



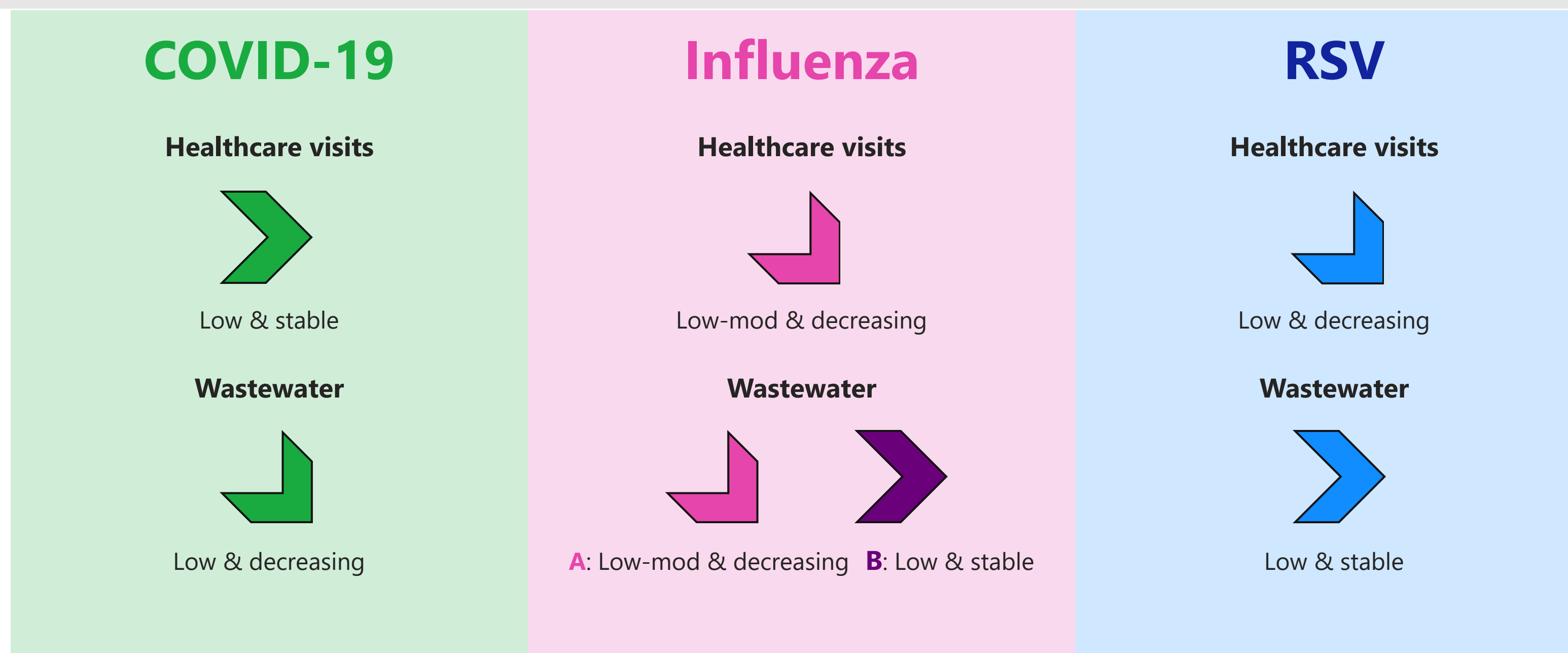
HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Respiratory Diseases Surveillance Report

2024-2025 Influenza Season

MMWR Week 2025-12

Houston Health Department



Trends for the last 5 weeks (2025-08 to 2025-12):

- The number of **COVID-19 healthcare (HC) visits has been stable for the past 5 weeks** (neither significantly increasing/decreasing). The **mean weekly COVID-19 HC visit count** is about **295 related HC visits a week**, compared to 573 related HC visits a week for the same time frame of the previous year (i.e., last year for this time frame, the Houston-area was averaging about 1.9x as many COVID-19 HC visits than it is currently averaging for the same weeks this year). **COVID-19 levels in wastewater are low and decreasing.**
- The number of **Influenza HC visits has been decreasing for the past 5 weeks**. The mean weekly influenza HC visits count is about **2123 related HC visits a week**, compared to 858 related HC visits a week for the same time frame of the previous year (i.e., this year for the past 5 weeks, the Houston-area was averaging about 2.5x as many influenza related HC visits than it averaged for the same weeks the previous year). **Influenza A levels in wastewater are low-moderate and decreasing, while Influenza B levels remain low and stable.**
- The number of **RSV HC visits has been decreasing for the past 5 weeks**. The **mean weekly RSV HC visit count** is about **55 related HC visits a week**, compared to 48 related HC visits a week for the same time frame of the previous year (i.e., this year, for the past 5 weeks, the Houston-area is averaging around as many RSV related HC visits than it averaged for the same weeks the previous year). **RSV levels in wastewater are low and stable.**

*Demographic groups with the highest proportions of healthcare visits by respiratory illness (*indicates change from previous report):*

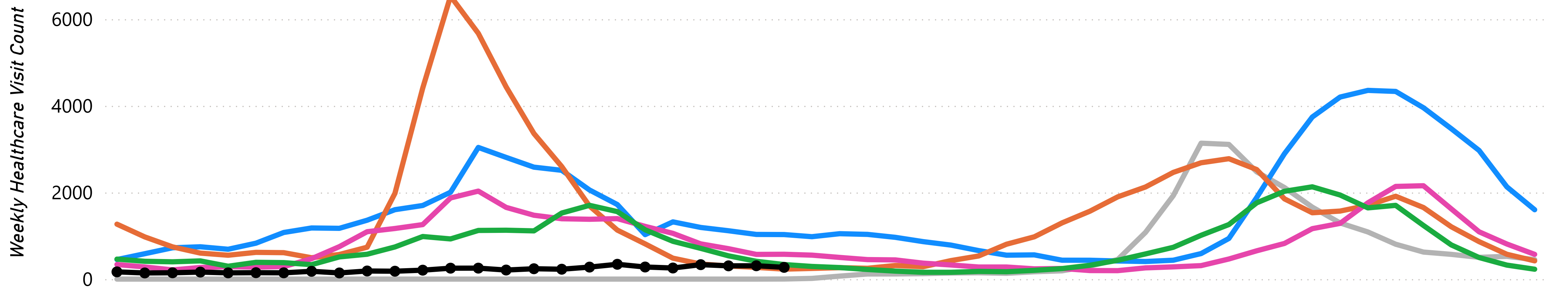
| Respiratory Illness | Sex | Age Group | Race-ethnicity |
|---------------------|--------|-----------|----------------|
| COVID-19 | Female | 18-44 | NH White |
| Influenza | Female | 5-17 | Hispanic |
| RSV | Male | Under 5 | Hispanic |

- Out of the schools sampled in the wastewater program, 1 tested positive for COVID-19 (0 inconclusive), 0 tested positive for influenza A or B (1 inconclusive), and 1 tested positive for RSV (0 inconclusive) for 2025-12.
- Both CDC's national and Texas percentages of visits for ILI (influenza-like-illness) are trending downwards, after peaking in February of this year.

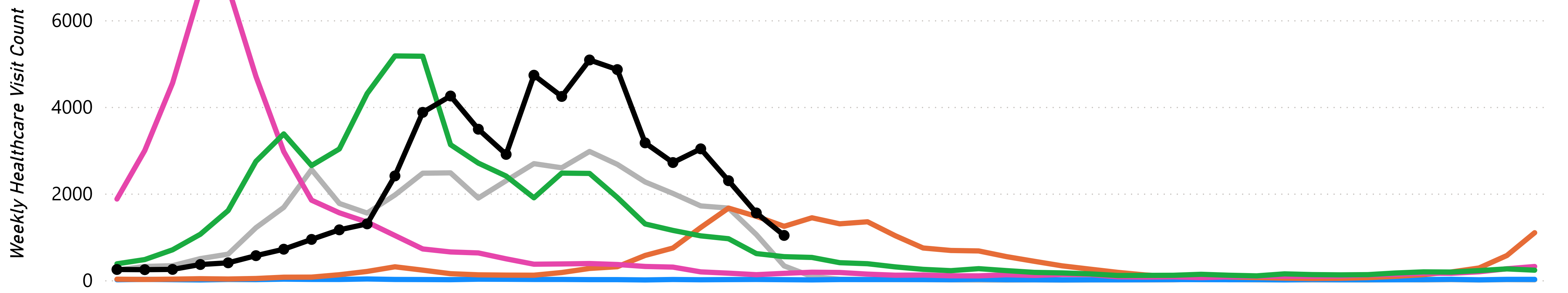
Respiratory Healthcare Visits by Influenza Season

Influenza Season: — 2019-2020 — 2020-2021 — 2021-2022 — 2022-2023 — 2023-2024 — 2024-2025 (Current)

