



COVID-19 MOH Update

June 9th, 2022



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Outline

1. MOH Update

- *Dr. Chris Sarin*

2. COVID-19 Treatment Update

- *Dr. Celeste Loewe*

3. COVID-19 Vaccine Update

- *Dr. Parminder Thiara*

4. Impact of COVID-19 on Vaccine and Immunization Rates

- *Dr. Dean Eurich*

5. Questions



MOH Update

Dr. Chris Sarin

Senior Medical Officer of Health



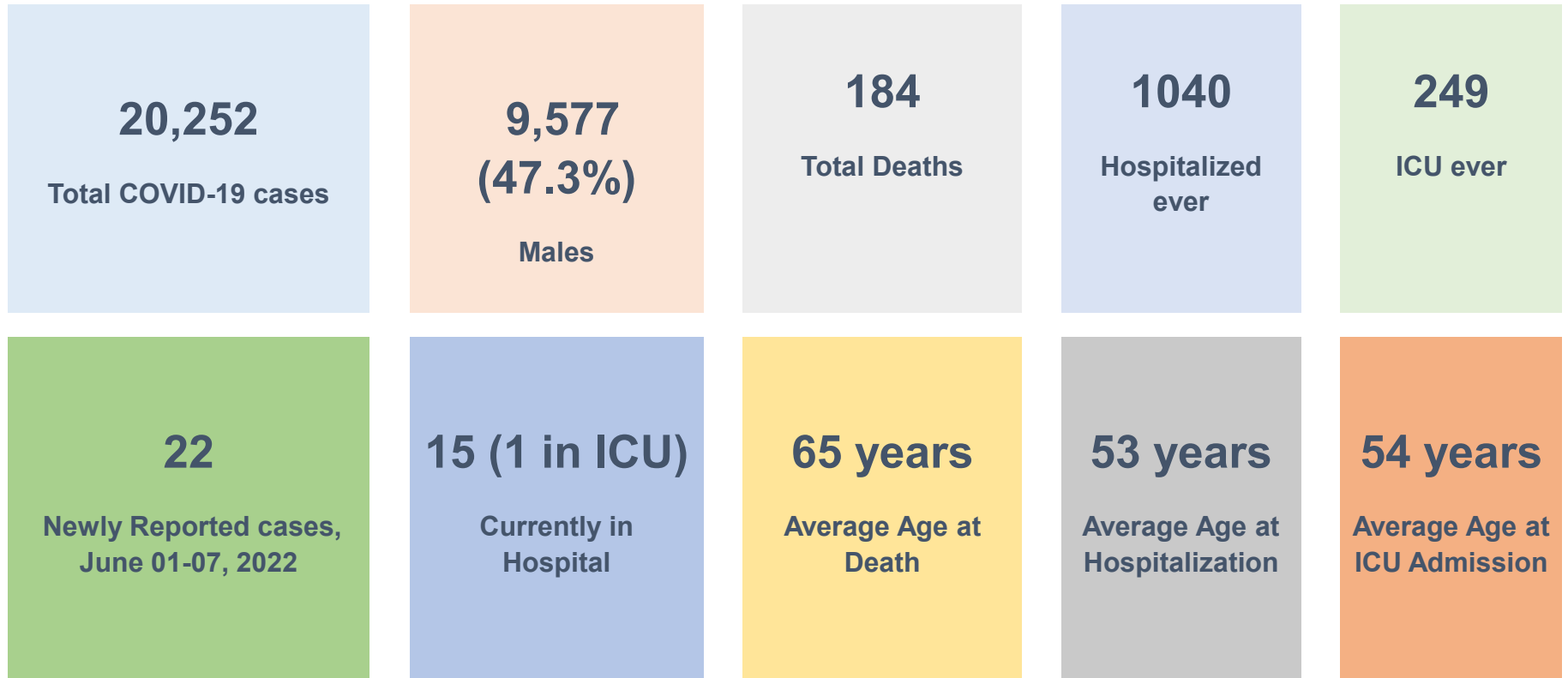
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Overview of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in First Nations Communities on Reserve in Alberta, June 07, 2022

Source: FNIHB COVID-19 ER System via Synergy in Action (June 08, 2022)

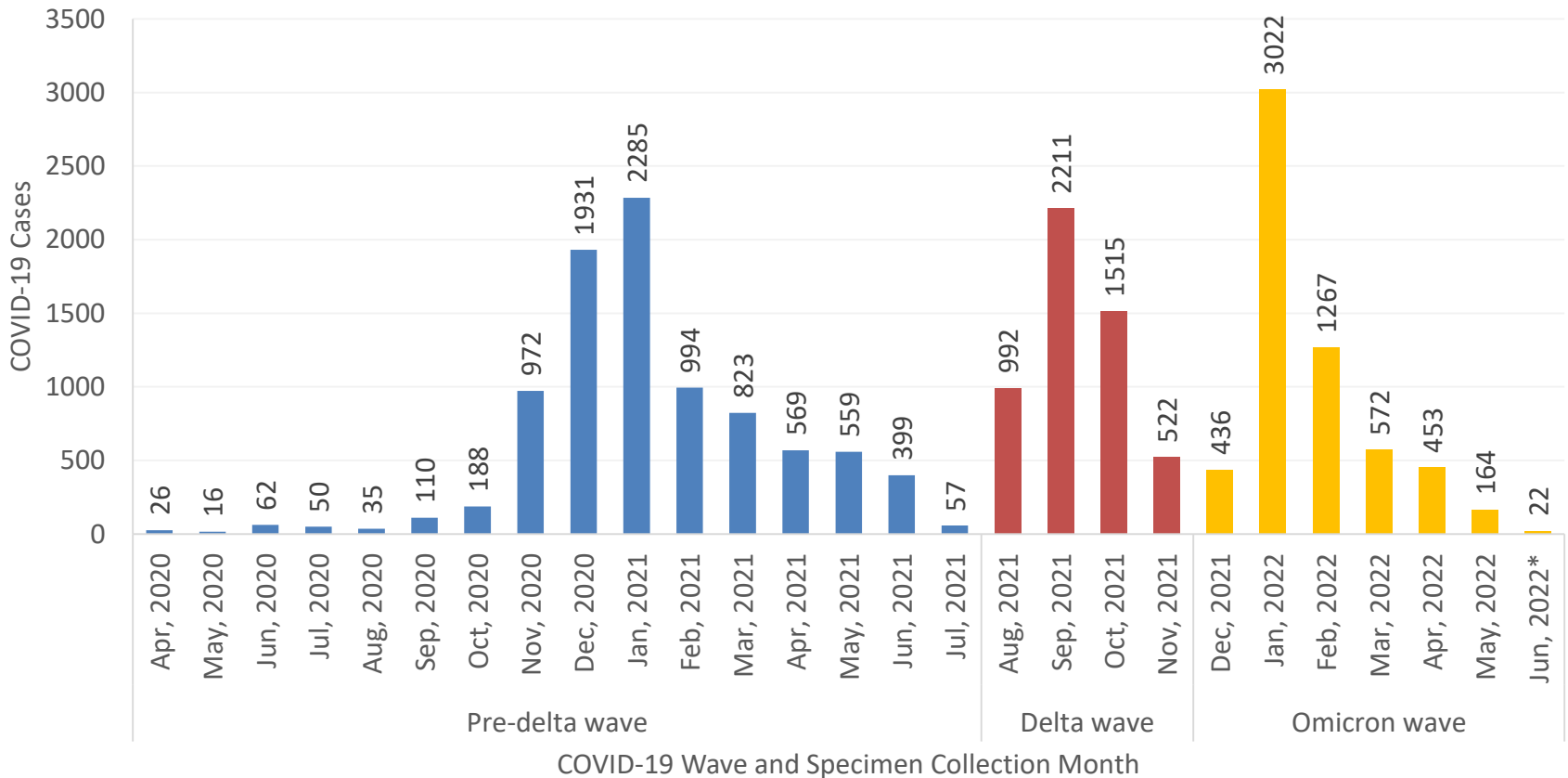


These do not include cases confirmed with only rapid antigen test in communities

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Month and Wave, April 20, 2022

Source: FNIHB COVID-19 ER System via Synergy in Action (June 08, 2022)

COVID-19 Cases in First Nations Communities in Alberta by Wave and Specimen Collection Month



