



# Board of Health Director's Report

Debra L. Bogen, MD  
January 11, 2023





# Presentation Outline

- COVID-19 update and vaccine data
- Flu and RSV updates
- Syphilis update
- Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)
- Recent reports
- Air Quality Program update

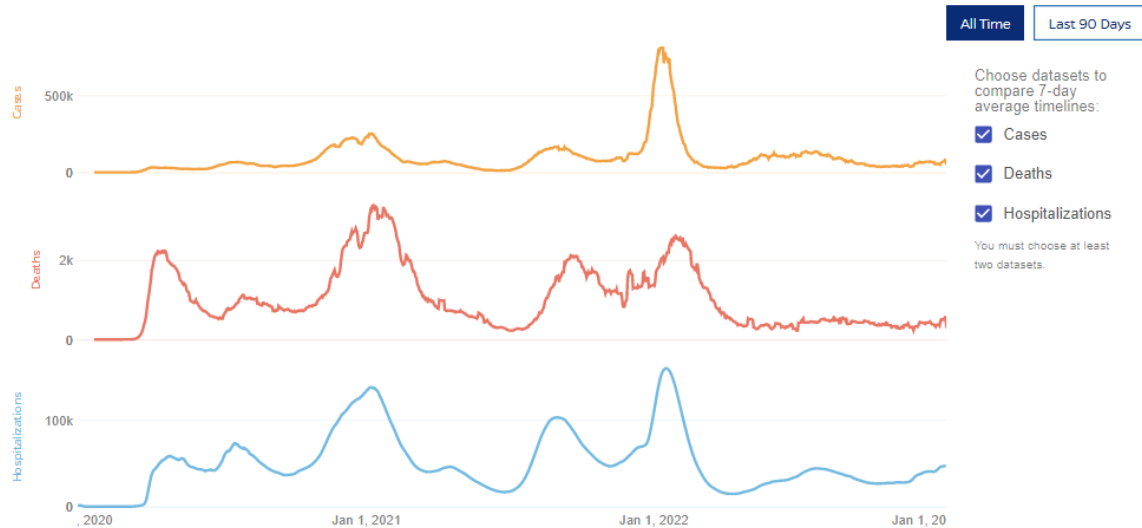
## National COVID-19 Cases

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/united-states>

Explore the most vital information about how COVID-19 has affected your state since the pandemic first officially arrived in the United States in January 2020 – cases, deaths, test positivity, hospitalizations, and vaccinations.

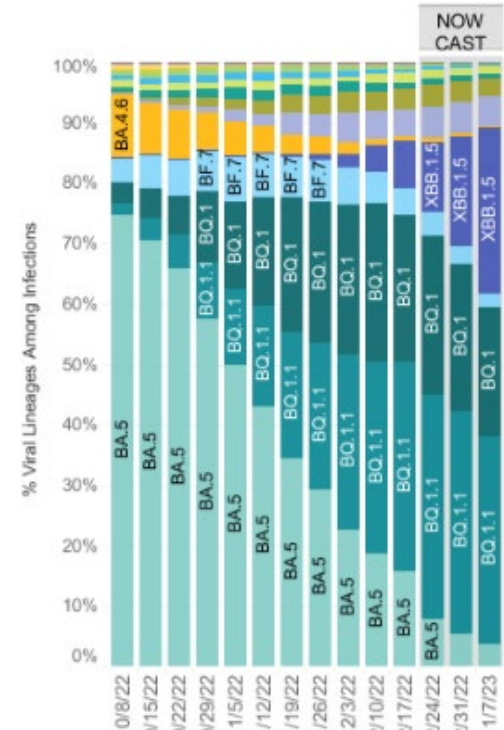
Comparisons Cases Deaths Hospitalizations

### Timeline Comparisons



Data Sources: Cases and deaths data from JHU CSSE; testing and vaccine data from JHU CCI; and hospitalization data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### United States: 10/2/2022 – 1/7/2023