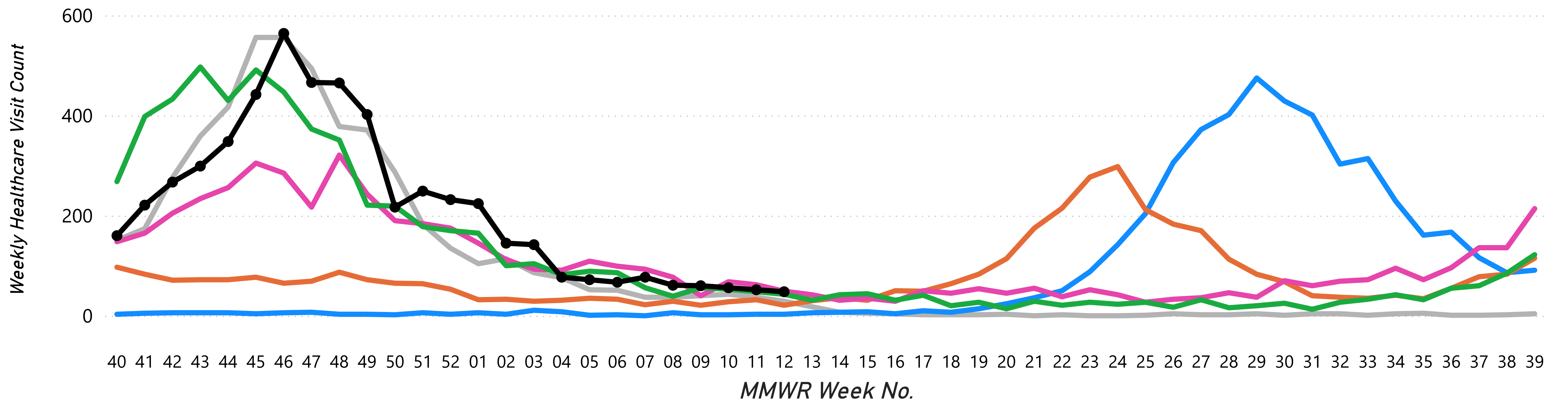
COVID-19



INFLUENZA



RSV



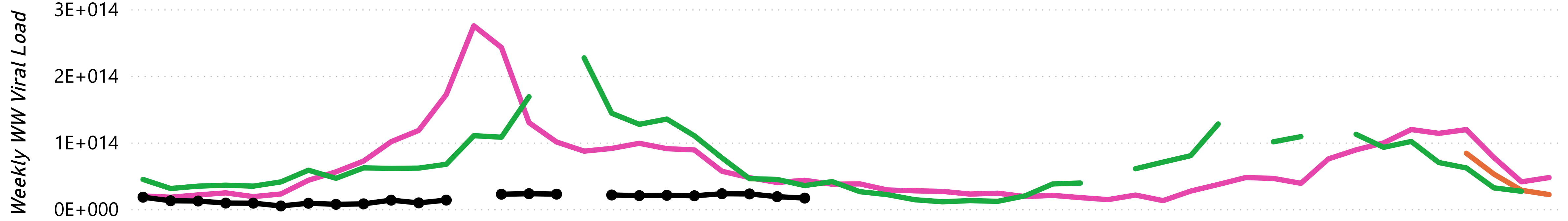
MMWR Week No.

Respiratory Wastewater Viral Loads by Influenza Season

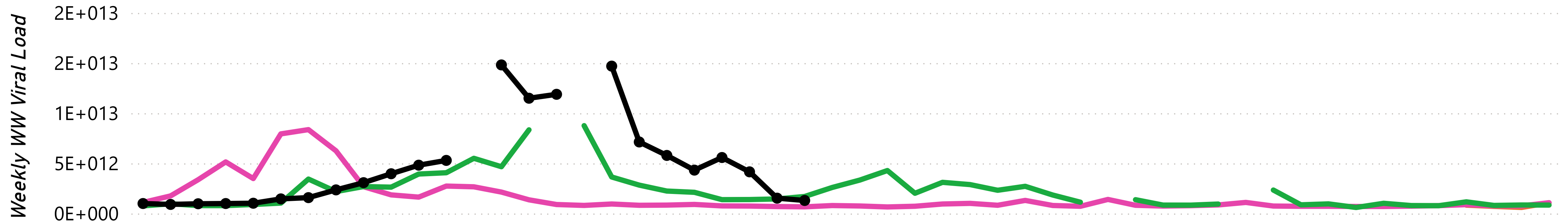
Influenza Season:

— 2021-2022 — 2022-2023 — 2023-2024 — 2024-2025

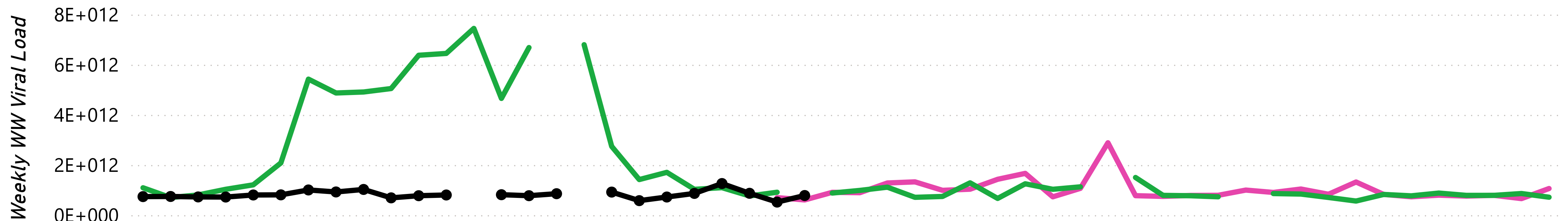
COVID-19



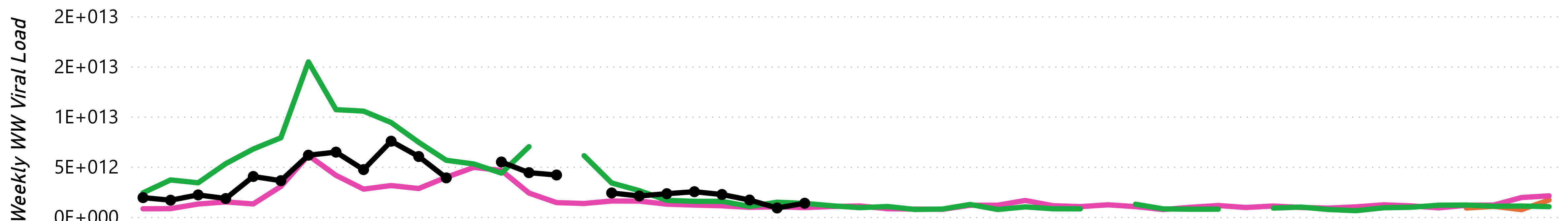
INFLUENZA A



INFLUENZA B



RSV

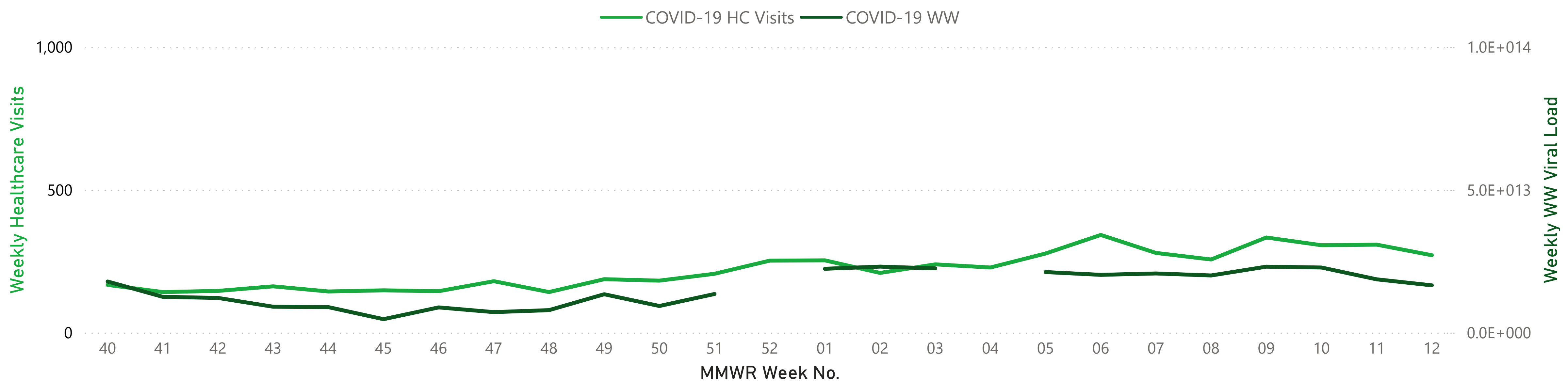


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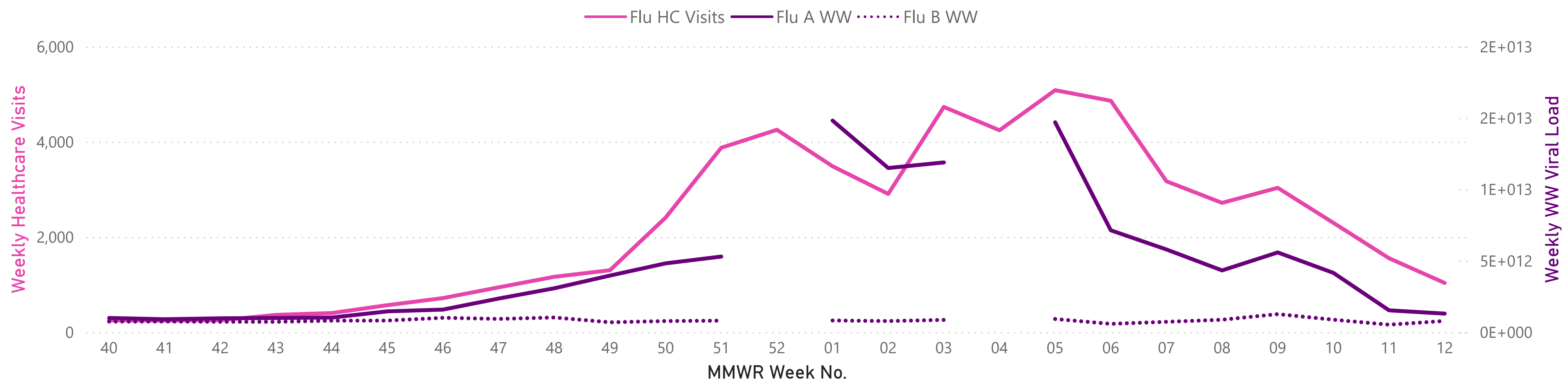
MMWR Week No.

