

Central Oregon Public Health Quarterly

Communicable Disease Update for Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties
2018: Quarter 2

24/7 Communicable Disease reporting lines: : Crook County: 541-447-5165 : Deschutes County: 541-322-7418 : Jefferson County: 541-475-4456

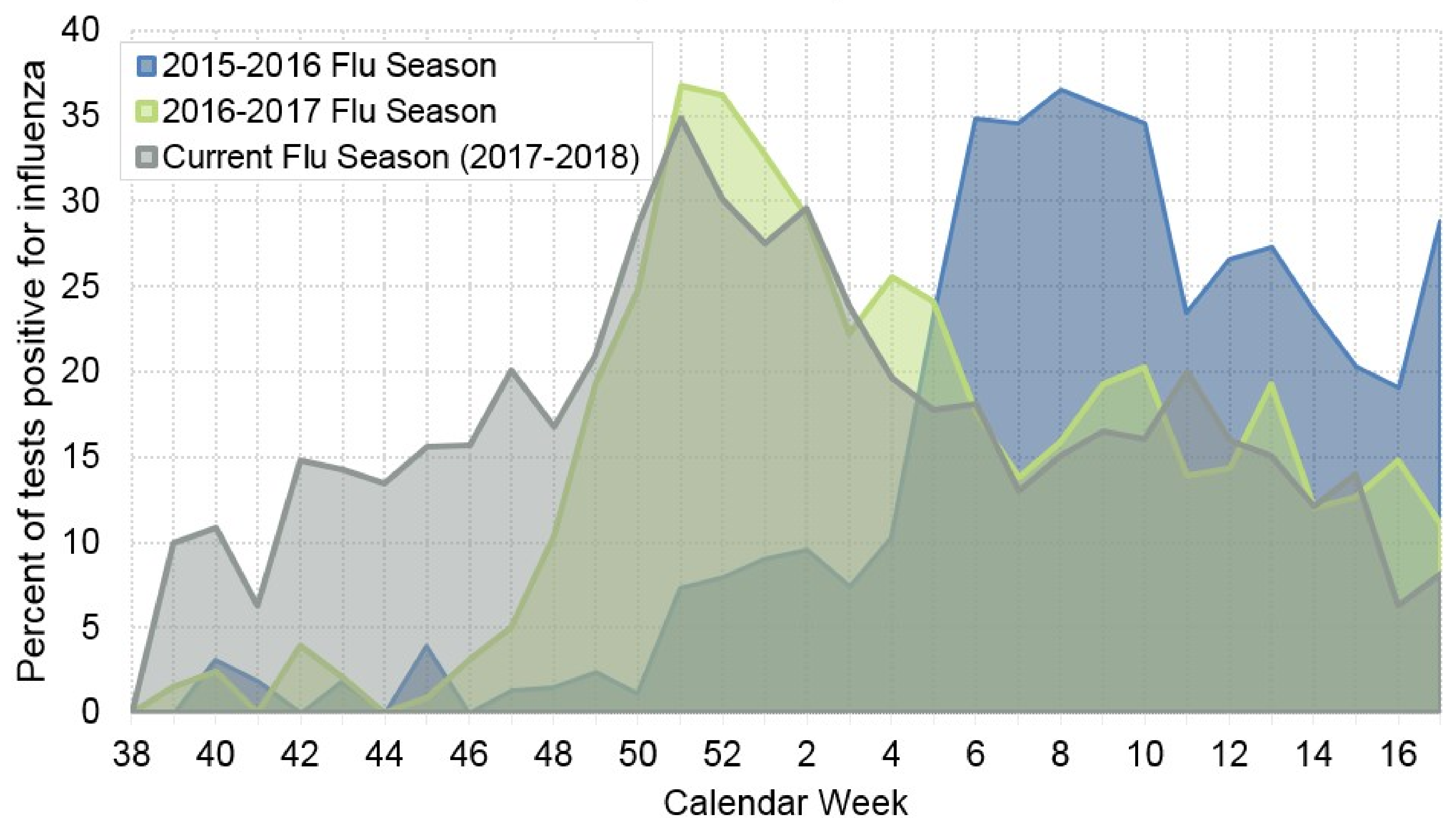
2017-2018 Central Oregon Flu Season

Flu in Central Oregon peaked early this season.

