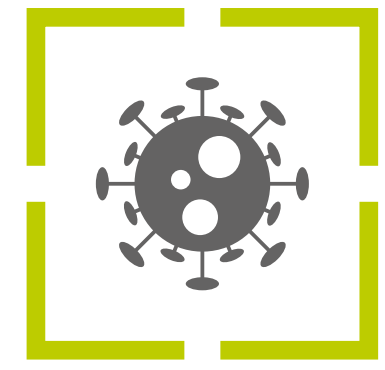


Influenza in Canada, 2022–23: A rapid and early epidemic onset

STUDY AIM:

To describe the characteristics and impact of the 2022–23 influenza epidemic in Canada



Pre-pandemic-like influenza circulation was seen again this season based on FluWatch data

Canada's 2022–23 influenza epidemic commenced historically early, at epidemiological week (EW) 43, peaking at EW 47*



*based on influenza percent positivity

59,459

influenza detections

have been reported to end of week 52, exceeding historical averages

Influenza A was present in

99%

of detections

H3N2 was the dominant subtype

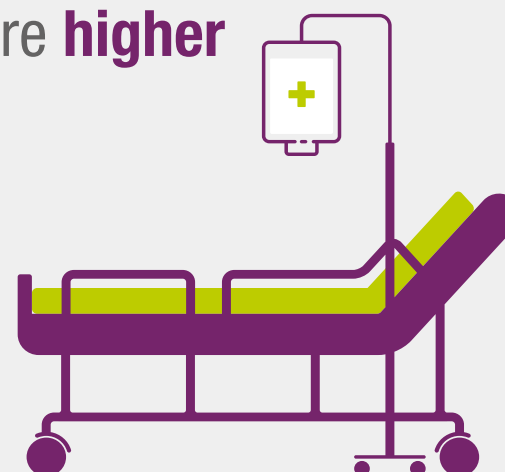
A high proportion of influenza detections were in adolescents and children



42% vs 35%

average recorded in pre-pandemic years

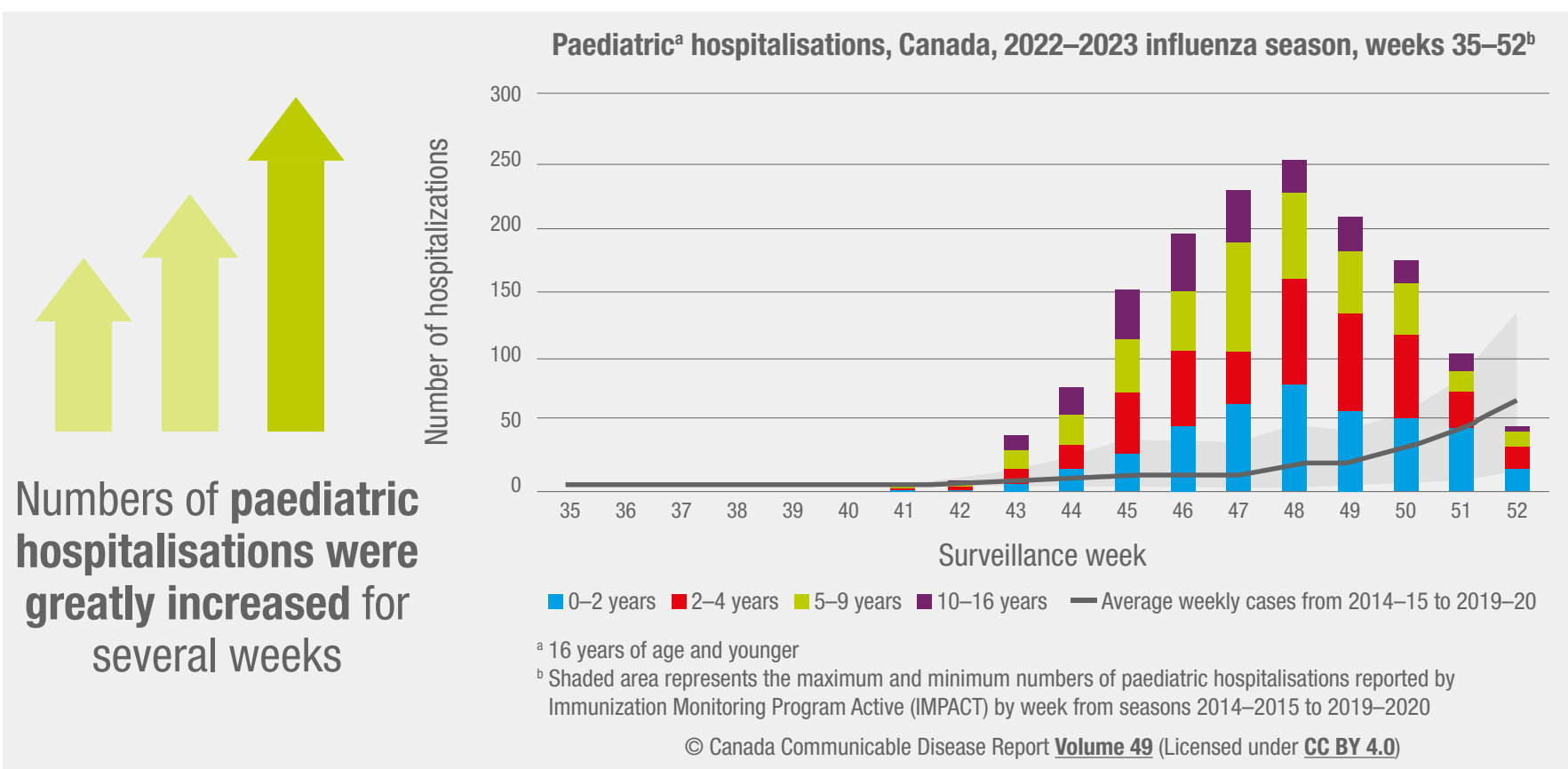
Reports of influenza-associated **hospitalisations, intensive care unit admissions and deaths** were **higher** than usual



Influenza-associated paediatric deaths were higher than previous seasons

6 deaths

reported to end of week 52



“...based on data up to week 50... the risk of medically-attended H3N2 illness was approximately halved among recipients of the current season's vaccine compared to unvaccinated individuals”

Ongoing surveillance and employment of mitigation measures including vaccination remain key in Canada's response to seasonal influenza.

To read more go to:

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9902033/

To download a copy of this infographic visit the Nivel FluCov website: Project FluCov • 2021-ongoing | Nivel

Reference: Ben Moussa M, et al. National influenza mid-season report, 2022–2023: A rapid and early epidemic onset. *Can Commun Dis Rep* 2023;49(1):10–14.