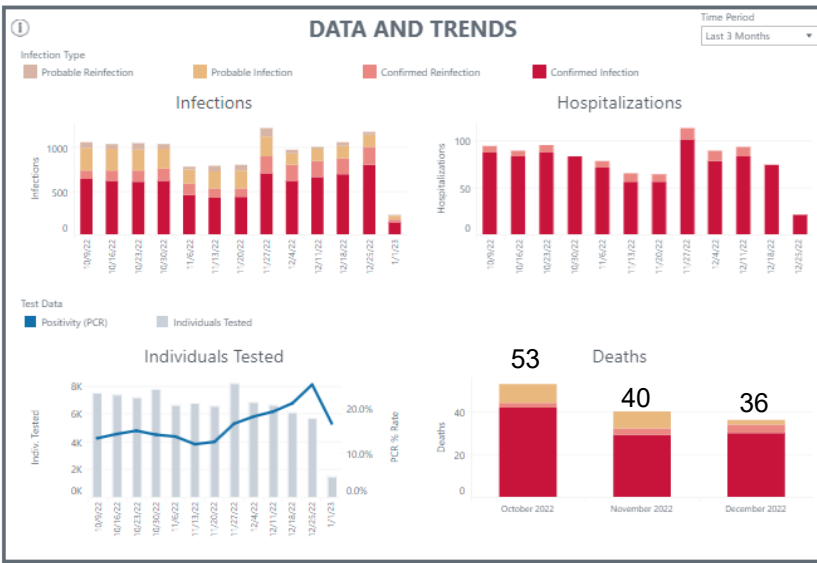


<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>



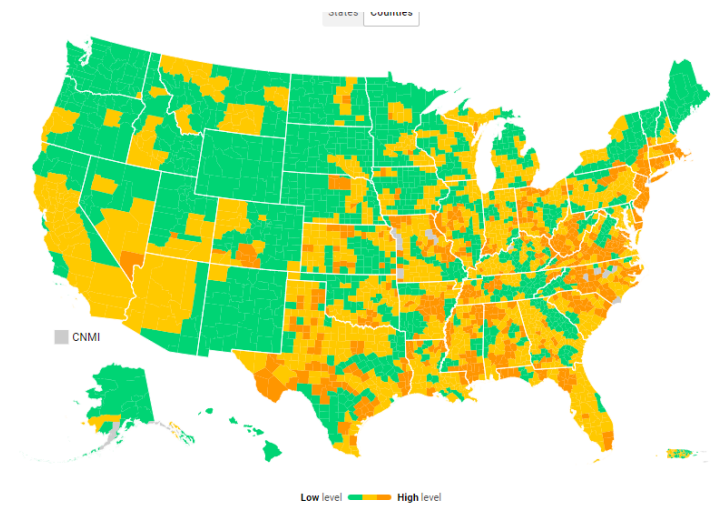
| OVERALL                       |                                       |                                   |                                    |                         |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Infections:</b><br>332,325 | <b>Individuals Tested:</b><br>991,971 | <b>Positivity (PCR):</b><br>12.0% | <b>Hospitalizations:</b><br>16,674 | <b>Deaths:</b><br>3,605 |

| 7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE      |                                   |                                   |                               |                     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Infections:</b><br>156 | <b>Individuals Tested:</b><br>806 | <b>Positivity (PCR):</b><br>25.3% | <b>Hospitalizations:</b><br>8 | <b>Deaths:</b><br>1 |



**Last Updated:**  
1/10/2023 10:05:08 AM

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-19-Dashboards.aspx>



<https://covidactnow.org/?s=44703216>



## COVID-19 County Check

Find community levels and prevention steps by county. Data updated weekly.

