



**Fargo Cass  
Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**HEALTH OFFICER  
REPORT  
12/20/22**



Tracie Newman, MD, MPH, FAAP

**FIREARM  
INJURY  
INCIDENCE IN  
KIDS  
INCREASED  
DURING  
PANDEMIC**

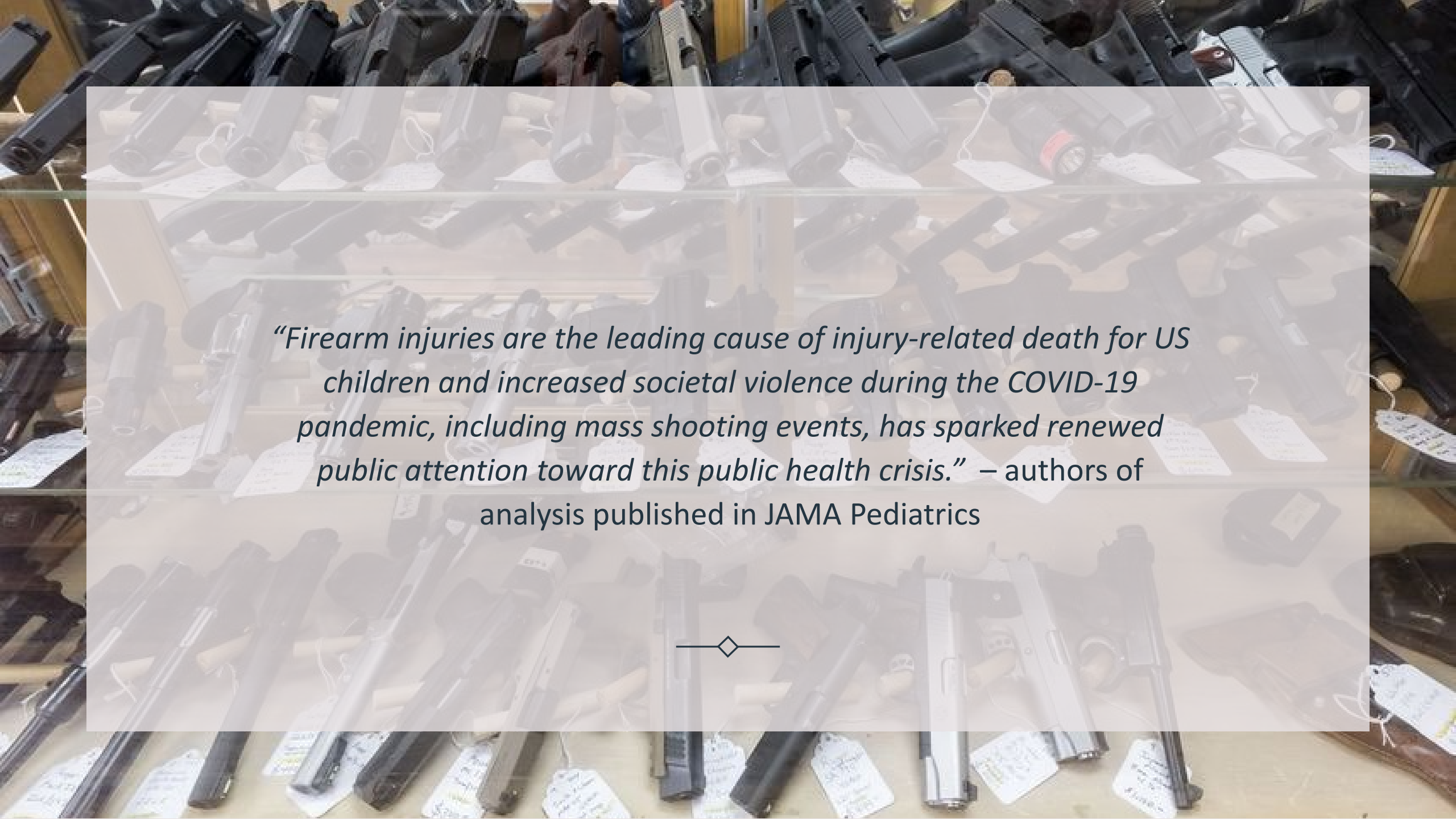


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During first 21 months of pandemic, the number of U.S. children injured by firearms increased > 50%