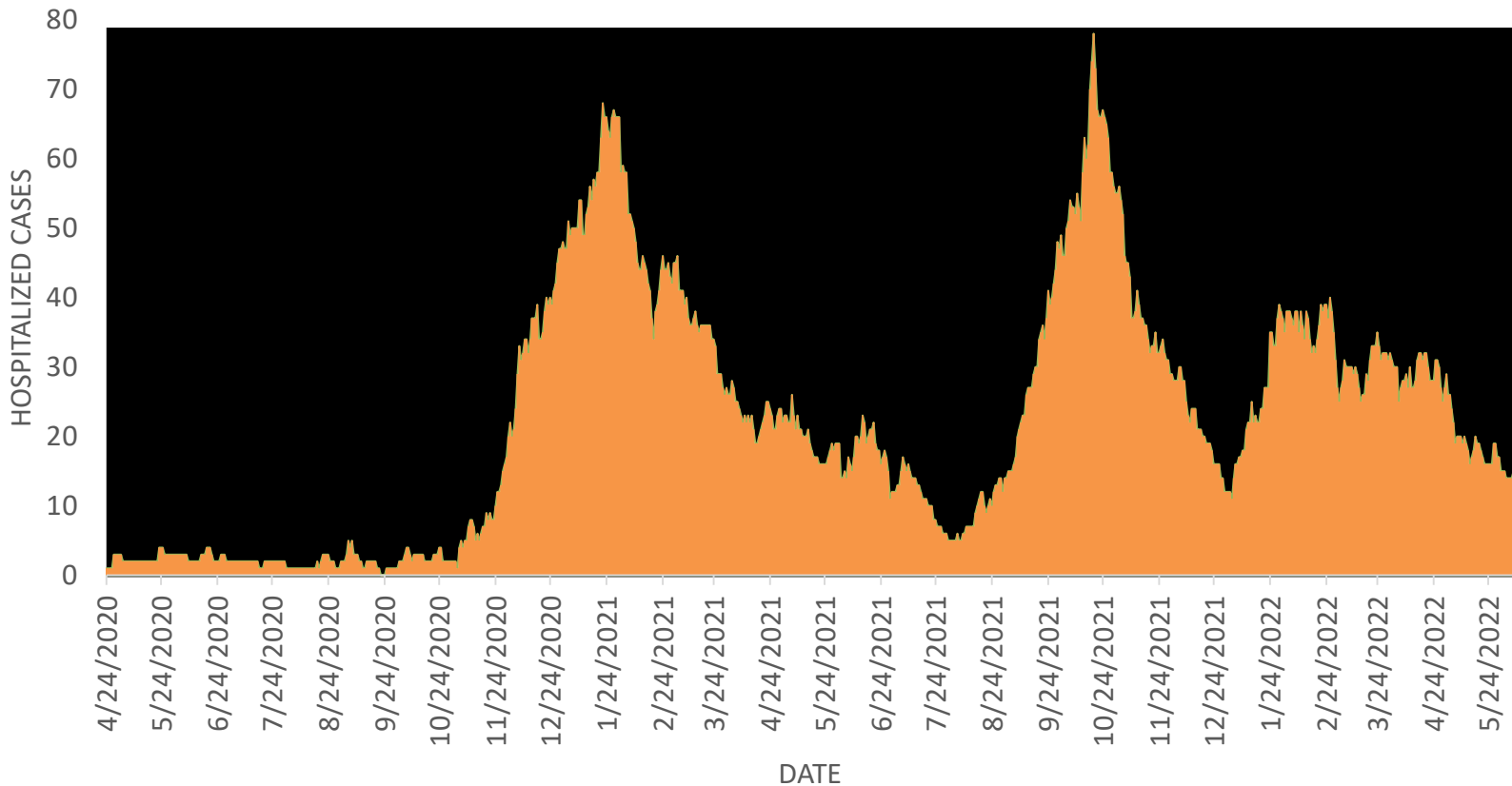
*Data may be incomplete

These do not include cases confirmed with only rapid antigen test in communities

Number of Current COVID-19 First Nations Patients in Hospital

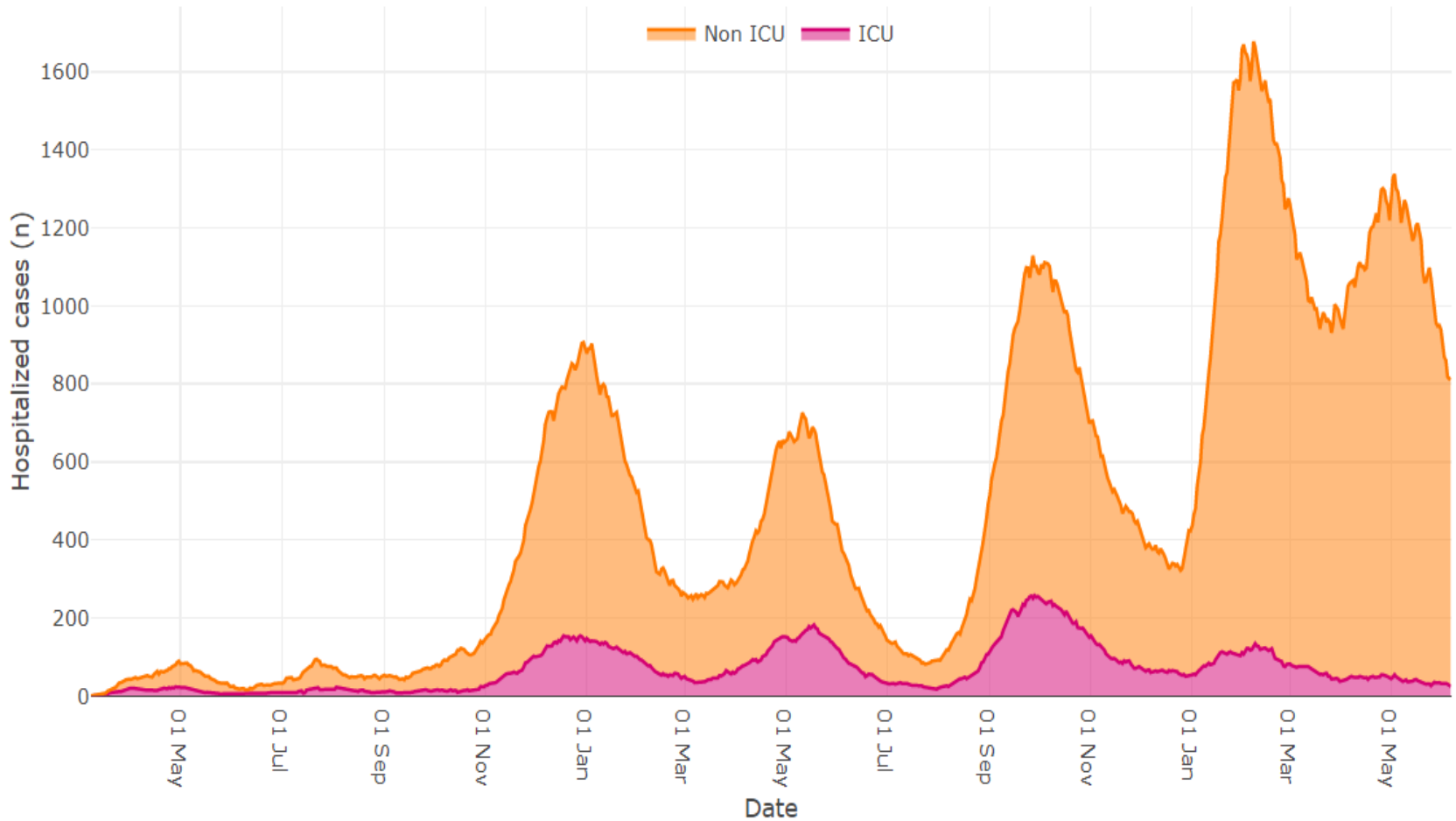
Source: FNIHB COVID-19 ER System via Synergy in Action (June 08, 2022)

Number of Current COVID-19 Cases from First Nations Communities in Hospital



Number of Current COVID-19 Patients in Hospital in Alberta

Source: <https://www.alberta.ca/stats/covid-19-alberta-statistics.htm> (June 08, 2022)