Select a Location (all fields required)

Pennsylvania ▼ Allegheny County

< Start Over

● **Medium**

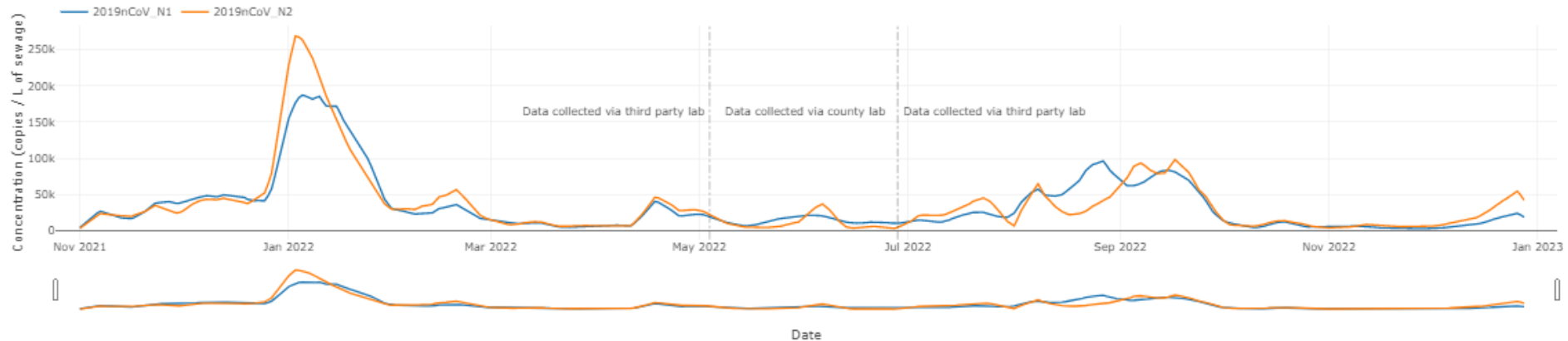
In Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, community level is **Medium**.

[COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)



# COVID-19 wastewater surveillance

## Adjusted virus levels



[COVID-19 Dashboards  
\(alleghenycounty.us\)](https://alleghenycounty.us)

| From 12/20/2022 to 12/28/2022 |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Viral marker N1 trend         | Viral marker N2 trend |
| 1% daily increase             | 2% daily increase     |



## Allegheny County Vaccination Rates

- Vaccination rates increase with older age (fully and bivalent)
- Bivalent vaccine update low
- Racial disparity in vaccination rates continue

| Race                   | Fully Vaccinated Rate % | Bivalent Booster Rate % |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 69.1                    | 12.3                    |
| Black                  | 49.2                    | 8.8                     |
| Native American        | 58.5                    | 8.6                     |
| White                  | 61.7                    | 16.5                    |
| Age Group              |                         |                         |
| 0-4                    | 11.0                    | --                      |
| 5-9                    | 45.9                    | 5.6                     |
| 10-19                  | 56.7                    | 7.6                     |
| 20-29                  | 67.7                    | 6.9                     |
| 30-39                  | 75.3                    | 12.9                    |
| 40-49                  | 73.2                    | 15.4                    |
| 50-59                  | 74.0                    | 17.3                    |
| 60-69                  | 87.5                    | 32.3                    |
| 70+                    | 89.3                    | 43.5                    |