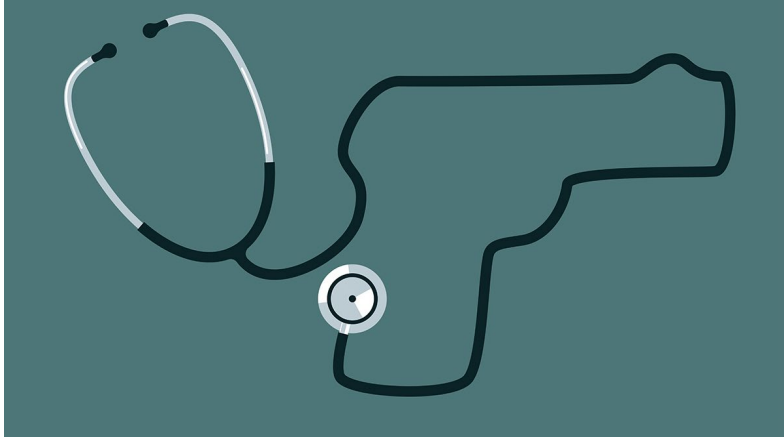
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From 04/2020 – 12/2021, at least 2,759 children  $\leq$  17 years were treated for gun-related injuries



*“Firearm injuries are the leading cause of injury-related death for US children and increased societal violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, including mass shooting events, has sparked renewed public attention toward this public health crisis.” – authors of analysis published in JAMA Pediatrics*





## **Increased Homicide Rates for U.S. Children**

New CDC data shows, in 2020, U.S. child homicide rates rose 28% from 2.2 per 100,000 to 2.8 per 100,000

Homicide is the leading cause of death in American kids. This is different from comparable developed countries where leading causes of death are things like cancer, motor vehicle accidents and other illnesses / injuries.

Since 2018, gun homicides involving children increased > 73% with black communities being disproportionately affected.

# U.S. Flu Activity Remains High But Slowing Down in Areas

CDC data suggest flu season starting to slow in certain parts of the U.S.

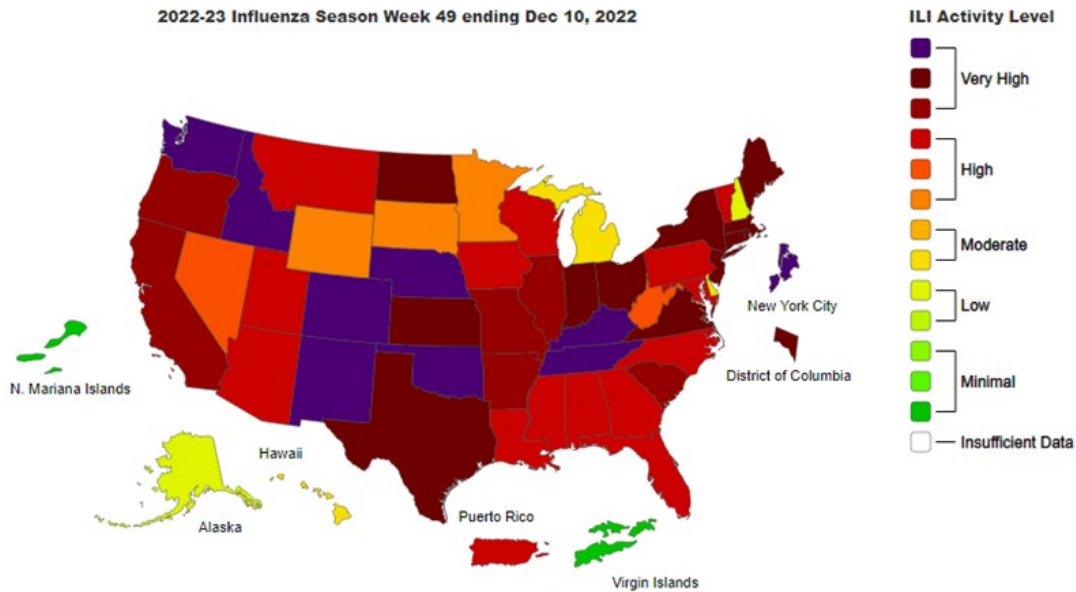
Only 7 states not reporting very high or high virus activity