Current Season Respiratory Healthcare Visits & Wastewater (2024-2025)

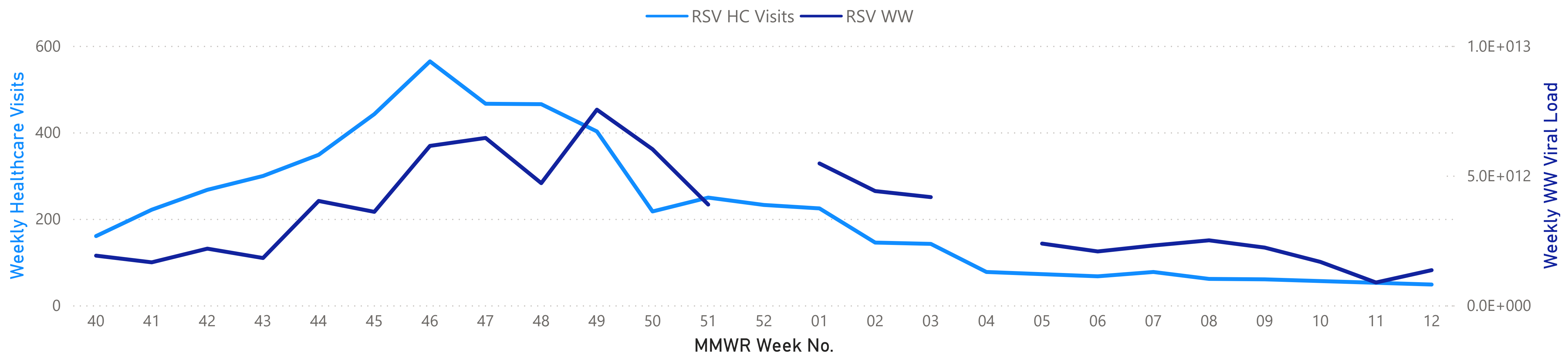
COVID-19



Influenza



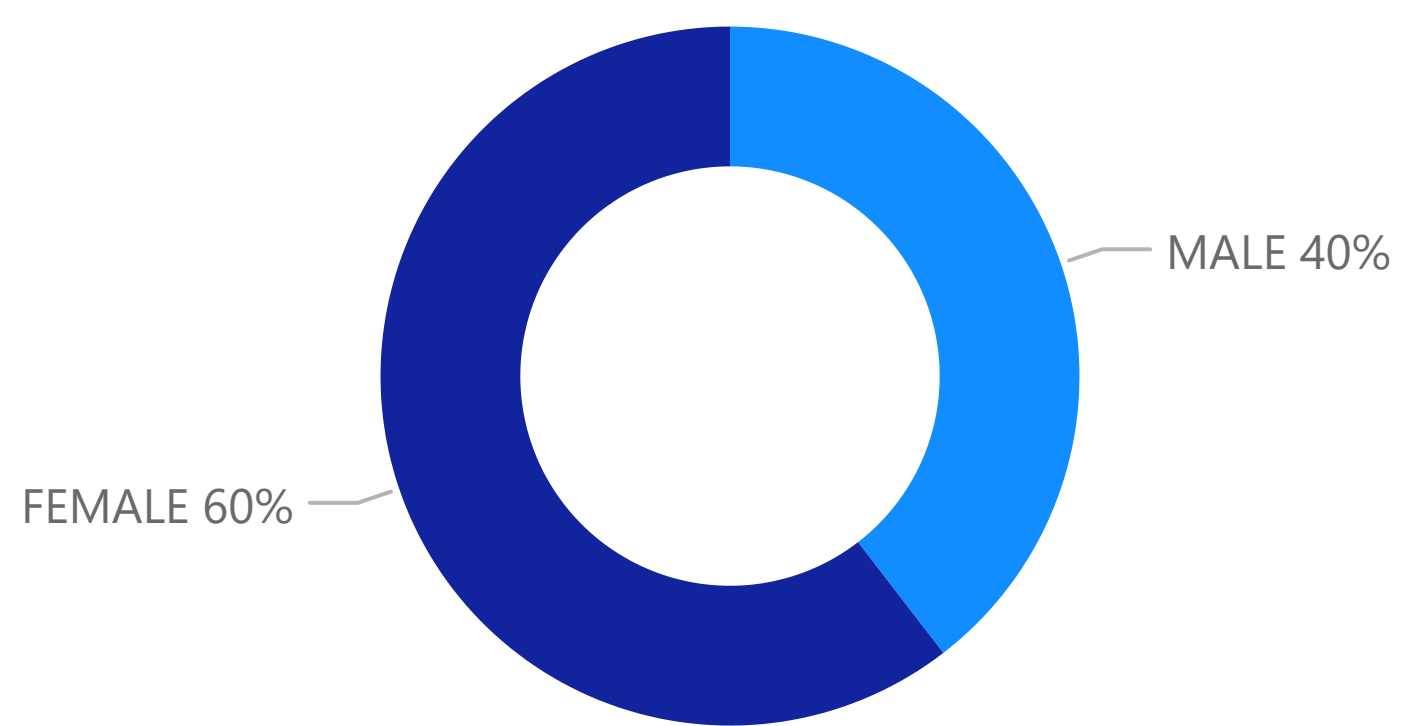
RSV



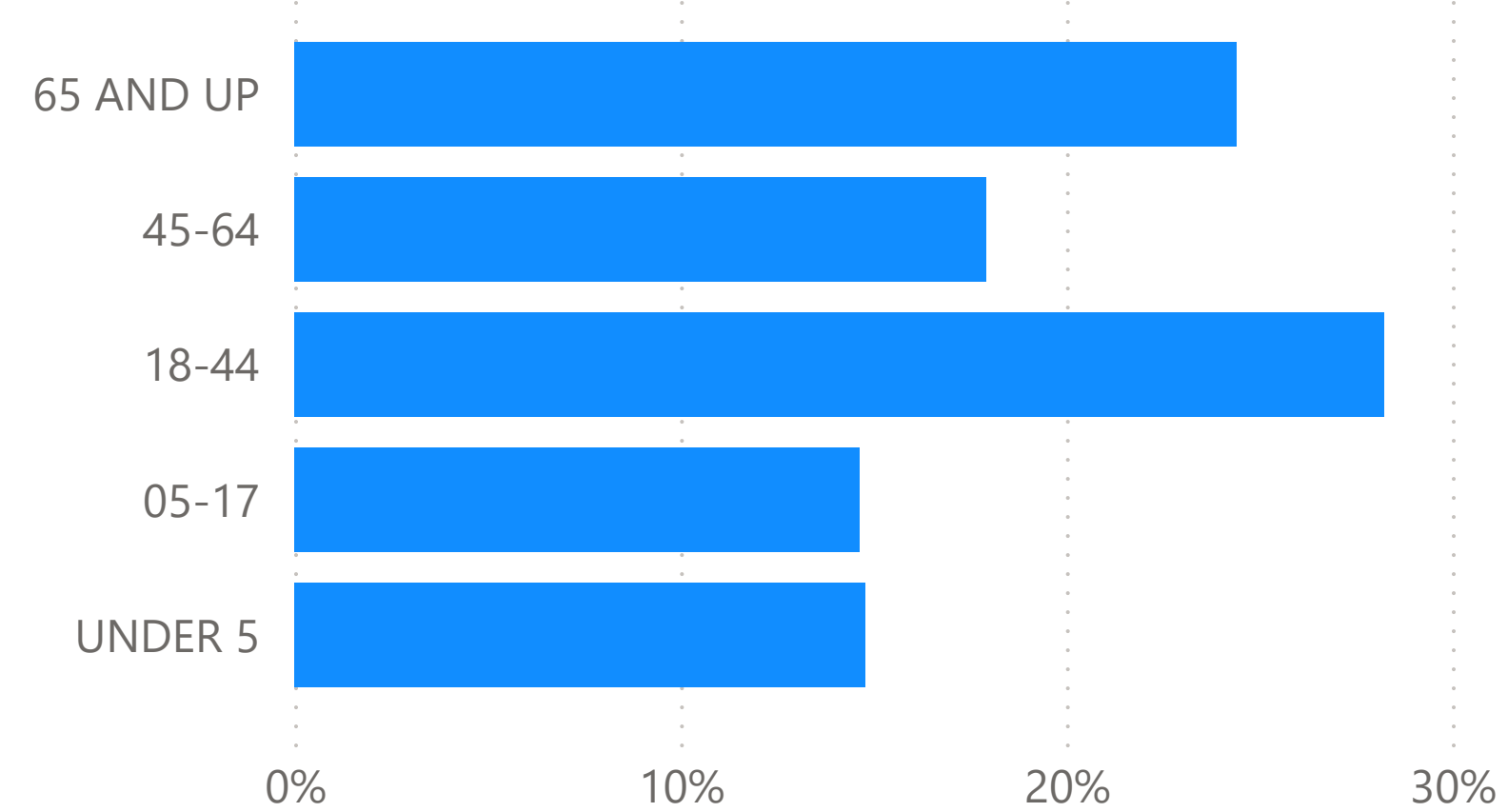
Demographics by Respiratory Disease (Current Season 2024-2025)