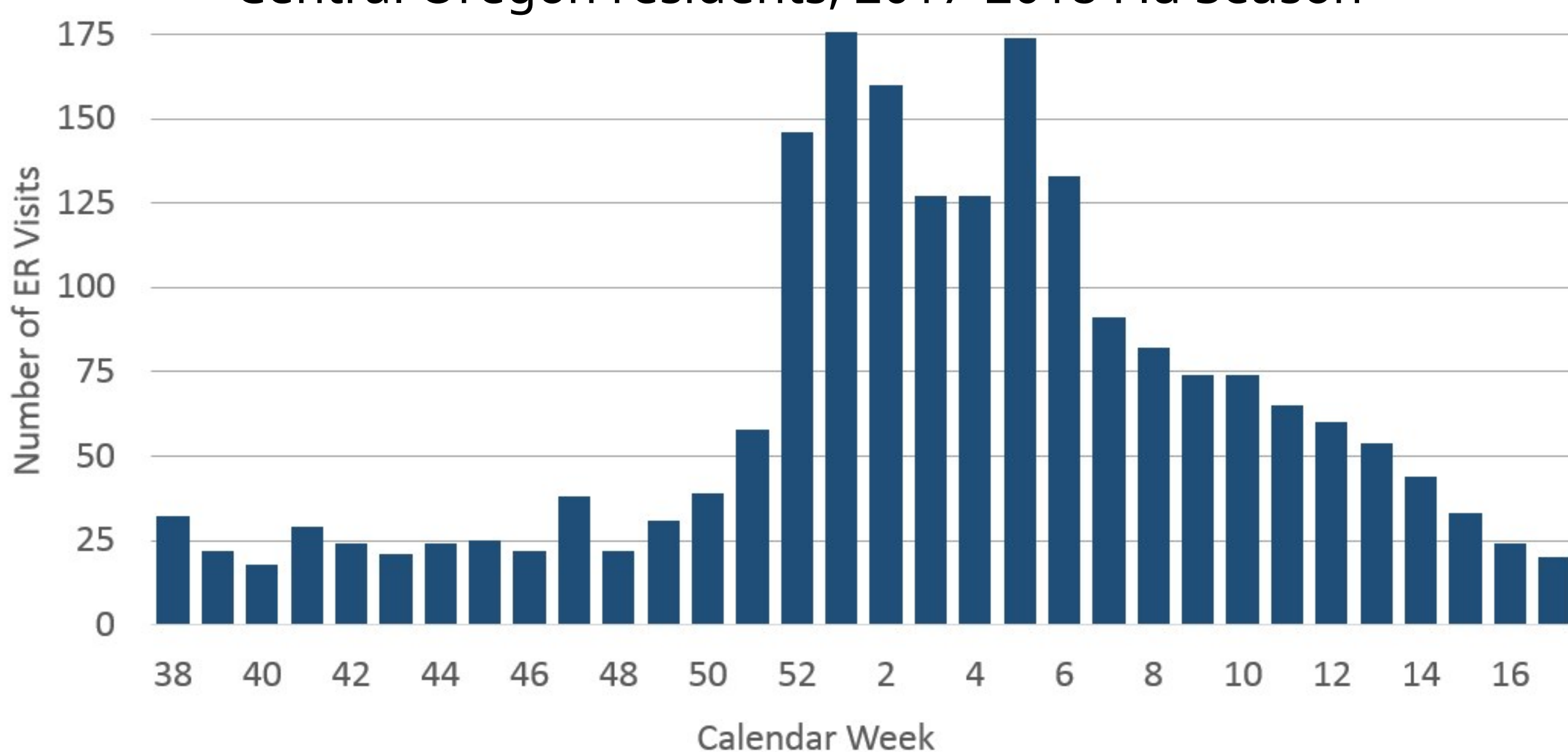
According to data collected from local Central Oregon labs, peak flu season activity occurred around calendar week 51 (December 17 through December 23). This is similar to when flu season peaked during the 2016-2017 flu season; however, we started seeing reports of positive flu cases earlier in the season this year compared to last.

During the 2015-2016 flu season, peak flu activity occurred around two months later, during calendar week 8 (February 14 through February 20).

Percent of flu tests positive by week, 2015-2017



Weekly Number of ER visits for flu-like illness among Central Oregon residents, 2017-2018 Flu Season



Data Source: ESSENCE syndromic surveillance system. Includes visits by Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson County residents to any ER across Oregon.

This flu season appears to have been more severe than the previous two seasons.

Among Central Oregon residents, there were >2,000 emergency room (ER) visits for flu-like illness this season. The number of weekly flu-like ER visits peaked at 176 during calendar week 1 (December 31 through January 6), which is higher than the number of weekly visits seen during the peak of the 2016-2017 season (90) and the 2015-2016 season (60).