So far this season:

- 15 million flu cases
- 9,300 flu-related deaths; 30 pediatric deaths
- 150,000 hospitalizations

Last week, flu hospitalizations decreased 10% compared to prior week (cumulative hospitalization rate remains higher than past decade)

2022-23 Influenza Season Week 49 ending Dec 10, 2022



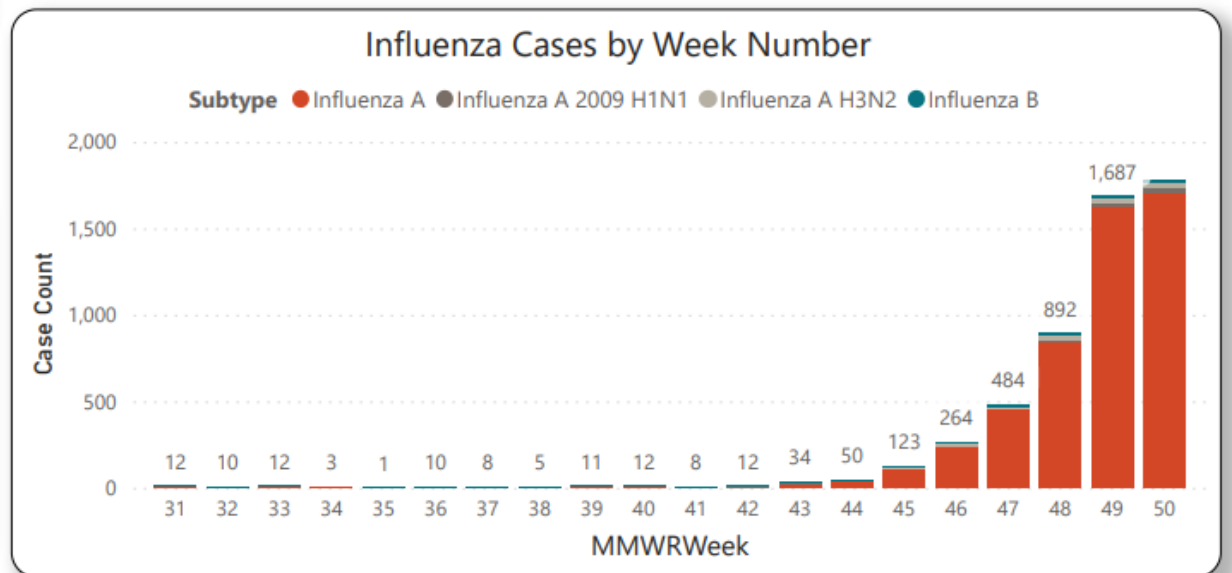
# N.D. Flu Rates

Although influenza activity remains high as the holidays approach, several markers for flu activity have slightly decreased from the previous week. School absenteeism has decreased significantly from the previous week as students leave for winter break. Additional influenza outbreaks in congregate living settings have been reported in the previous week as well.