COVID-19 Healthcare Visits

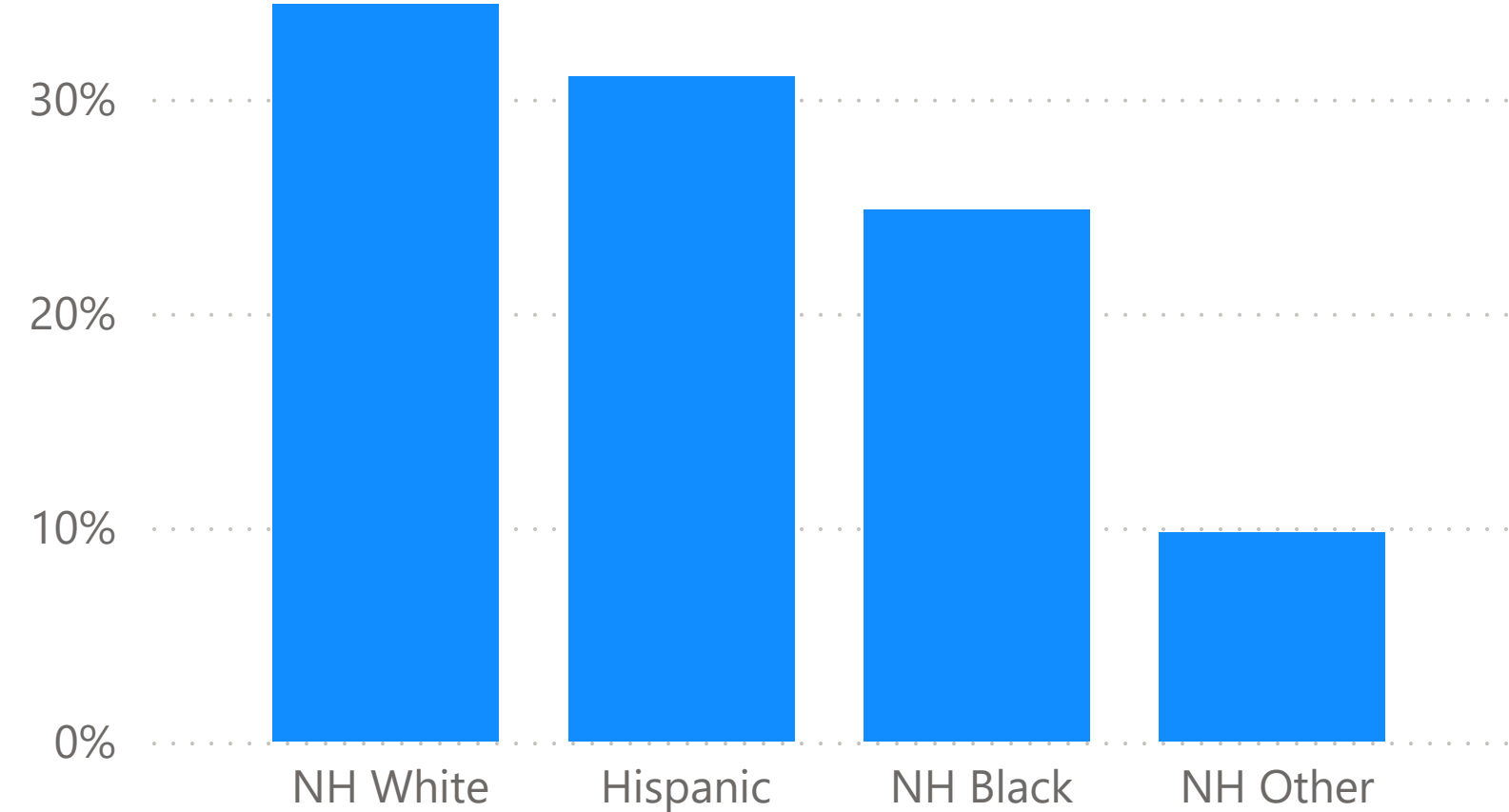
Sex



Age Group

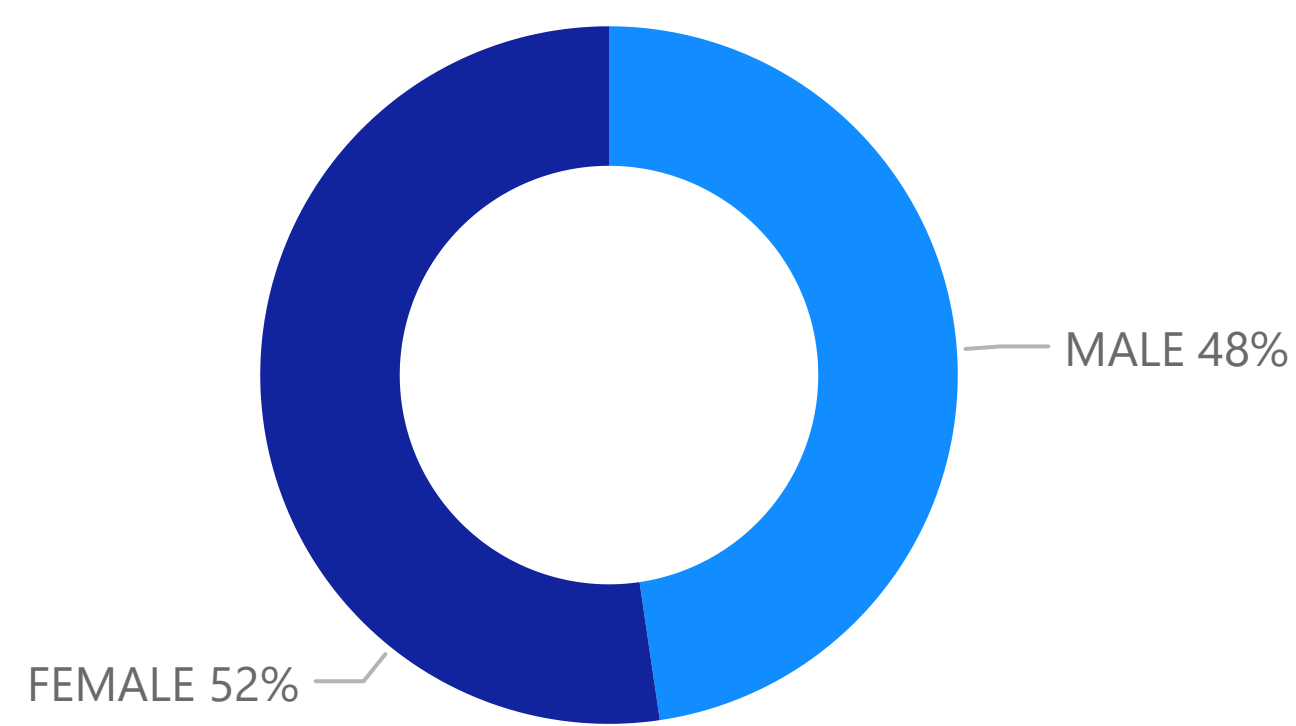


Race-Ethnicity

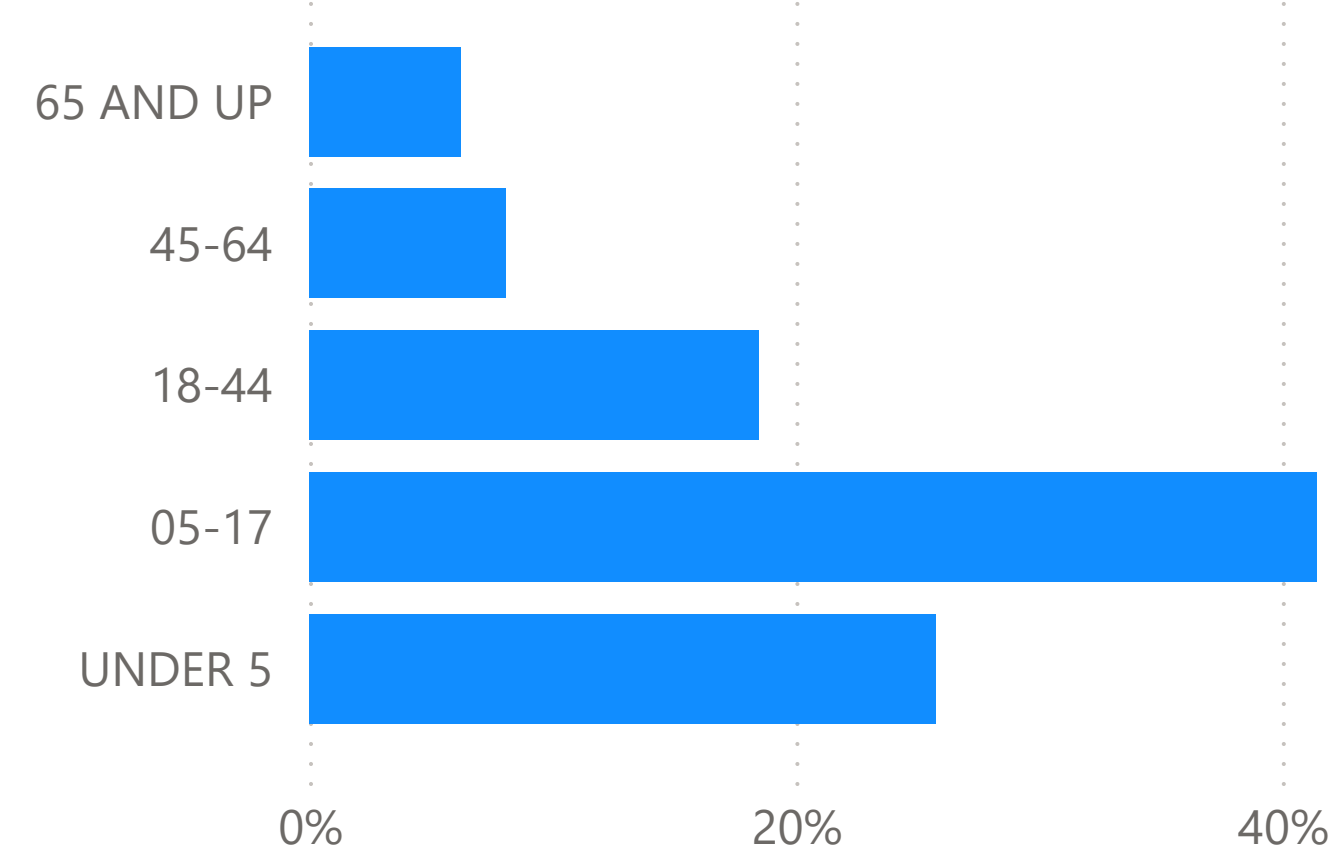