There were seven reported flu outbreaks this season in Central Oregon.

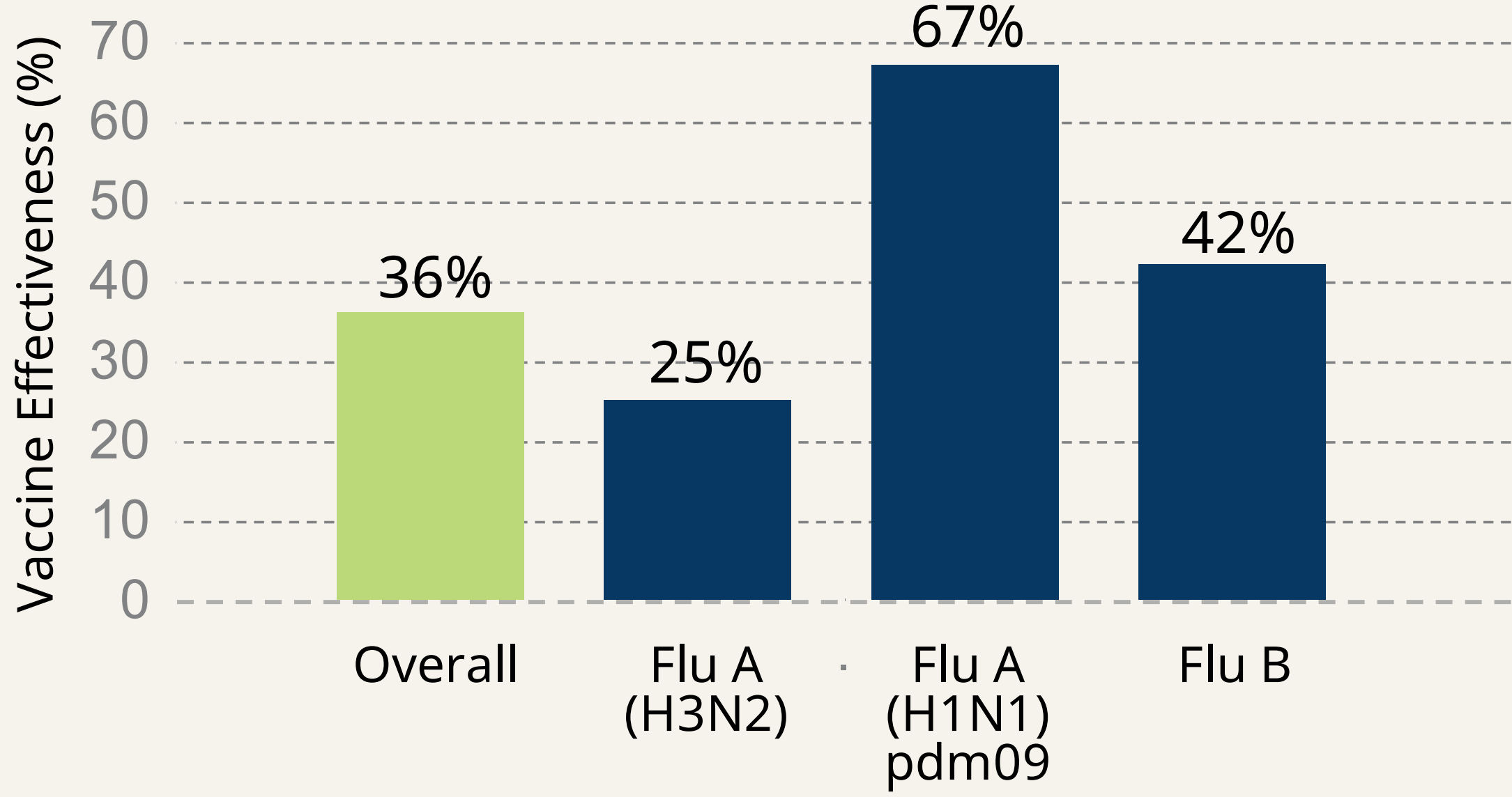
All seven flu outbreaks occurred in long term care facilities. The number of flu outbreaks reported this season is higher than the number reported during the 2016-2017 (5) and 2015-2016 (1) flu seasons.

Across Oregon as a whole, there were three flu-associated pediatric deaths reported this flu season.

Nationwide, there have been 172 flu-associated pediatric deaths reported so far this season, which is higher than the 2016-2017 season (110) and the 2015-2016 season (93).