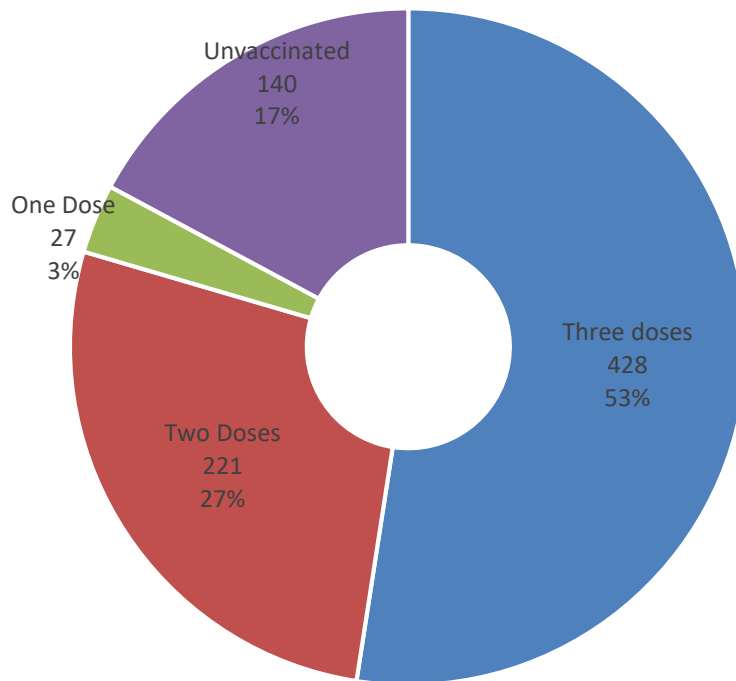


Current COVID-19 Hospitalized Cases by Vaccine Status

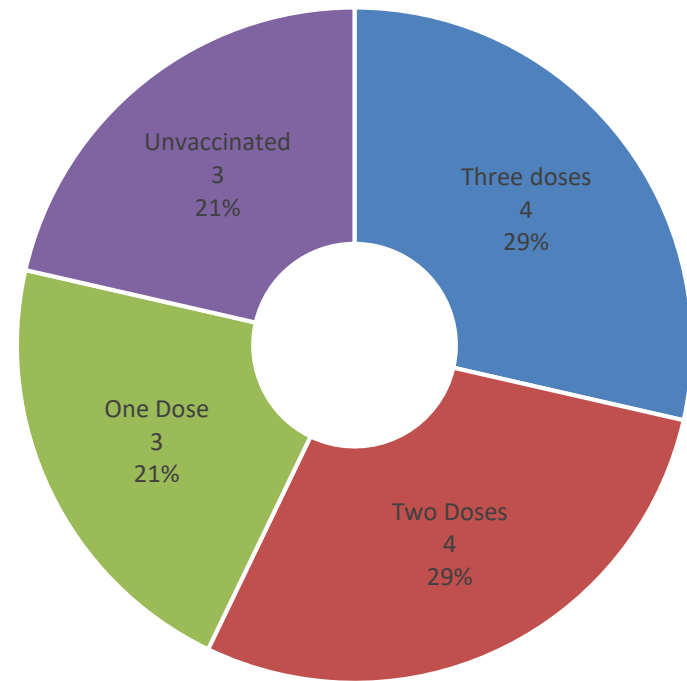
Source: FNIHB COVID-19 ER System via Synergy in Action (June 08, 2022)

<https://www.alberta.ca/stats/covid-19-alberta-statistics.htm> (June 08, 2022)

Covid-19 Cases Currently in Hospital in Alberta by Vaccine Status, June 06, 2022



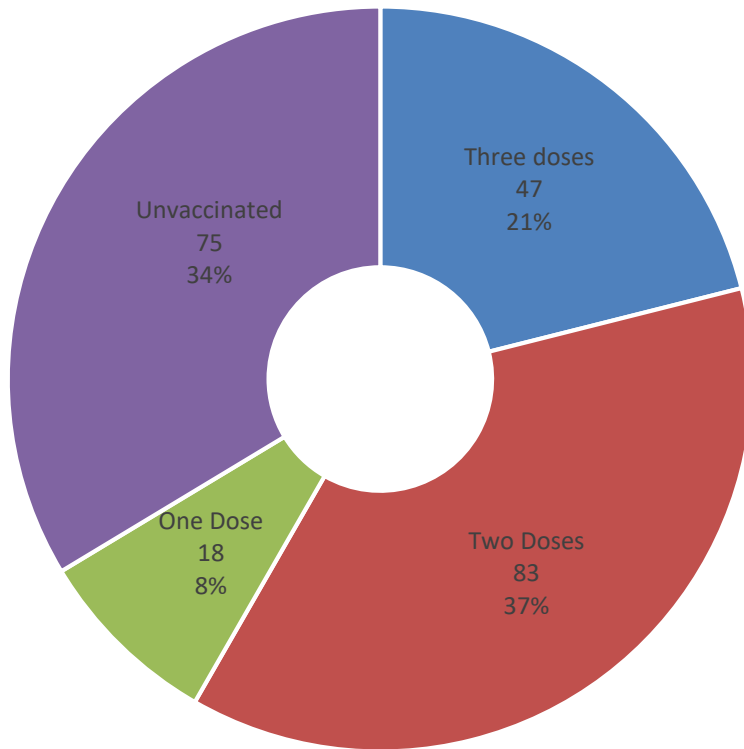
Current Covid-19 Hospitalizations in First Nations Communities by Vaccine Status, June 07, 2022



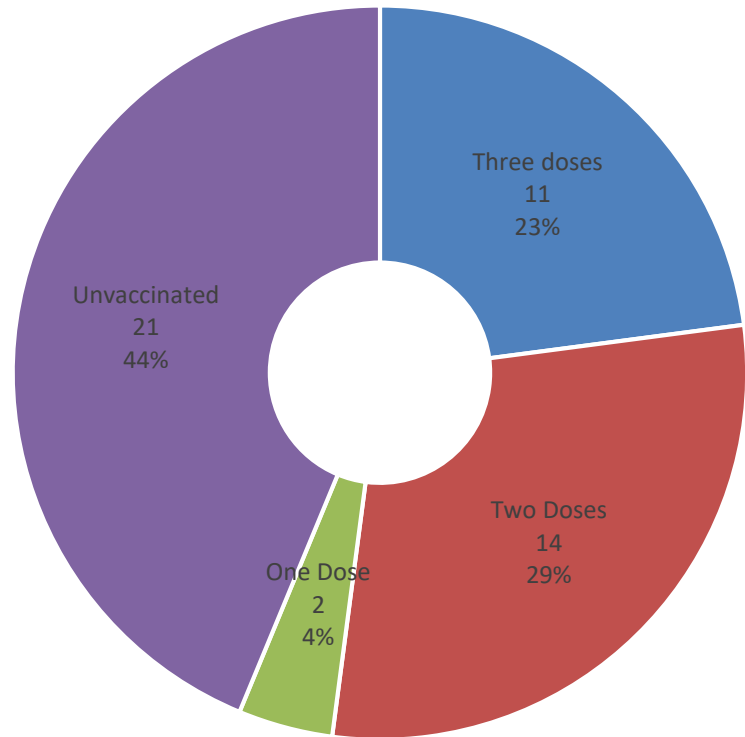
COVID-19 Hospitalized/ICU Cases by Vaccine Status

Source: FNIHB COVID-19 ER System via Synergy in Action (June 08, 2022)

COVID-19 hospitalizations in First Nations Communities by Vaccine Status, Dec 01, 2021 to Jun 07, 2022



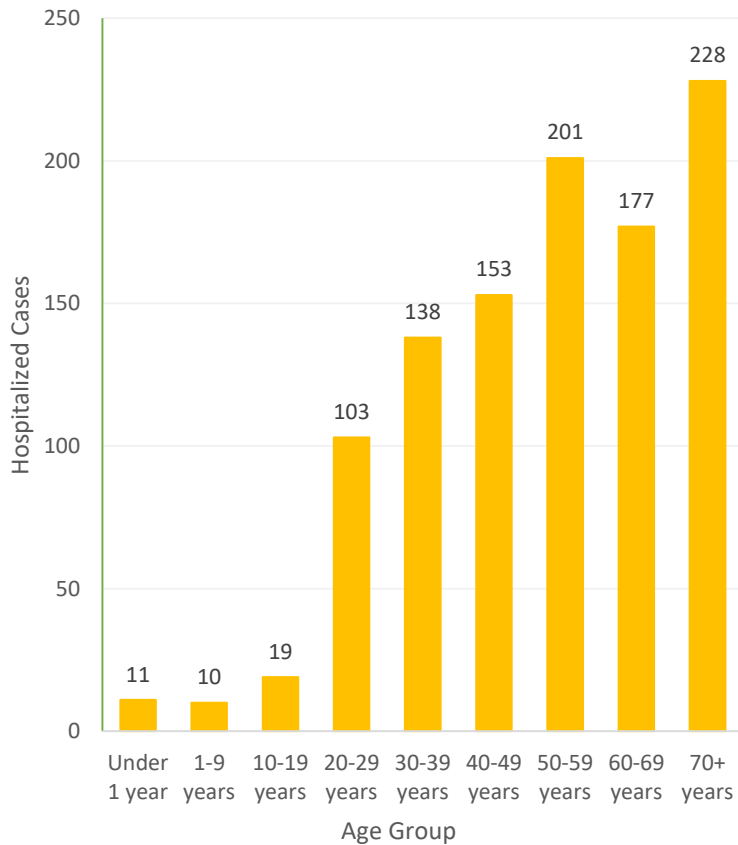
COVID-19 ICU Admissions in First Nations Communities by Vaccine Status, Dec 01, 2021 to Jun 07, 2022



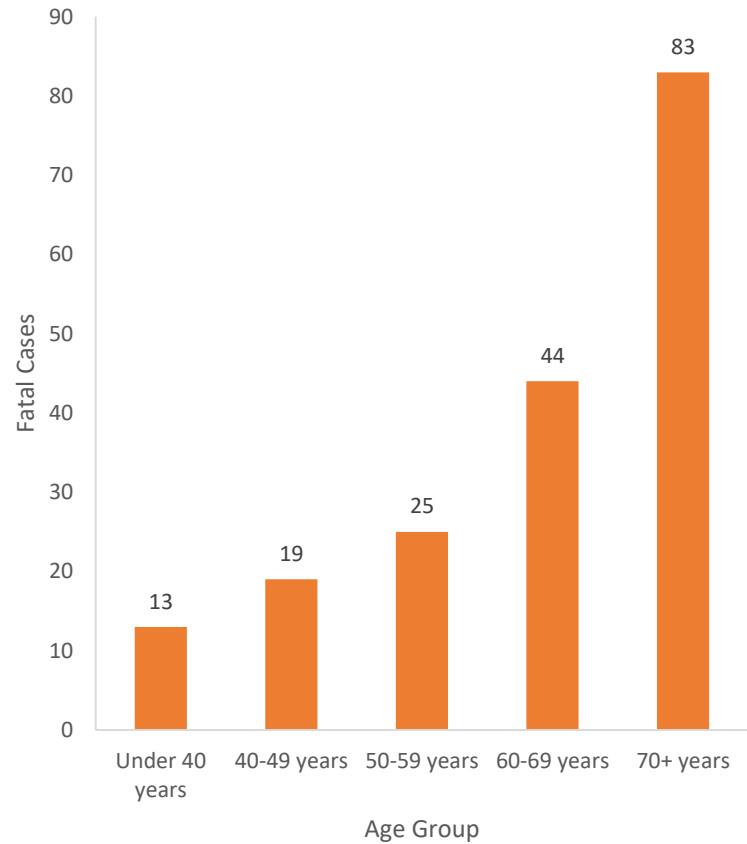
Hospitalized and Fatal COVID-19 Cases by Age Group