Influenza Healthcare Visits

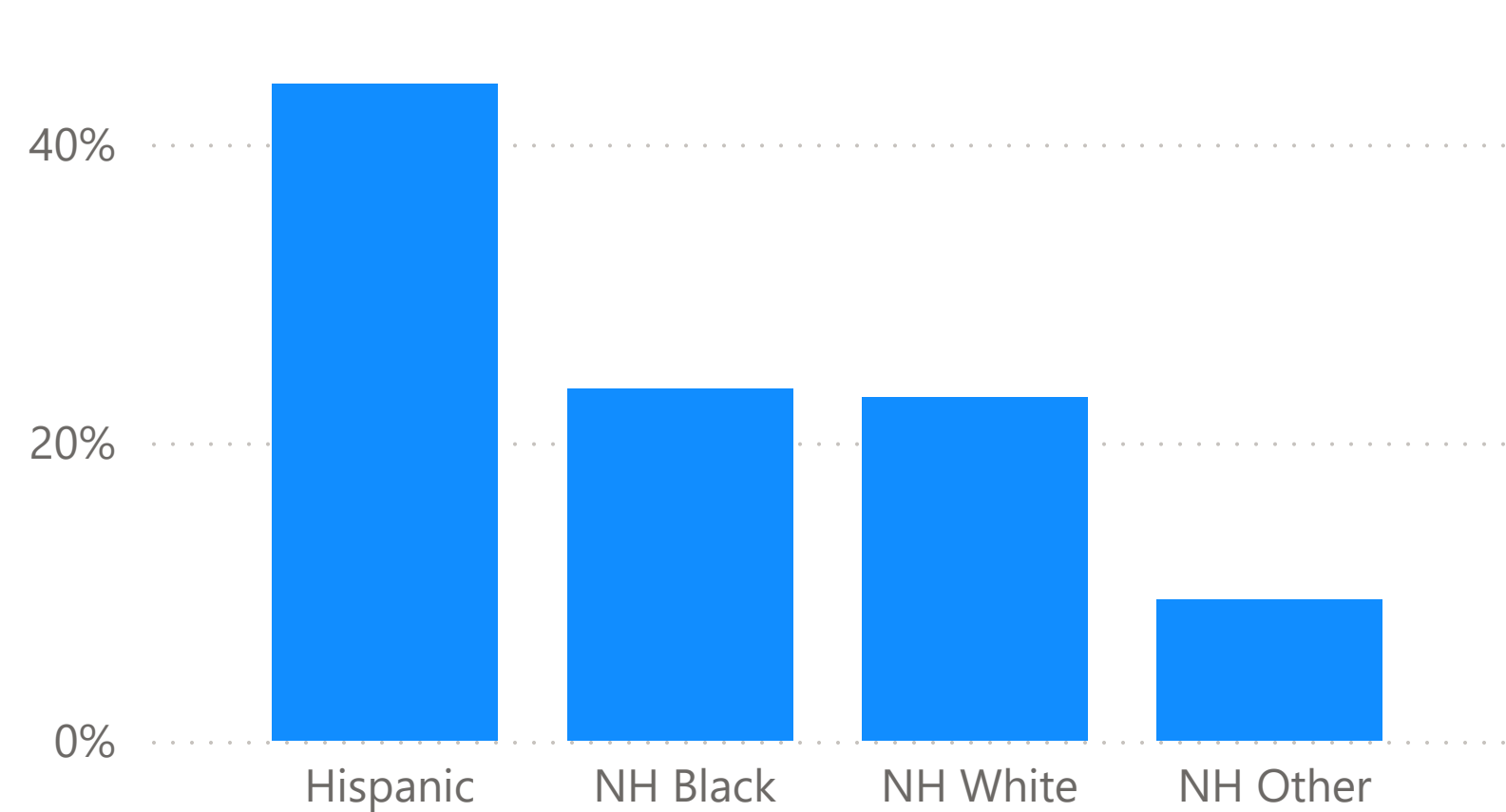
Sex



Age Group

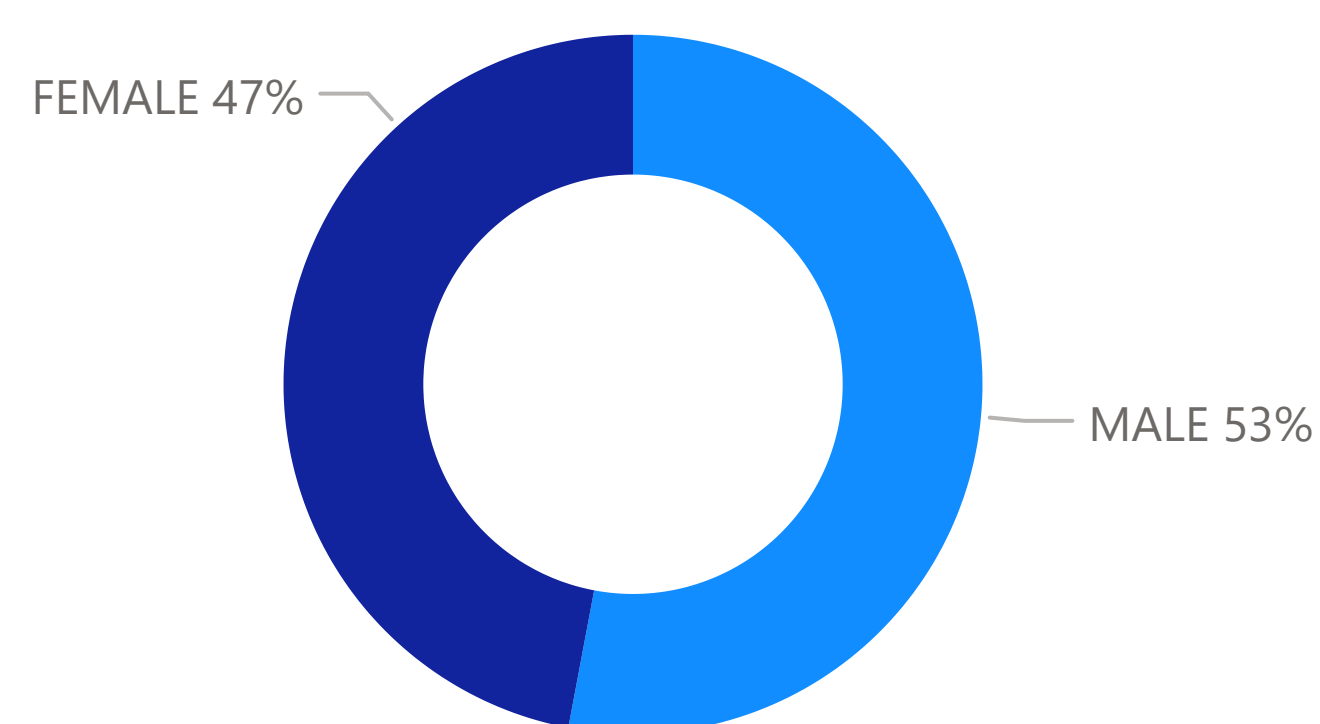


Race-Ethnicity

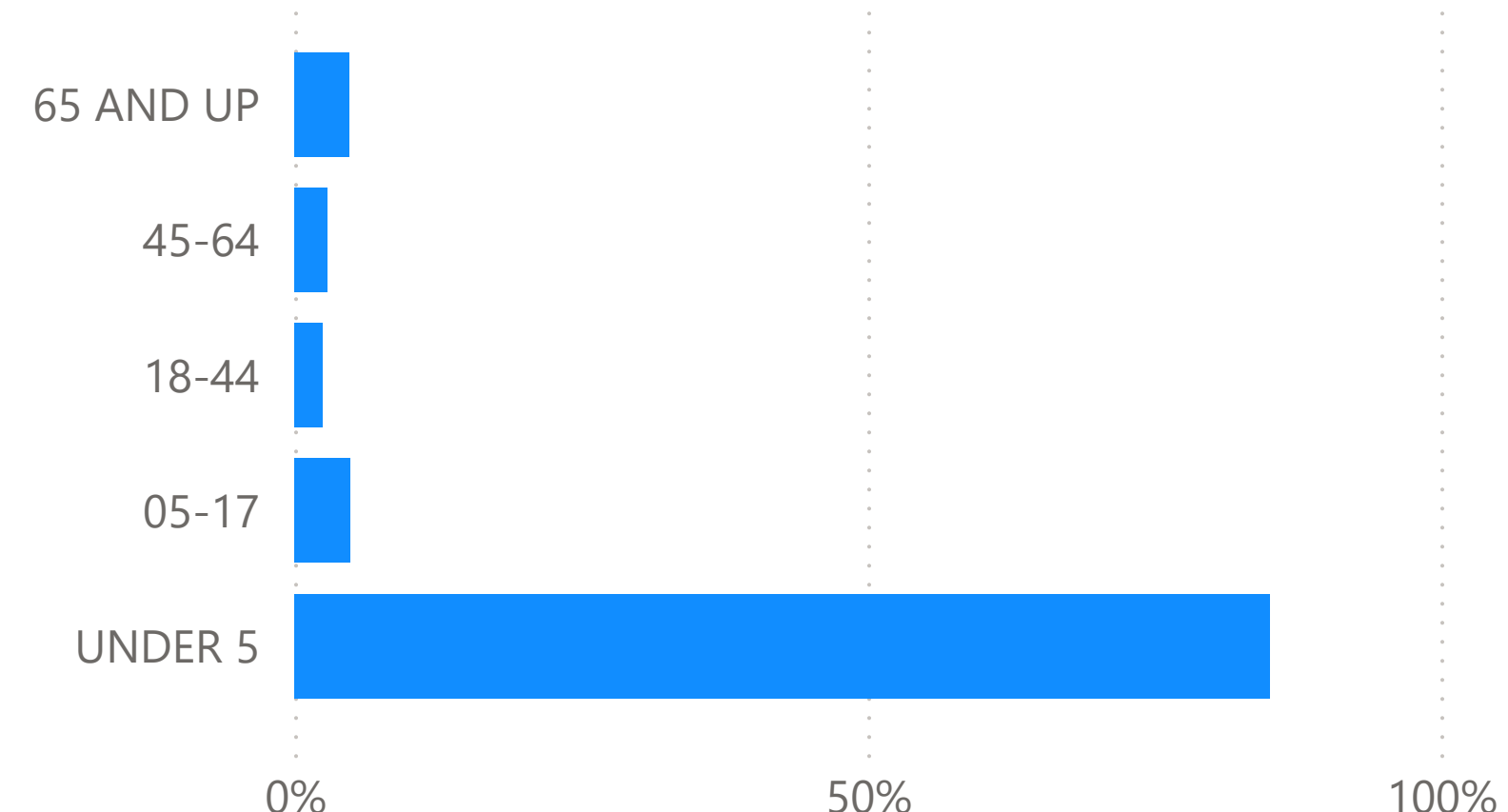