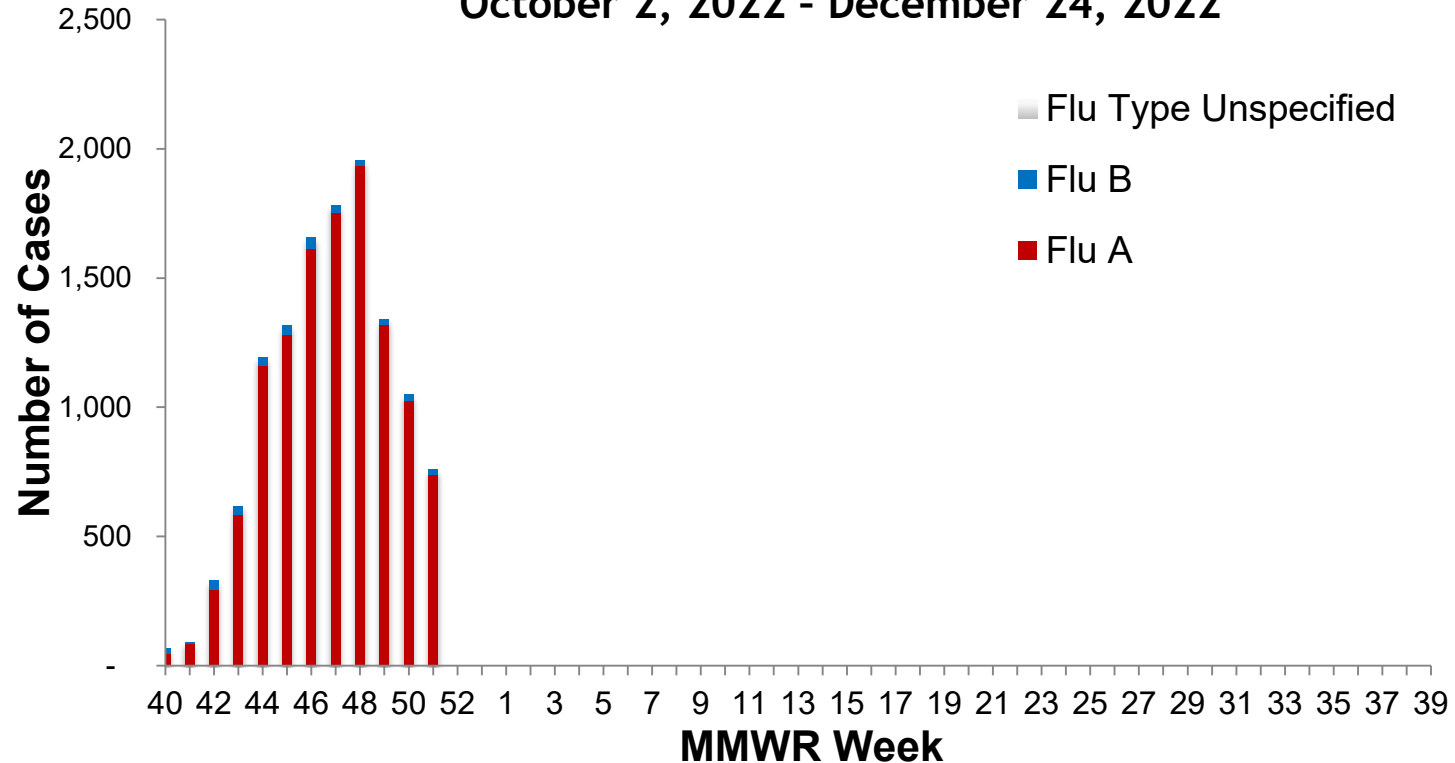
## Why should people get a bivalent booster vaccination?

- [MMWR Report 12/16/22](#) bivalent booster vaccine effectiveness (VE) against COVID-19-associated hospitalization (9-11/2022) - Immunocompetent 65+
  - 84% VE bivalent booster vs. unvaccinated
  - 73% VE bivalent booster vs.  $\geq 2$  monovalent-only mRNA vaccine doses
- [MMWR Report 12/16/22](#) bivalent vaccine effectiveness for ED, urgent care and hospitalizations (9-11/2022) - Immunocompetent 18+
  - VE for 50% for ED/urgent care and 45% for hospitalization if last booster 11 or more months ago

Bivalent booster dose provides protection against COVID-19-associated hospitalization, urgent care and ED use (above monovalent). Especially important for seniors.



