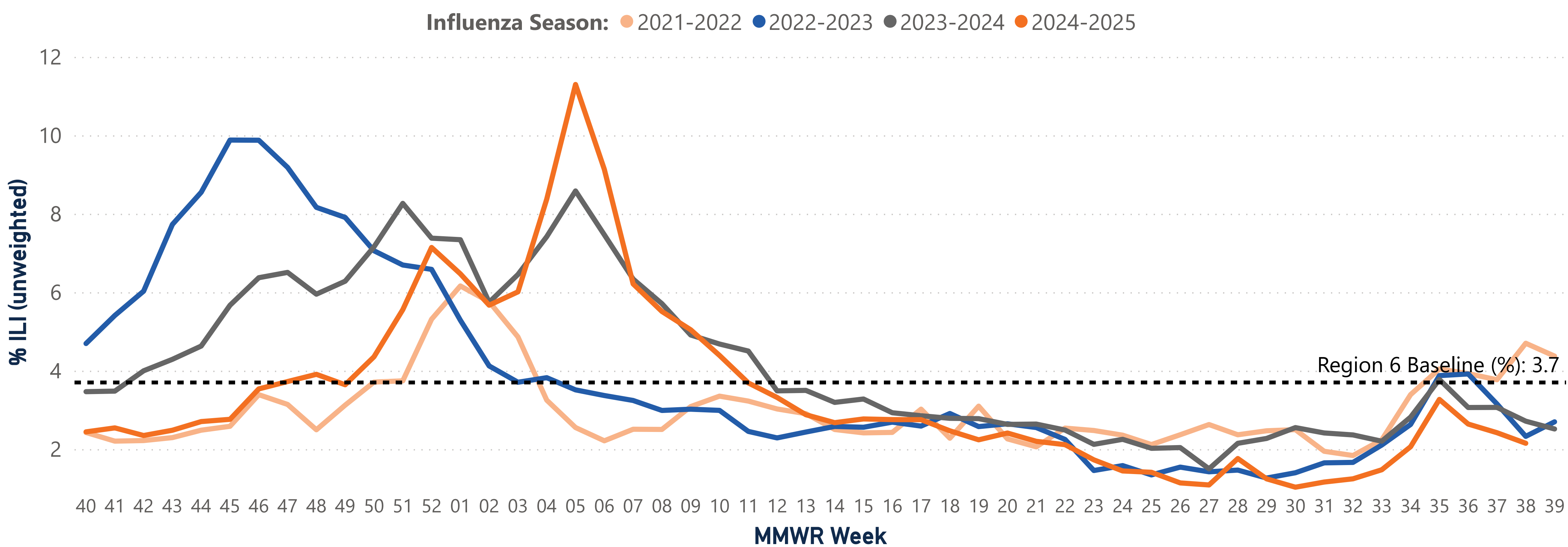
National & Texas Trends, Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

National % ILI (weighted)



Texas % ILI (unweighted)



The figures to the left indicate National and Texas trends in percent visits of influenza-like illness (ILI). Data is from the FluView Interactive Dashboard, found at this link.

CDC provides a national baseline at 3%, which is shown in the top figure. CDC also provides a baseline for Region 6 (which includes the state of Texas) at 3.7%, which is shown in the bottom figure). For more information, please visit CDC's website found above and in the "Notes on Data" tab.

As of 10/15/2025, the CDC is not providing updates to its dashboard due to the federal government shutdown. We are still presenting historical values here for reference and will continue to monitor for updates weekly.

Notes on Data

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Please reach out to datasciences@houstontx.gov for more information or any questions.

There are three major data sources used in this dashboard:
Healthcare Encounter data are from the Houston Health Department's syndromic surveillance system, HHD-ESSENCE, more info can be found here:
https://www.houstonhealth.org/services/data-reporting/syndromic-surveillance

Wastewater data are provided by the Houston Health Department wastewater monitoring program, more info can be found here:
https://covidwwtp.spatialstudieslab.org/

National & Texas data are from CDC's FLUVIEW interactive dashboard, more info can be found here:
https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html

Healthcare encounter data presented include Houston-area (patient ZIP code is one of 126 COH-area ZIP codes) routine, urgent care, emergency department, and hospitalization encounters from onboarded healthcare facilities.

Data are generally presented at the weekly level. Week numberings follow the the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) reporting schedule set by the CDC. Generally speaking, the influenza season begins in October and lasts until Spring (April/May) of the following year. Time series presented begin Week 40 of the year, usually corresponding to the first week in October (and end at Week 39 of the following year).

All data and corresponding visualizations are affected by varying data lags and, therefore, subject to change through time. Due to data quality improvement initiatives, recent/current season values may not be comparable to historical seasons.

Wastewater is sampled once a week (usually on Mondays). However, due to various reasons (holidays, extreme weather), there can be pauses in sampling and figures will not show values on these weeks.

As of 10/15/2025, CDC is not providing updates to their FLUVIEW dashboard. There is usually a week lag for any national or state data presented (for example, report for Week 42 will have national/state data are for Week 40-41).