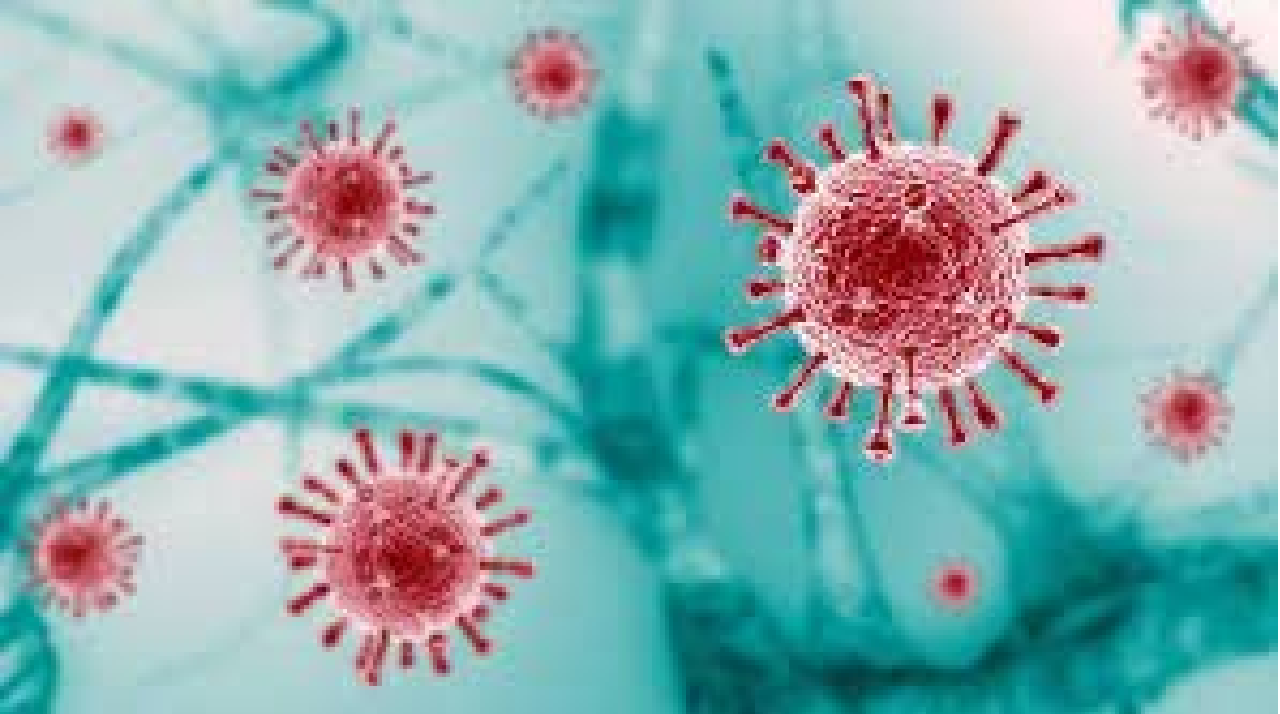
With these high levels of flu activity, influenza vaccination as the best tool to protect against severe illness/outcomes. For more information regarding flu vaccination, please visit [health.nd.gov/immunize](http://health.nd.gov/immunize)

	Last Week	Season Total
New Influenza Cases:	1,781	5,419
Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness:	12.72%	4.05%
Laboratory Specimens Positive for Influenza:	20.90%	7.02%
Percentage of Students Absent from School:	0.58%	12.50%
New Hospitalizations due to Influenza:	44	155
New Deaths due to Influenza:	0	3

Subtype	Cases in Previous Week	Total for Season
Influenza A	1,713	5,112
Influenza A 2009 H1N1	20	61
Influenza A H3N2	33	124
Influenza B	15	122
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>5,419</b>







# COVID-19 Update

Worldwide WHO dashboard, as of 12/20/22:

- 650 million cumulative cases
- 6.65 million deaths
- Global weekly incidence remained relatively stable (increased 4.8%)



In U.S., CDC reports:

- 99.7 million cumulative cases
- 1.08 million deaths
- weekly incidence stable
- Omicron BQ.1.1 (38%) and BQ.1 (31%) represent the most dominant subvariants in the U.S.



# References

[Surge in Pediatric Firearm Injuries Presenting to US Children's Hospitals During the COVID-19 Pandemic | Emergency Medicine | JAMA Pediatrics | JAMA Network](#)

[Trends in Homicide Rates for US Children Aged 0 to 17 Years, 1999 to 2020 | Adolescent Medicine | JAMA Pediatrics | JAMA Network](#)

[Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report | CDC](#)

[CurrentSummary.pdf \(nd.gov\)](#)

[WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard | WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard With Vaccination Data](#)

[CDC COVID Data Tracker: Daily and Total Trends](#)