Source: FNIHB COVID-19 ER System via Synergy in Action (June 08, 2022)

Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations in First Nations Communities by Age Group



Total COVID-19 Deaths in First Nations Communities by Age Group



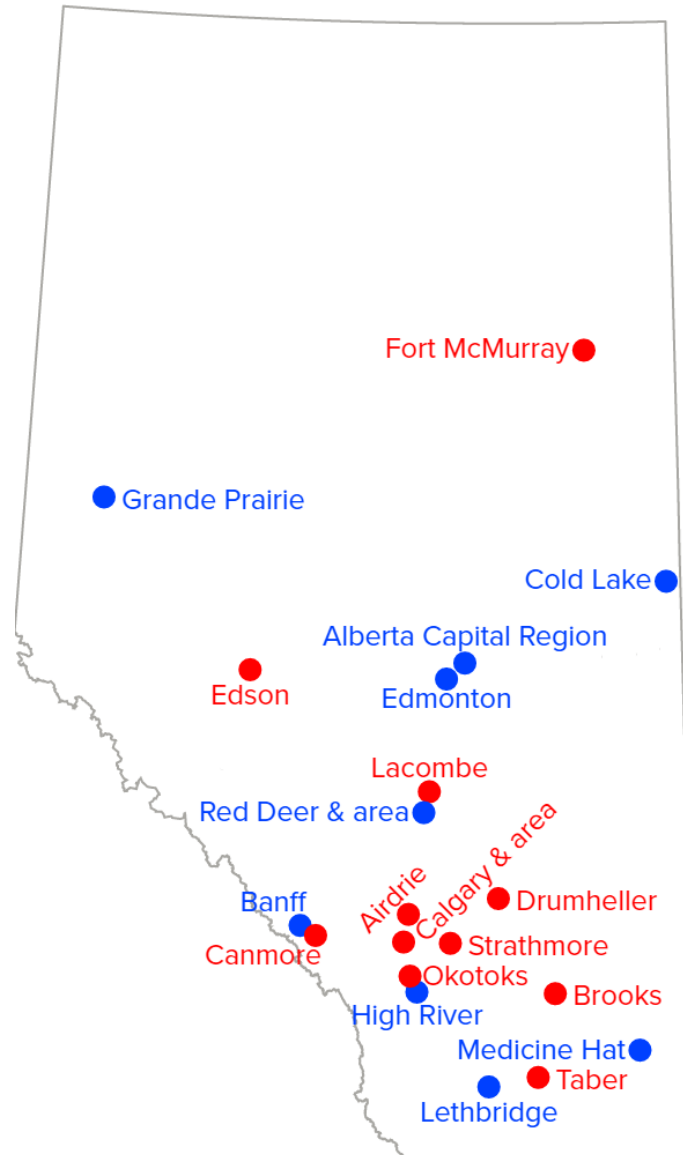
Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations in Alberta by Vaccine Status count and rate (per 100,000 population) in the past 120 days

Age group	3 doses & hospitalized (n)	3 doses & hospitalized (rate per 100K)	2 doses & hospitalized (n)	2 doses & hospitalized (rate per 100K)	Unvaccinated & hospitalized (n)	Unvaccinated & hospitalized (rate per 100K)
Under 5 years	0	0.00	0	0.00	353	131.82
5-11 years	0	0.00	9	6.75	65	31.31
12-29 years	58	25.44	333	54.84	185	142.11
30-39 years	144	60.24	371	105.34	181	181.90
40-49 years	118	45.32	250	93.45	130	200.19
50-59 years	259	86.67	320	170.78	216	420.26
60-69 years	528	159.35	476	428.18	373	1923.82
70-79 years	900	433.10	484	1204.25	380	5608.86
80+ years	1785	1638.32	522	2615.10	442	5372.25
5+ years	3792	226.48	2765	160.86	2325	395.38

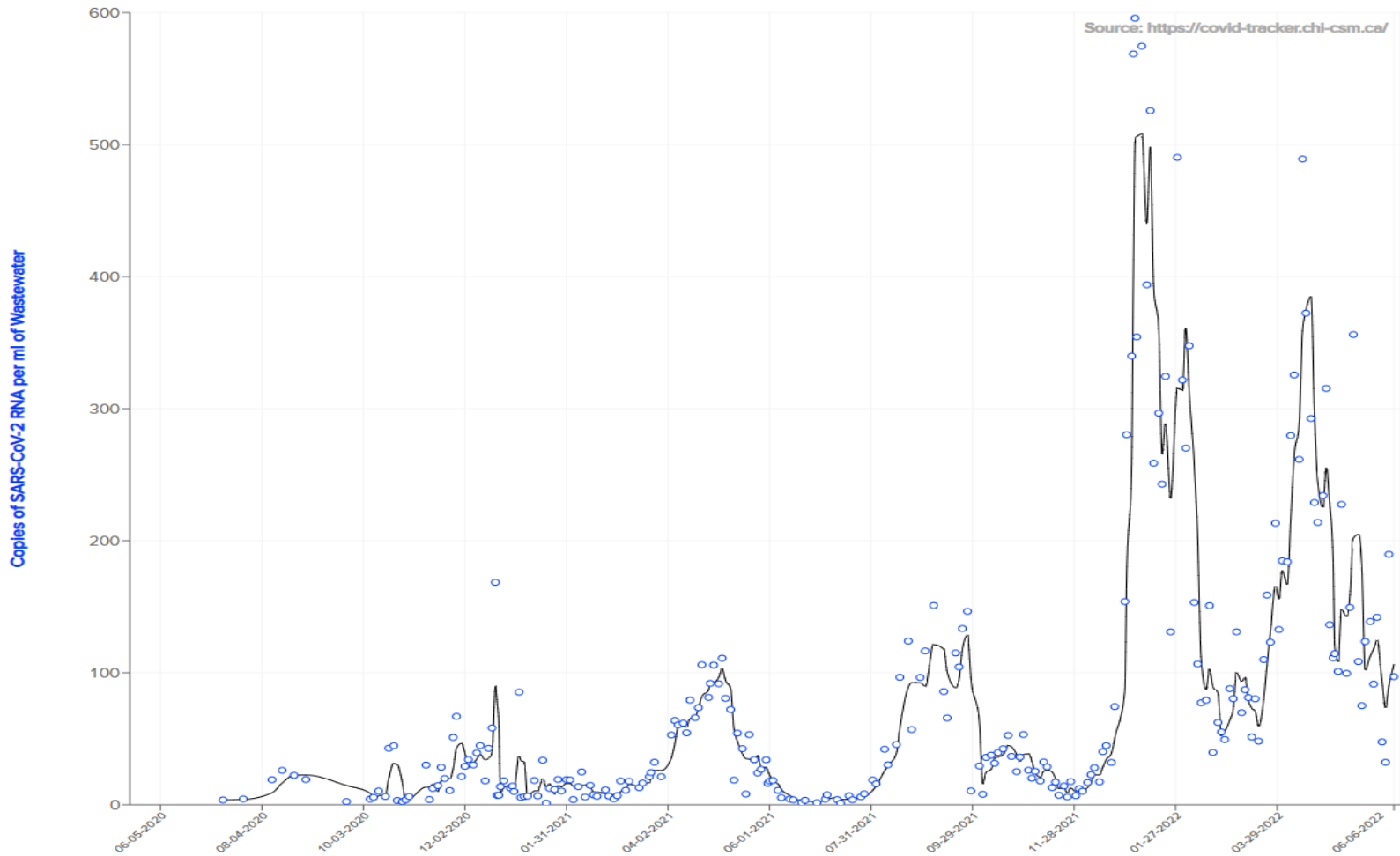
Wastewater Surveillance

- Wastewater can provide an early indication of infection trends in a community.
 - Infected individuals may pass the virus in their feces before they become symptomatic.
- Overall, levels of COVID-19 RNA in wastewater were stable or had decreased. There were slight increases (from the previous week) at a few sites, including Edmonton and Cold Lake.