RSV Healthcare Visits

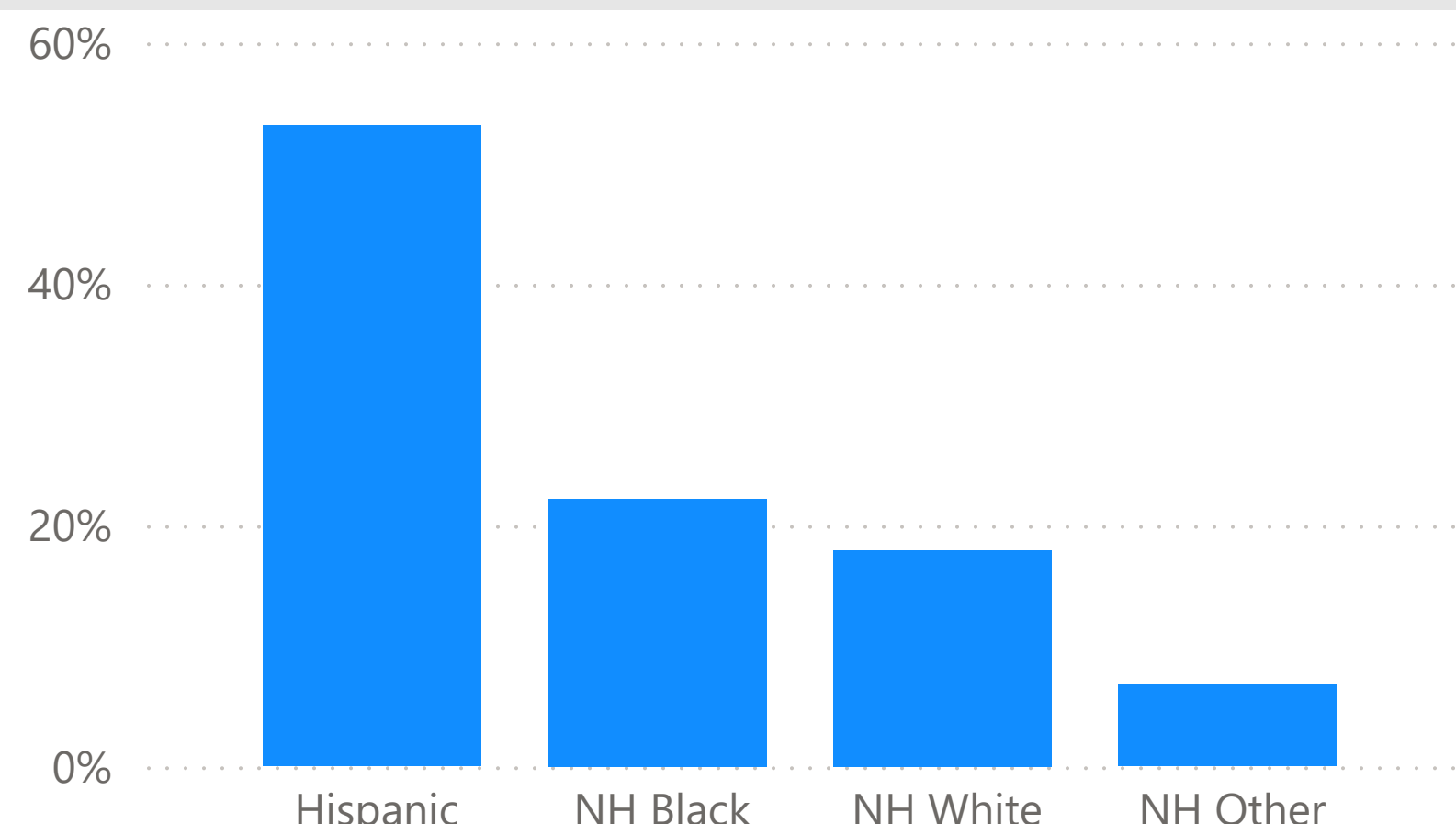
Sex



Age Group



Race-Ethnicity

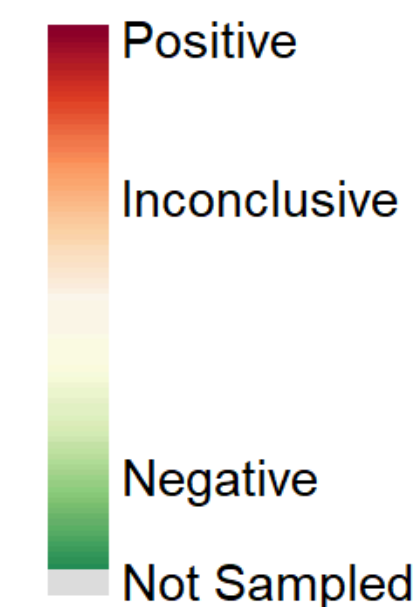
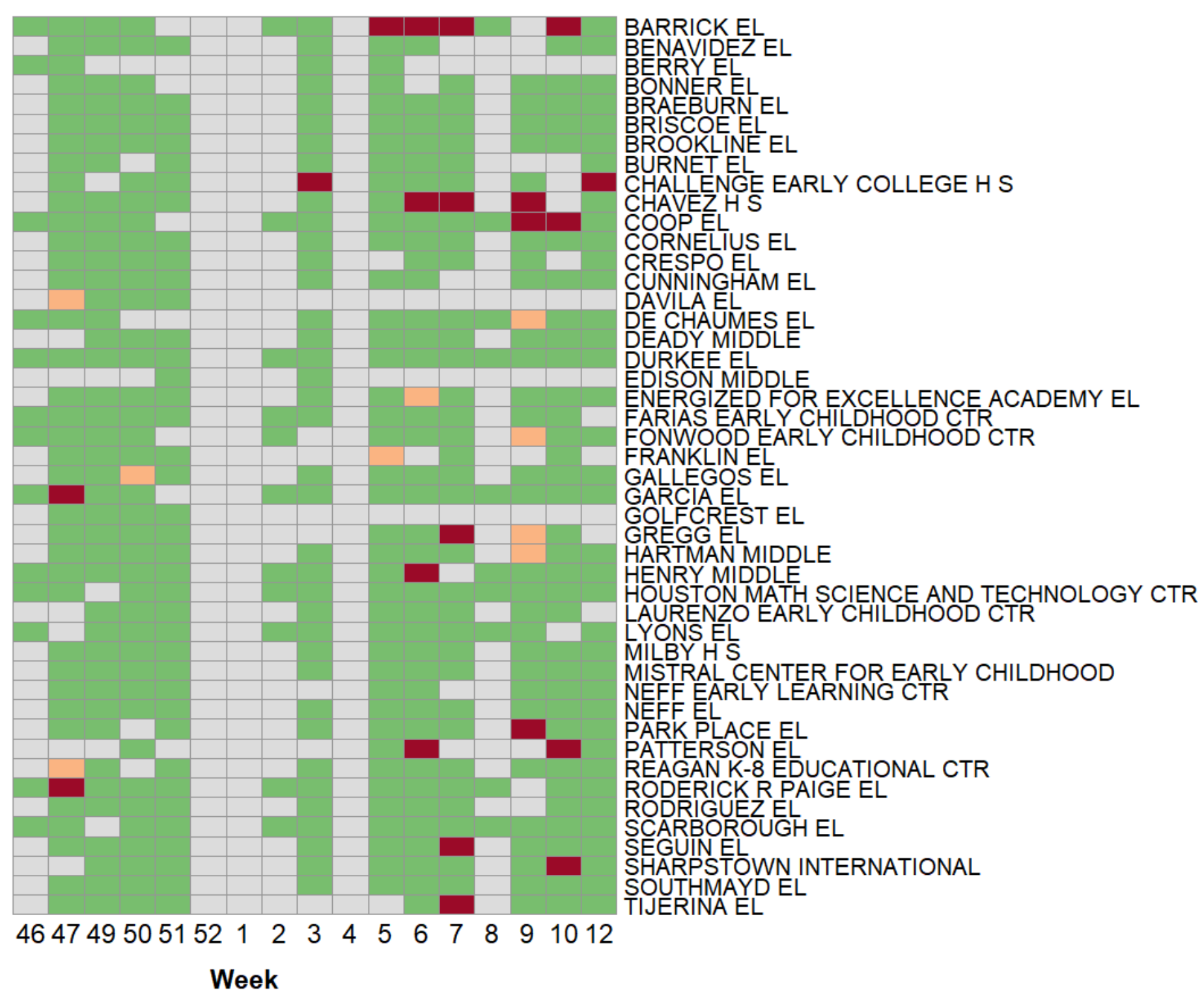