Flu Vaccine Effectiveness

Vaccine Effectiveness Estimates, 2017-2018 Flu Season



Overall vaccine effectiveness (VE) this season was estimated to be 36%*.

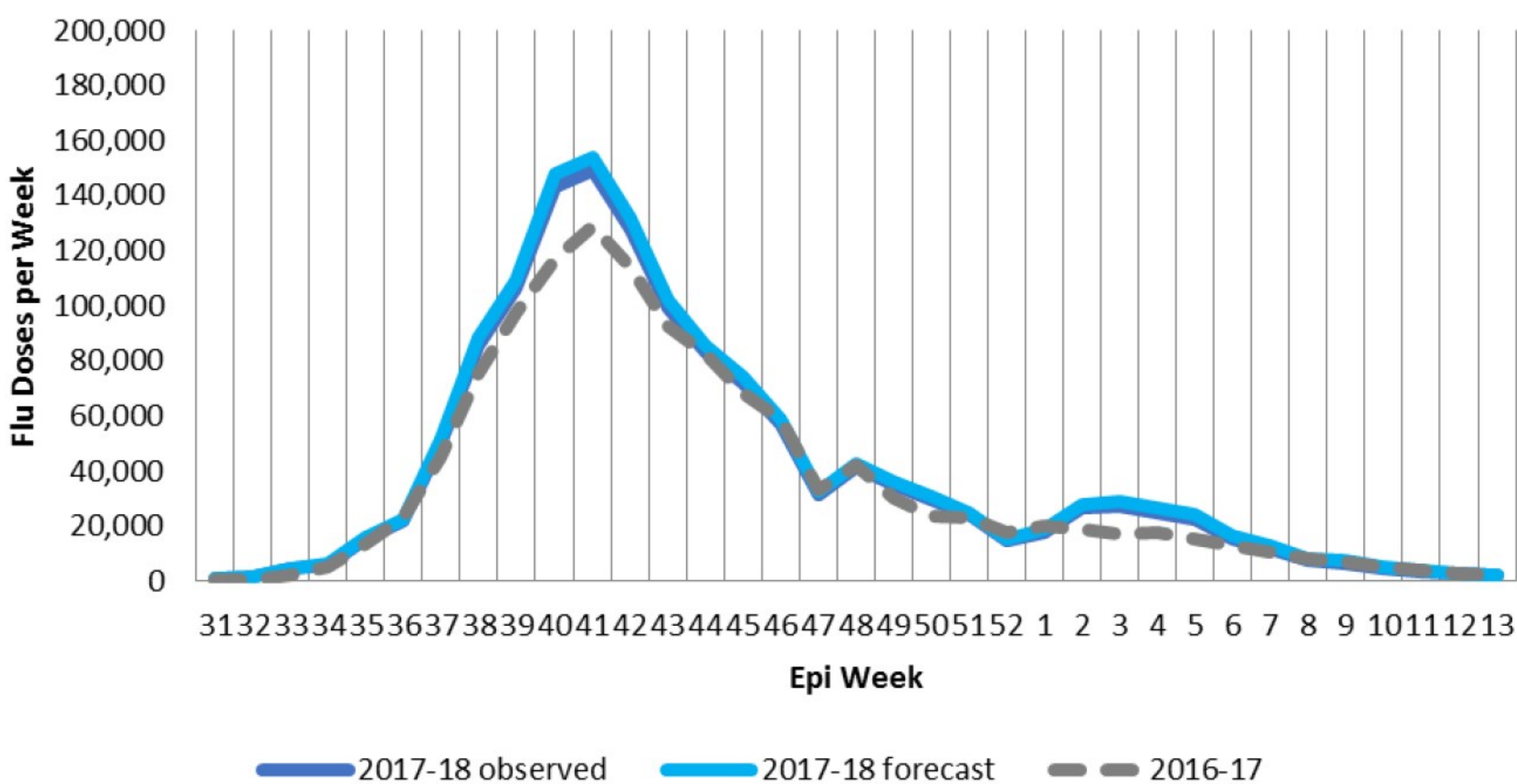
Over the past ten flu seasons, overall VE has ranged from 19% to 60%.

VE varied by flu strain this season. As shown in the figure to the left, VE was highest for flu A (H1N1)pdm09. Overall VE estimates also varied by age group. Effectiveness estimates were highest among those aged 6 months to 8 years (59% VE) and aged 18-49 (33% VE).