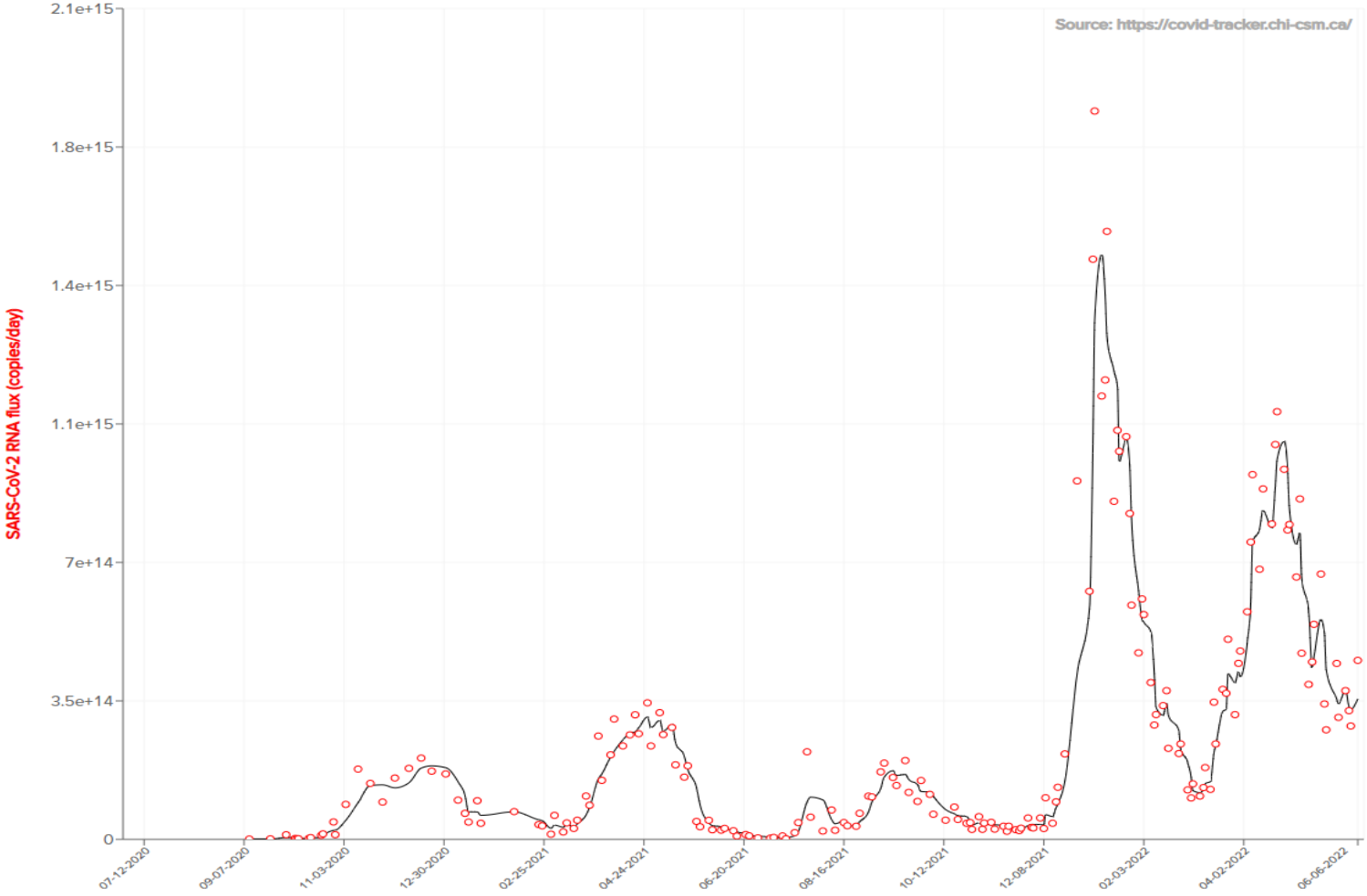
<https://covid-tracker.chi-csm.ca/>



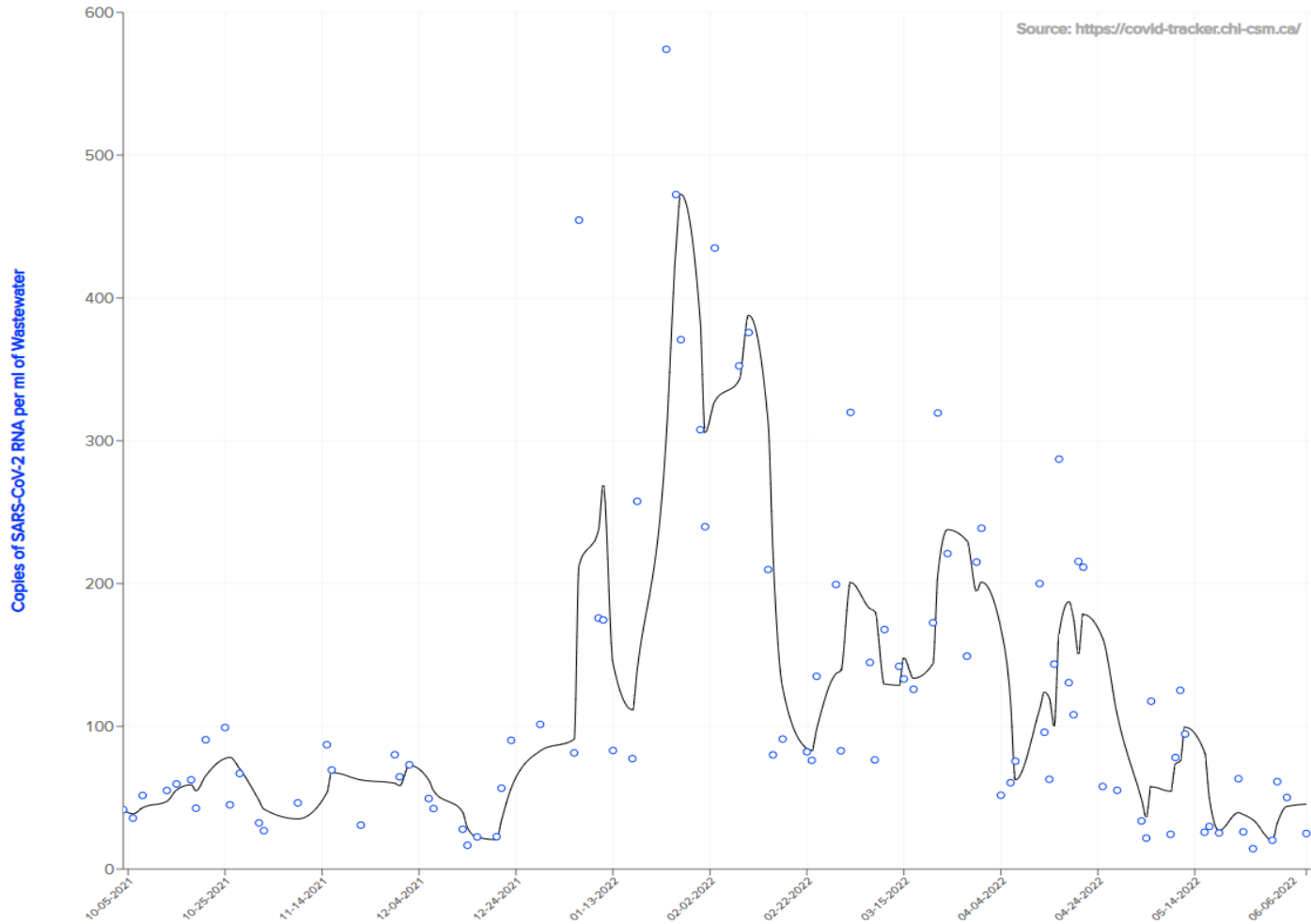
Wastewater Sampling Data - Edmonton



Wastewater Sampling Data - Calgary & Area



Wastewater Sampling Data - Cold Lake



Omicron Variant Sub-Lineages BA.4 and BA.5

- Two emerging subvariants of Omicron have been receiving attention internationally: BA.4 and BA.5.
- They were first detected in South Africa in January and February 2022, and since then have become the dominant variants there.
- They have been identified in several other countries around the world.
- Available evidence suggests these subvariants are more transmissible than earlier versions, which means they can spread more easily once they are in a community.
- At this time, neither of these subvariants appear to cause an increased risk of severe illness.
- As of June 6th, 14 cases of BA.4 and 6 cases of BA.5 have been identified in Alberta.

COVID-19 Treatment Update

Dr. Celeste Loewe

Deputy Medical Officer of Health



Outpatient Antiviral Treatment for COVID-19

- Medications currently available in Alberta: Paxlovid™ and Remdesivir
 - Decreased demand for Paxlovid™ in May (1766) vs. April (2198) across Alberta
 - >1100 prescriptions in first half of May vs. 640 in last half of May
- Accessed through family doctors or nurse practitioners
 - Those without one can call the dedicated Health Link line at 1-844-343-0971
- Testing requirement relaxed as positive rapid antigen tests are accepted

Outpatient Antiviral Treatment for COVID-19

- Expanded eligibility:

- most up-to-date information please visit: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17753.aspx>)

- While effective, these treatments are not a replacement for vaccination.