Influenza and RSV Wastewater Analysis of Schools

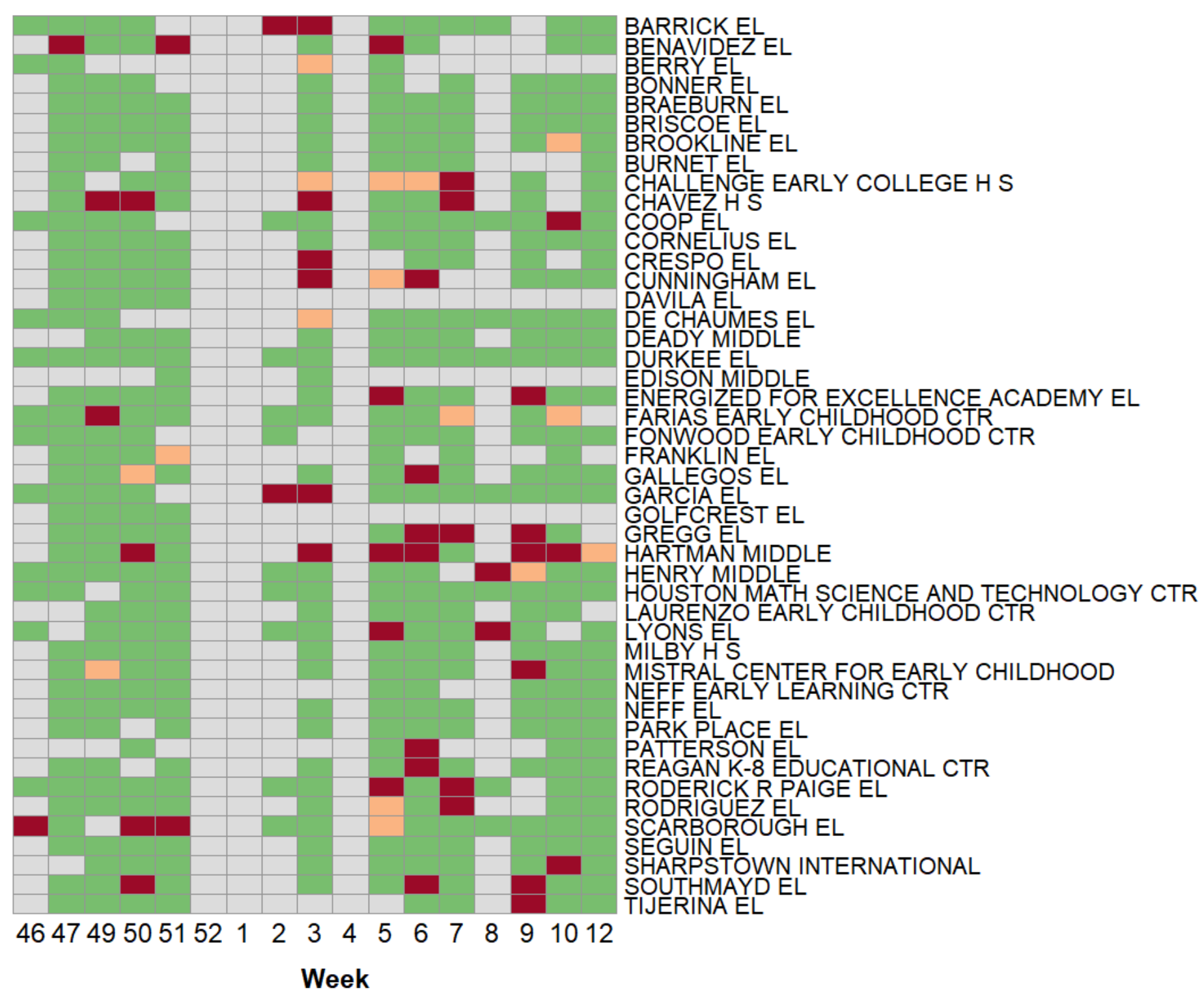
RSV



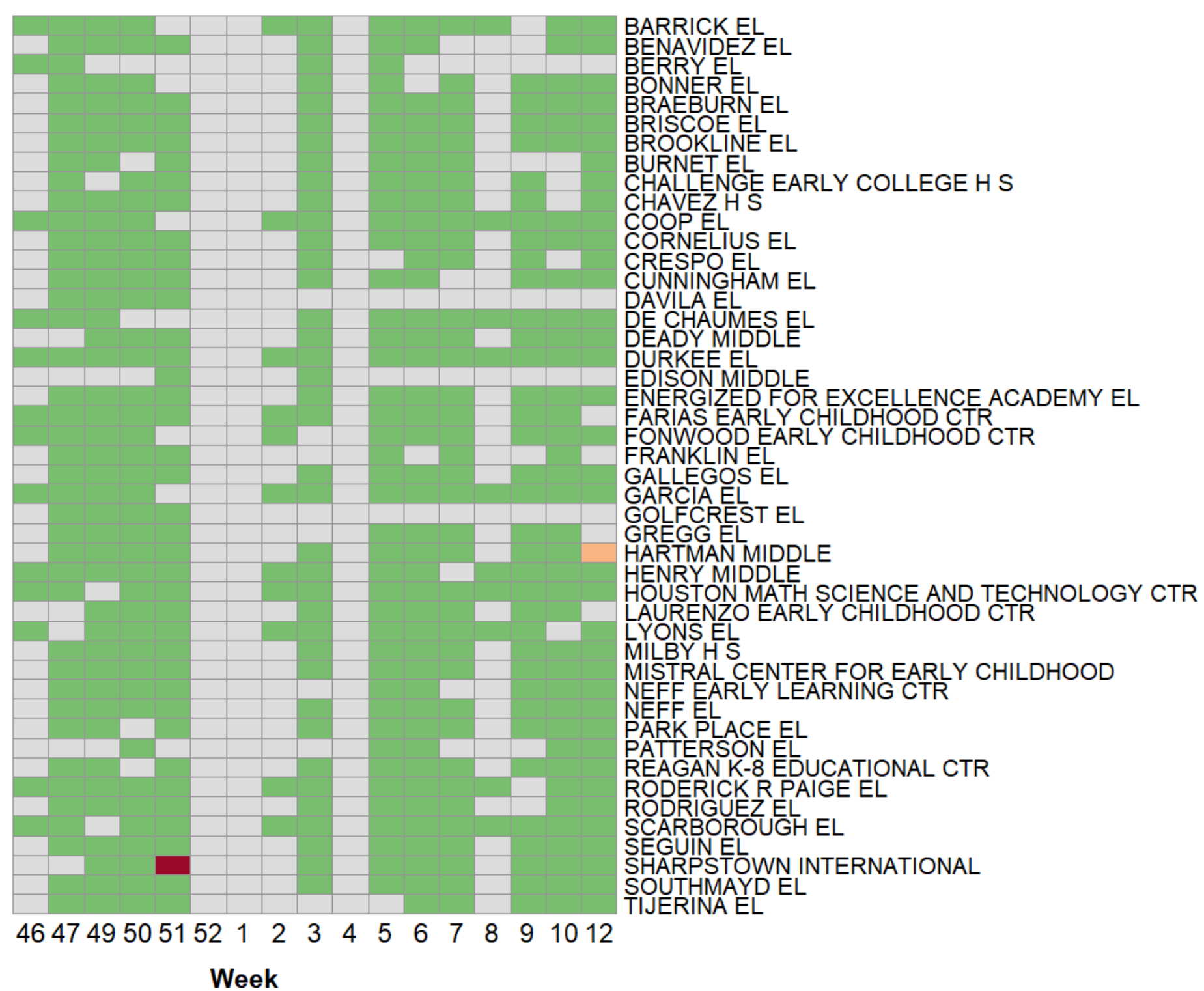
SARS-CoV-2



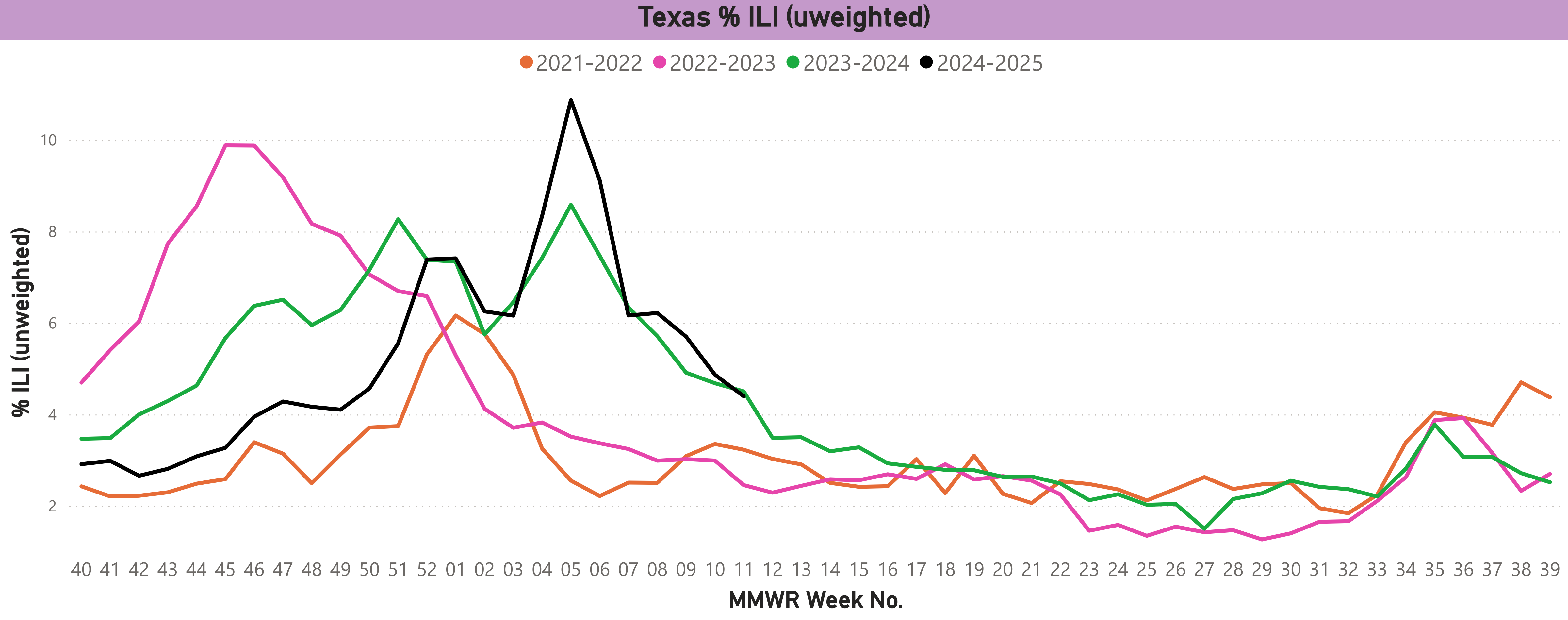
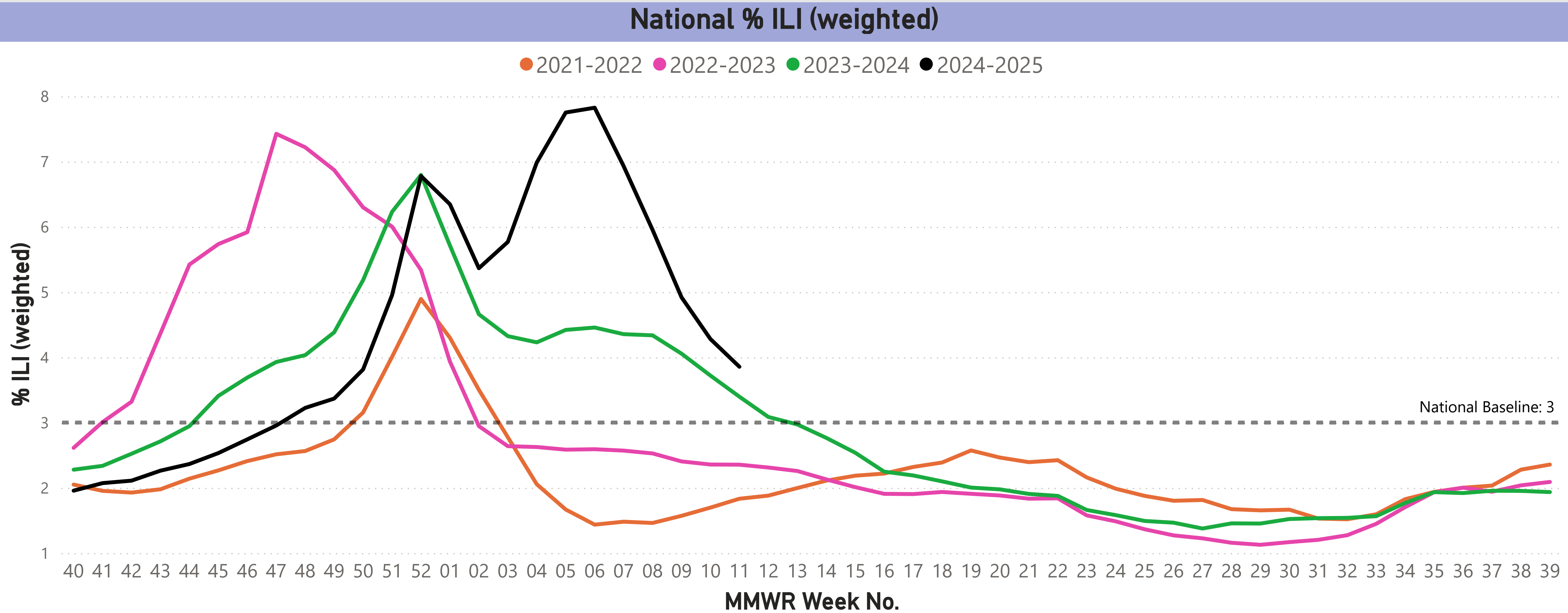
Influenza-A



Influenza-B



ILI Net: National and Texas Seasonal % Influenza-like Illness (ILI)



Data Sources

- **Healthcare visit data** are from the Houston Health Department's syndromic surveillance system, HHD-ESSENCE,
- **Wastewater data** are provided by the Houston Health Department wastewater surveillance program.
- **ZIP code populations** are from the 2020 Census.

Queries for syndromic data

RSV - CDC Respiratory Syncytial Virus DD v1 (applied to discharge diagnosis fields):

^;B974^,or,^;J121^,or,^;J205^,or,^;J210^,or,^;46611;^,or,^;4801[;/]^,or,^;0796;^,or,^;55735004;^,or,^;408684006;^,or,^;195881003^,or,^;10625551000119103;^,or,^;57089007;^,or,^;195739001;^,or,^;79479005;^,or,^;195727009;^,or,^;72204002;^,or,^;31309002;^

Influenza - CDC Influenza DD v1 (applied to discharge diagnosis fields):

(,^[/]J09^,or,^[;/]J10^,or,^[;/]J11^,or,^[;/]487.[018][;/]^,or,^[;/]487[018][;/]^,or,^[;/]488.[018][19][;/]^,or,^[;/]488[018][19][;/]^,or,^[;/]442696006[;/]^,or,^[;/]442438000[;/]^,or,^[;/]6142004[;/]^,or,^[;/]195878008[;/]^,)

COVID-19 - CDC COVID-specific DD v1 (applied to discharge diagnosis fields);

^[/]U07.1^,or,^[;/]U071^,or,^840539006^,or,^840544004^,or,^840533007^,or,^[;/]J12.82^,or,^[;/]J1282^

- Syndromic data presented include healthcare visits from onboarded healthcare facilities and only records within the Houston-area. All patient classes (inpatient, outpatient, emergency) are included. Counts for demographic groups are suppressed (if less than 5). Historical season data was updated Jan 2025.
- Data are aggregated to the weekly level. Week numbers listed correspond to MMWR week calendar dates (a week begins on Sunday and ends on the following Saturday). 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.
- 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.
- There is a week lag for any national or state data presented (e.g., report for Week 42 will have national/state data are for Week 40-41).
- All data is affected by varying data lags and, therefore, subject to change. Due to data quality improvement initiatives, recent/current season counts may not be comparable to historical seasons.

For more information and details on wastewater monitoring, please visit: <https://covidwwtp.spatialstudieslab.org/>

For more information and details on national and state data, please visit: <https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html>