*Interim national estimates of the 2017-2018 seasonal flu vaccine effectiveness were published in the February 16, 2018 issue of Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Vaccine effectiveness (VE) is defined as the percent reduction in the risk of medically attended, laboratory-confirmed influenza virus infection.

Flu Vaccine Uptake

2017-2018 Oregon Flu Vaccine Doses Reported by Week



The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) estimated that around 45% of all Oregonians received a flu vaccine during the 2017-2018 flu season.

Around 1.37 million flu vaccines were administered to Oregon residents, which is higher than the 1.24 million administered during the 2016-2017 flu season.

The peak week for Oregonians to receive a flu vaccine was during week 41 (October 8 through October 14).

Figure source: Oregon Health Authority

OHA reported that the number of flu vaccines administered during the 2017-2018 flu season was higher in all age groups compared to the 2016-2017 flu season.

Across the state, the age groups with the highest number of flu vaccines administered were the 6 months - 6 years age group and the 75+ age group.

Total Influenza Vaccines Administered to Oregon Residents by Age Group, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Flu Seasons

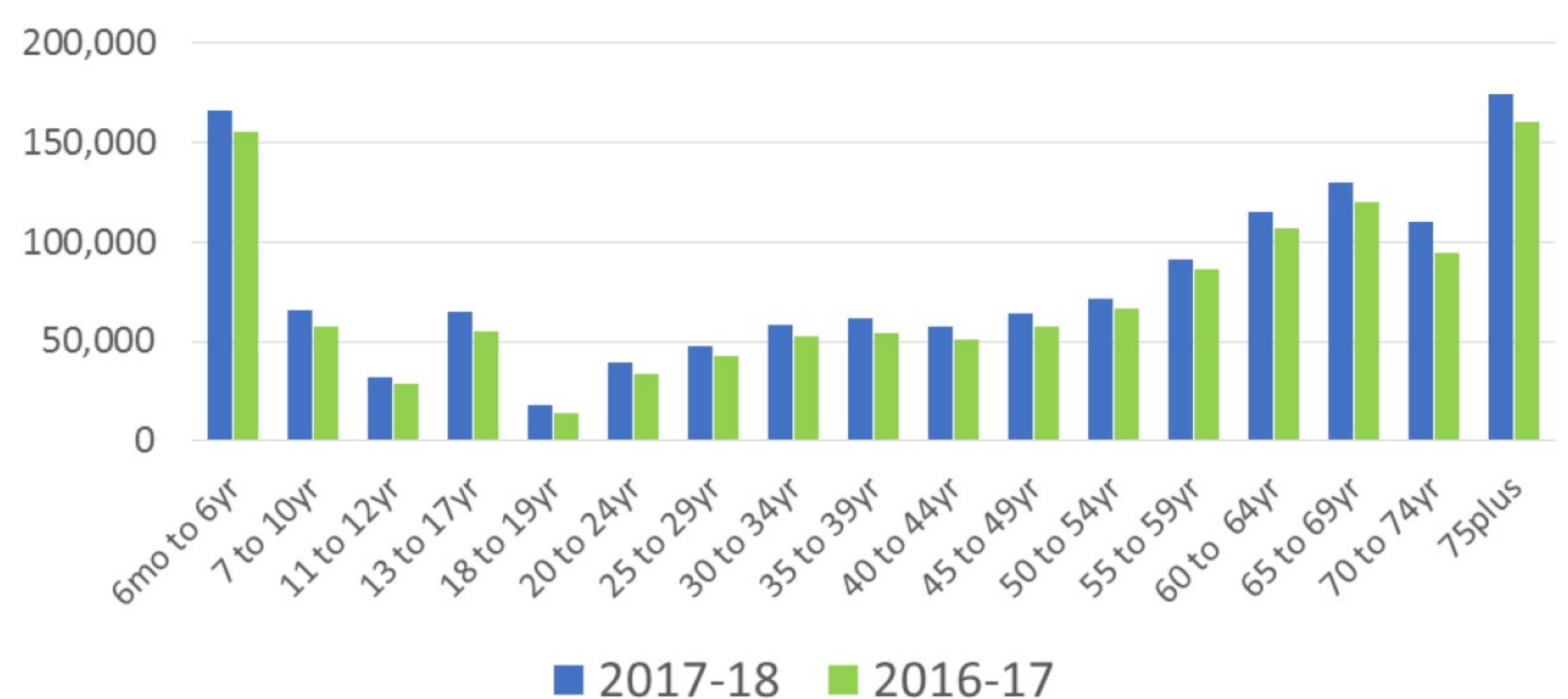


Figure source: Oregon Health Authority