Treatment eligibility:

Age	0 to 1 dose	2 doses	3 doses
18+ with one or more pre-existing health conditions or pregnancy	✓	✗	✗
55+ or Indigenous 45+	✓	✗	✗
60+ or Indigenous 50+ with one or more pre-existing health conditions	✓	✓	✗
70+ or Indigenous 60+ with 2 or more pre-existing health conditions	✓	✓	✓
Immunocompromised	Regardless of Vaccine Status		
Living in long-term care or designated supportive living			

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Dr. Parminder Thiara

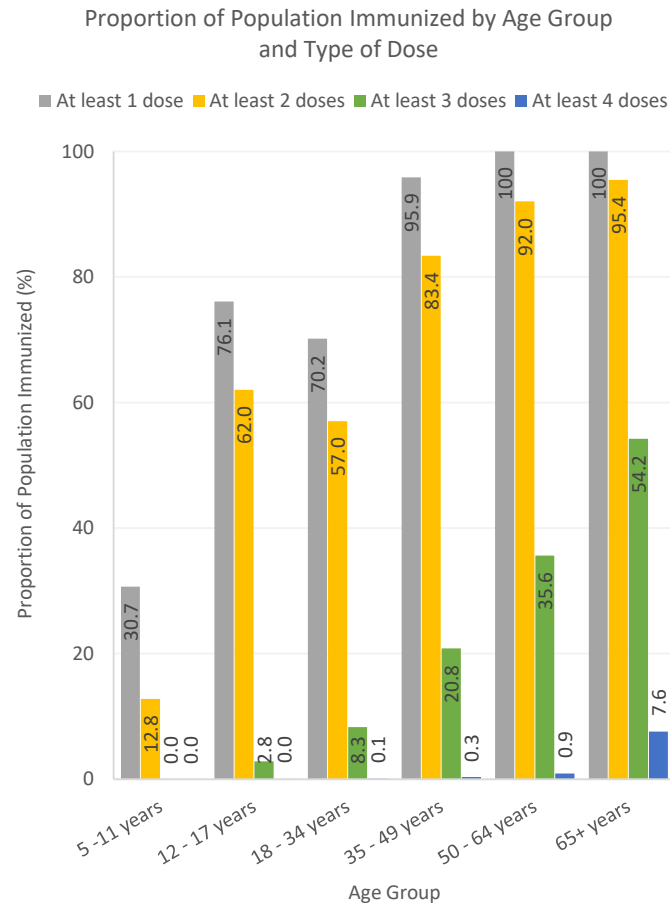
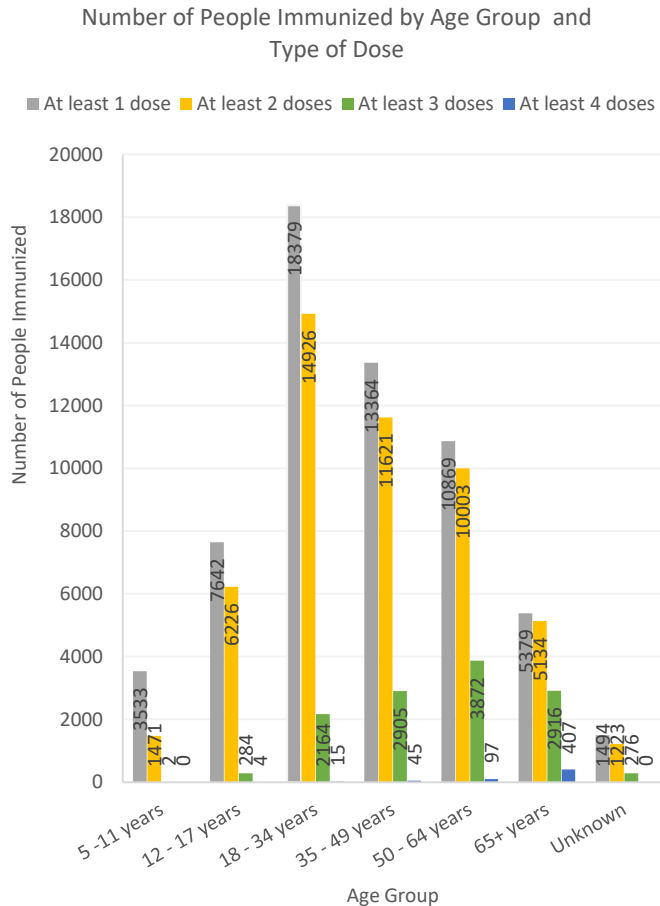
Deputy Medical Officer of Health

Director of Primary and Population Health



COVID Immunization Activity – On Reserve in Alberta

Source: Okaki Slice Analytics (June 08,2022)



Dose administered
123,686

Number of people who have received at least one dose
60,663

Number of people who have received at least two doses
50,604

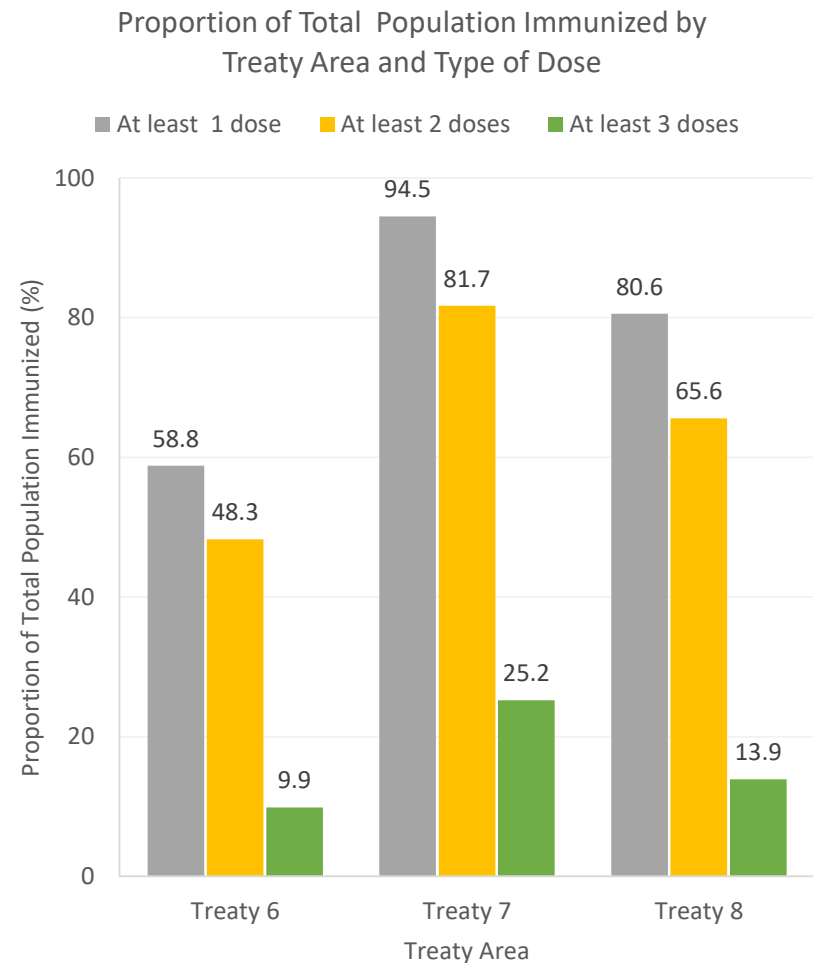
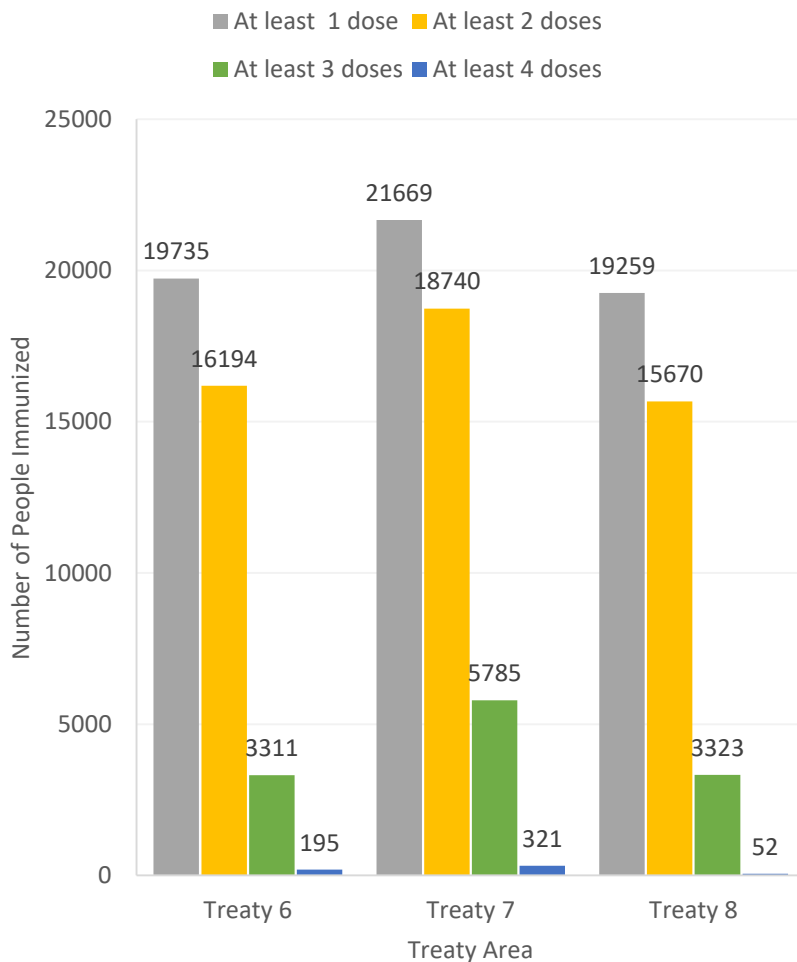
Number of people who have received at least three doses
12,419

Number of people who have received four doses
568

*Percentages are calculated using unadjusted ISC-IRS on-reserve and Crown land population as of December 31, 2020. If the proportion of population immunized in any age group exceeds 100% because of population data limitation, we keep the proportion at 100% by adjusting the population to be equal to the number of first doses administered in that age group

COVID Immunization Activity – On Reserve in Alberta

Source: Okaki Slice Analytics (June 08, 2022)

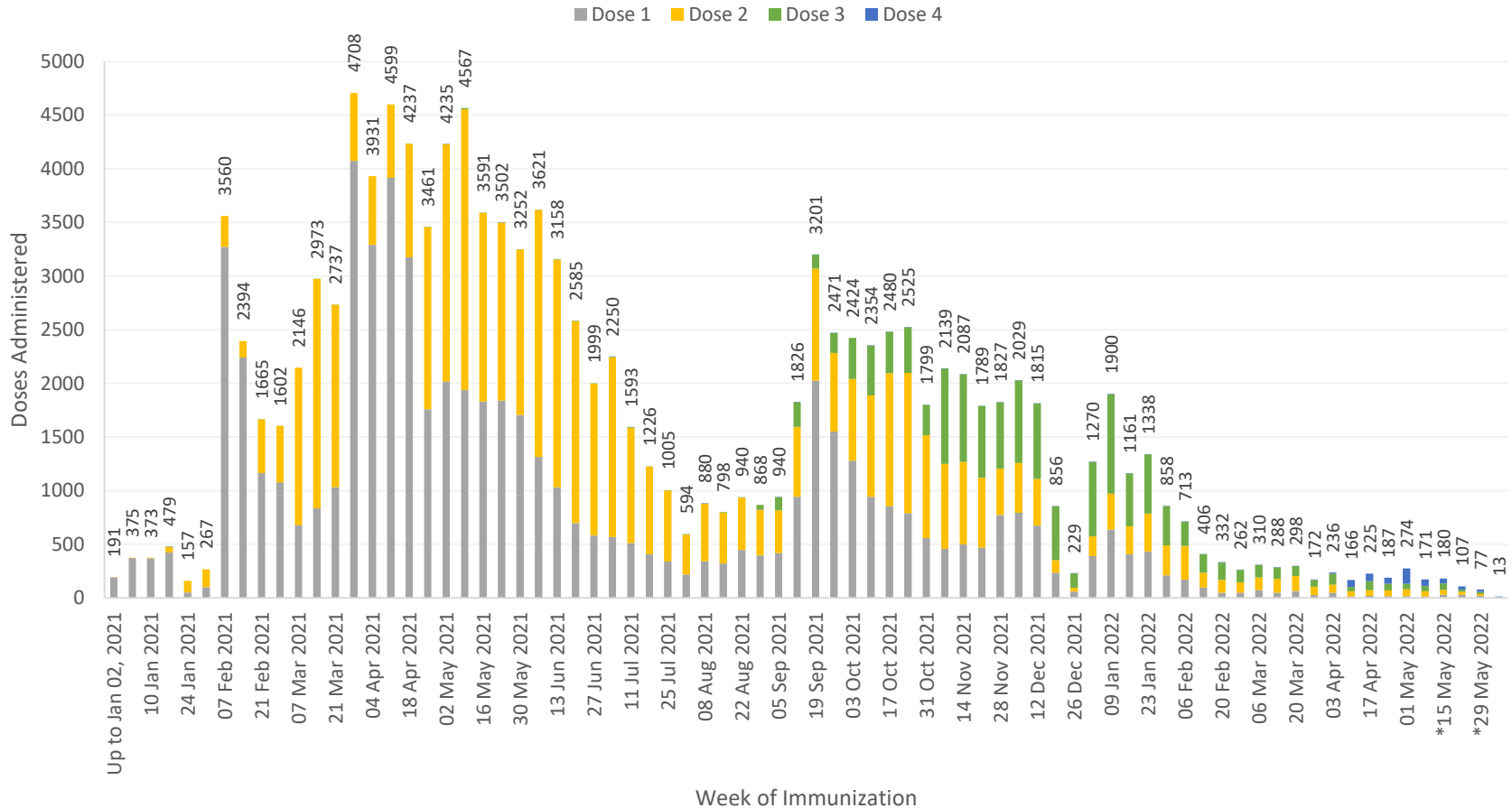


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COVID Immunization Activity – On Reserve in Alberta

Source: Okaki Slice Analytics (June 08, 2022)

COVID-19 Doses Administered by Week of Immunization and Type of Dose



*May be incomplete due to late reporting

Impact of COVID-19 on Vaccine and Immunization Rates

Dr. Dean Eurich

*Professor, School of Public Health
University of Alberta*



Impact of
COVID-19 on
vaccine and
immunization
rates for First
Nations
people in
Alberta

- Chris Sarin (PI)
- Dean Eurich (PI)
- Salim Samanani (co-App)
- Lynden Crowshoe (co-App)
- Larry Svenson (co-App)
- Lea Bill (co-App)
- Celine O'Brian (Principal Knowledge User)
- Parminder Thiara (Principal Knowledge User)

Background

- Like the H1N1 pandemic, COVID-19 has differentially impacted Indigenous communities with higher rates of infection and risk for complications.
- Exploring, documenting, and reporting best and wise practices is essential to promote COVID-19 vaccine uptake among Indigenous Peoples to further prevent and mitigate infections, and promote routine immunization for other infections beyond the current pandemic.
- Moreover, public health measures (e.g., physical distancing, reduced travel) implemented to curb COVID-19 infections may have inadvertently caused reluctance among individuals to access other immunization programming, like childhood vaccinations.

Objectives

- To analyze and report COVID-19 vaccination rates among FN people in Alberta
- To investigate how the pandemic has influenced overall immunization patterns (i.e., delays) for FN people in Alberta
- To explore, document and promote the sharing of tailored strategies and their potential influence on COVID-19 vaccine uptake among FN people in Alberta

Questions: VChelp@FNTN.ca

Methods

- Individual-level immunization data for COVID-19, other childhood vaccinations, and mass immunizations for adults (i.e., influenza) between April 2018 to March 2022 (24 months before and after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic) will be evaluated using CHIP.
 - Immunization rates by sex, age (pre-school, school, and adults (adults in 5-year bands or by age of eligibility)), distinction/community if of interest to the community, Treaty area (6, 7, 8), type of vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna, etc), and intervals between doses.

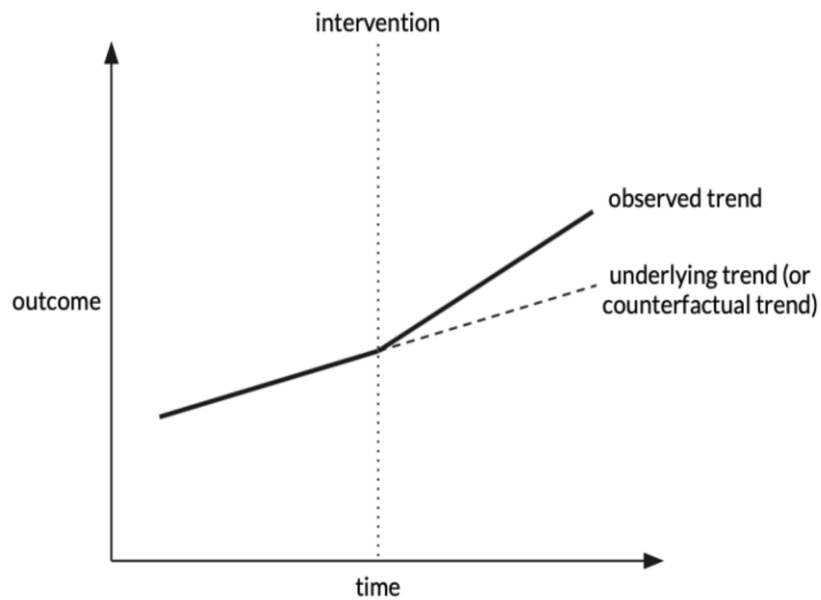
Questions: VChelp@FNTN.ca

Methods

- *BEST AND WISE COMMUNITY PRACTICES FOR VACCINATION*
 - We will invite all members of the relevant Indigenous stakeholder groups to participate in the compilation of best practices to promote COVID-19 vaccine uptake and routine immunization programming
 - Participants will be asked to describe and share their vaccination strategies and initiatives, including lessons learned and perceived impact, during formal and informal discussions
 - This data will then be further used to see what quantitative impact these initiatives had on vaccine uptake.

Questions: VChelp@FNTN.ca

Change in Vaccination Trends



Questions: VChelp@FNTN.ca

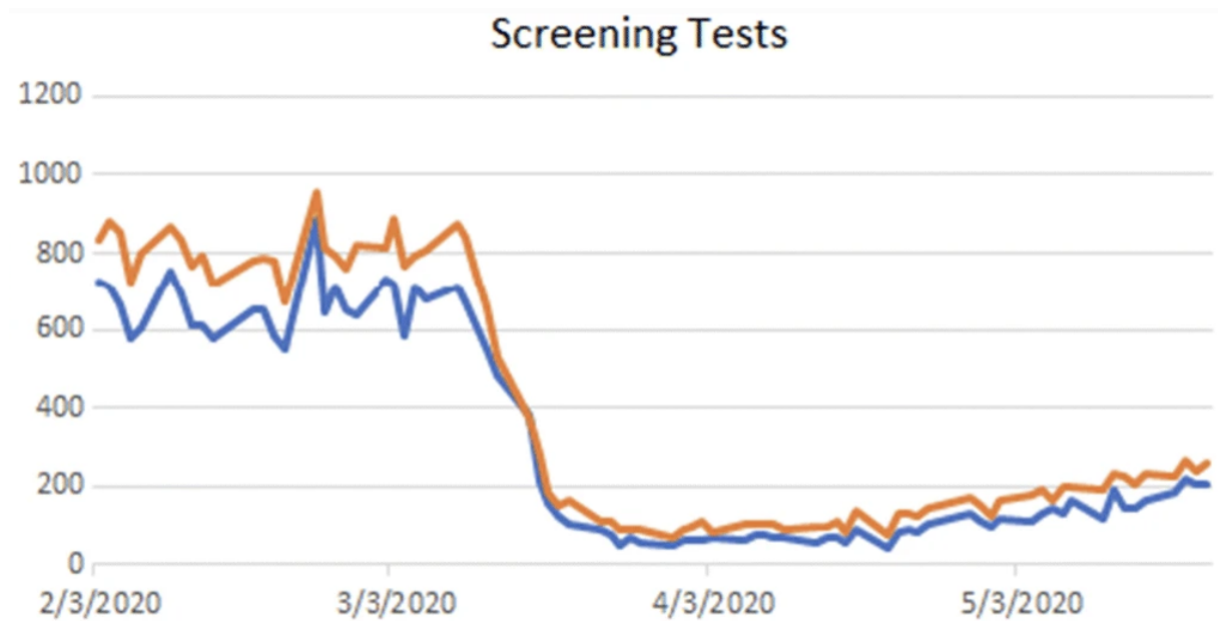
Ongoing Steps

- Funding in place from CIHR grant
- Ethics completed and approved
- Recruit interested communities
- Research agreements to be completed with each individual community interested in participating
- Once agreements finalized:
 - Data will be deidentified and shared with Dean Eurich for analysis
 - Individual community report will be generated describing the trends and any interventions that seemed to have a positive effect on vaccine uptake (if the community is interested)
 - Any other results will be aggregated at the treaty level and at the provincial level as a whole (no communities to be identified)

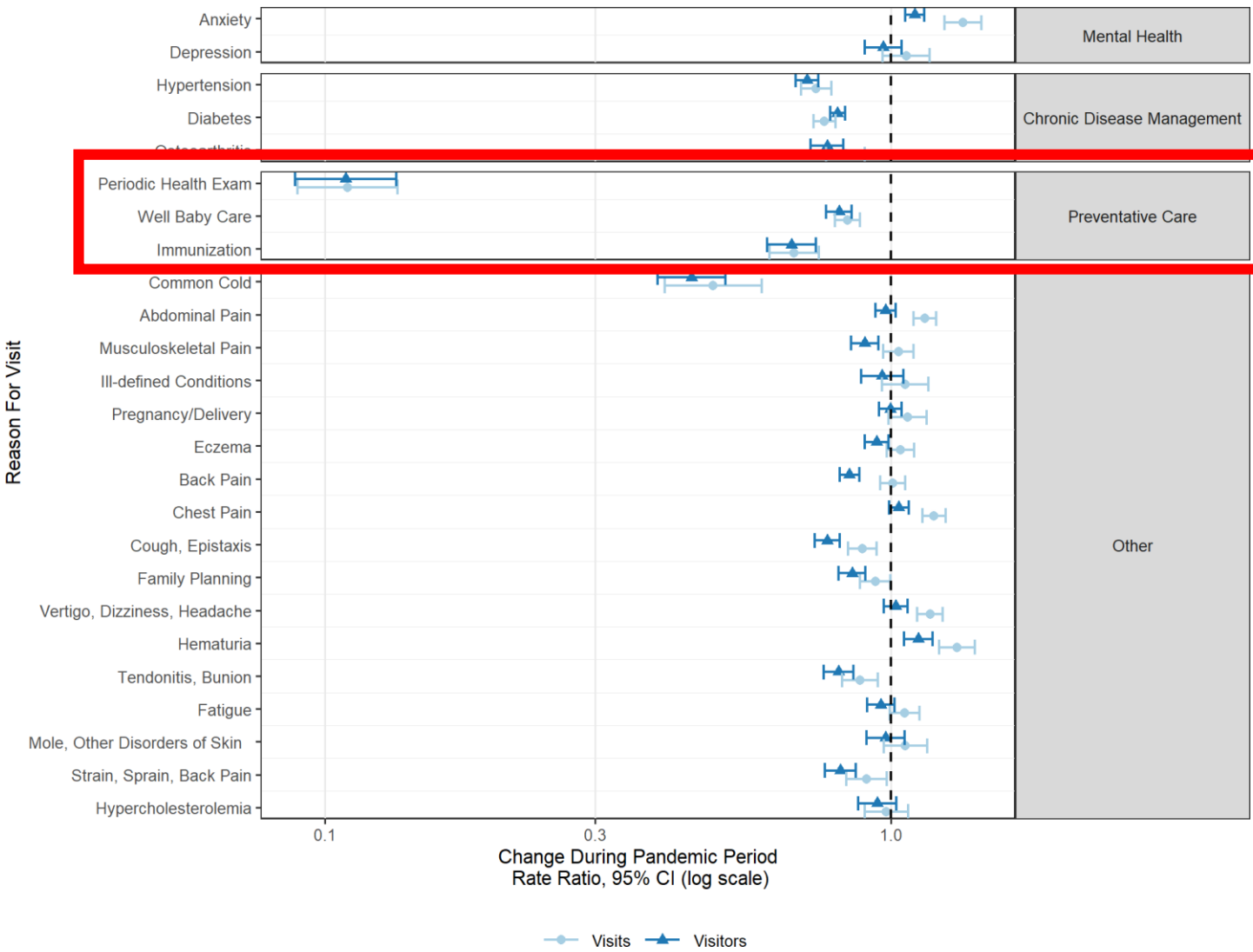
Potential Benefits

- Findings will provide distinctions-based evidence on the effects of and response to COVID-19, including real-time vaccination rates and the pandemic's influence on regular immunization programming
- Summary of culturally-safe strategies implemented to promote COVID-19 vaccination among FN people will provide important evidence for other communities and shape future program planning.
- Identify ongoing care gaps in routine vaccinations for children and adults (outside of COVID-19) which will assist in future program planning to 'catch-up' and close the gaps
- COMPLETE vaccination records – the grant will offset costs of vaccine record reconciliation between CHIP and provincial immunization databases (to be completed by Okaki); thus, CHIP will be fully populated with all vaccination records for community members.

The Invisible Epidemic: Neglected Chronic Disease Management During COVID-19



Journal of General Internal Medicine volume 35, pages 2816–2817 (2020)



[Changes in the top 25 reasons for primary care visits during the COVID-19 pandemic in a high-COVID region of Canada | PLOS ONE](#)

Substantial Impact on non-COVID19 vaccinations expected

- Preliminary data for the first four months of 2020 points to a substantial drop in the number of children completing three doses of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP3). This is the first time in 28 years that the world could see a reduction in DTP3 coverage – the marker for immunization coverage within and across countries (source the WHO).
- USA/England - The steep decline in vaccination rates was notable for both non-influenza childhood (42%) and measles containing vaccine (50%).... a decline (53%) in the mean number of daily immunization clinic visits during the lockdown compared to 6 months before COVID-19

Are we catching back up or is the gap persisting...

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Immunization Campaigns and Programs: A Systematic Review. [Int J Environ Res Public Health](#). 2021 Feb; 18(3): 988.



Questions?

VCHELP@FNTN.CA



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Acknowledgements

Dr. Dean Eurich, Professor, School of Public Health, U of A

Dr. Chris Sarin, Senior Medical Officer of Health – FNIHB

Dr. Parminder Thiara, Deputy Medical Officer of Health – FNIHB

Dr. Celeste Loewe, Deputy Medical Officer of Health - FNIHB

Ibrahim Agyemang, Senior Epidemiologist – FNIHB

TSAG Telehealth Team (Michelle Hoeber, Brooke Hames and team)

FNIHB Technical Team