## Lab-Confirmed\* Cases of Influenza in Allegheny County by Flu Type October 2, 2022 - December 24, 2022



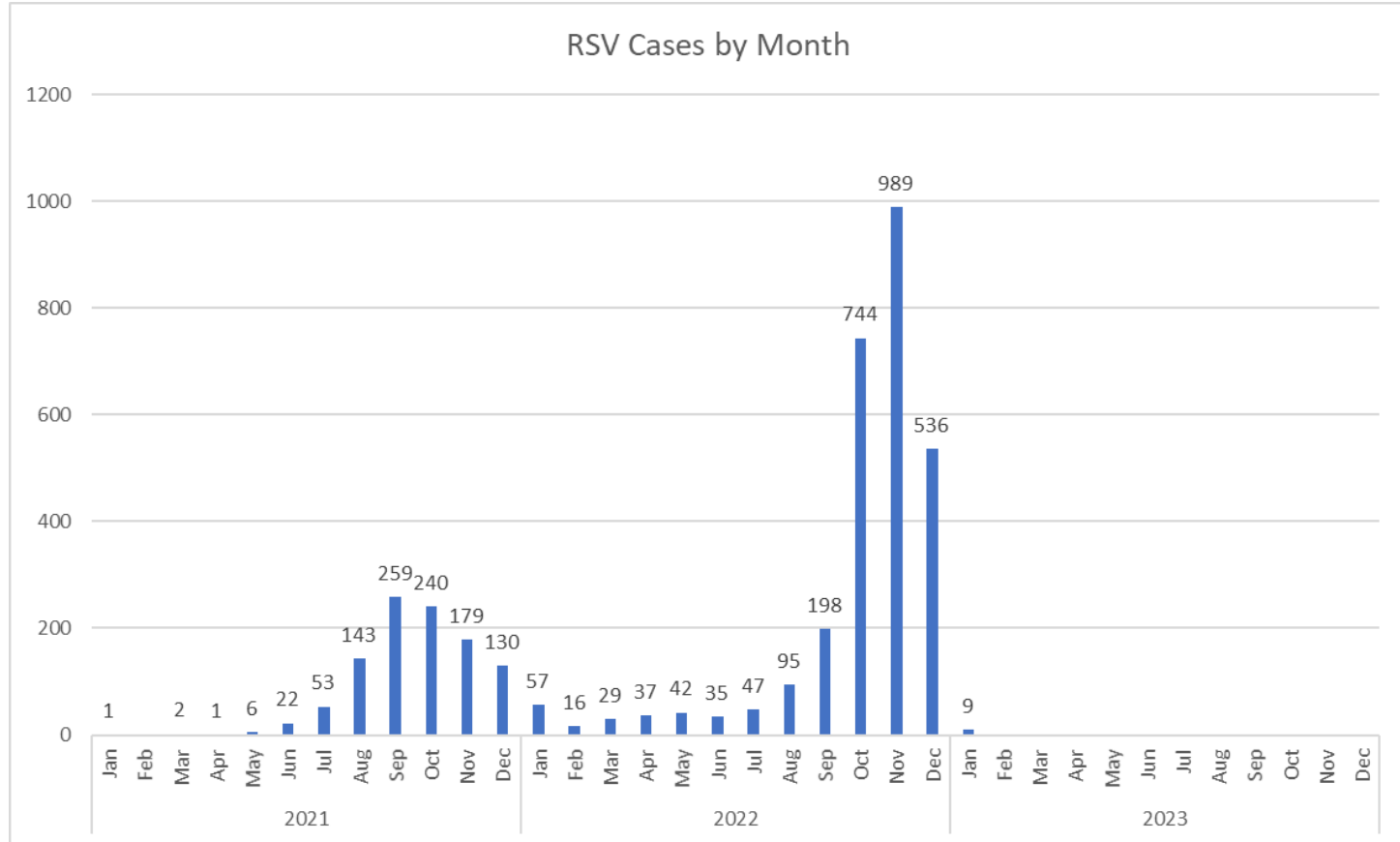
\*Lab-confirmed is a positive antigen, culture, or PCR test  
Source: PA-NEDSS





## Current flu season vs. Past flu seasons\*

|  | 2019-20<br>Flu Season<br>reported by<br>Dec 21, 2019 | 2020-21<br>Flu Season<br>reported by<br>Dec 19, 2020 | 2021-22<br>Flu Season<br>reported by<br>Dec 25, 2021 | 2022-23<br>Flu Season<br>reported by<br>Dec 24, 2022 |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Number cumulative<br>Cases**   | 3,141  | 35   | 1,212  | 12,257   |
| Number cumulative<br>Hospitalizations                                    | 17   | 1  | 7  | 46   |
| Number cumulative<br>Deaths  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| * Data reflect cases reported to PA-NEDSS                                |  |  |  |  |
| ** Case defined as testing positive via an antigen, culture, or PCR test |  |  |  |  |





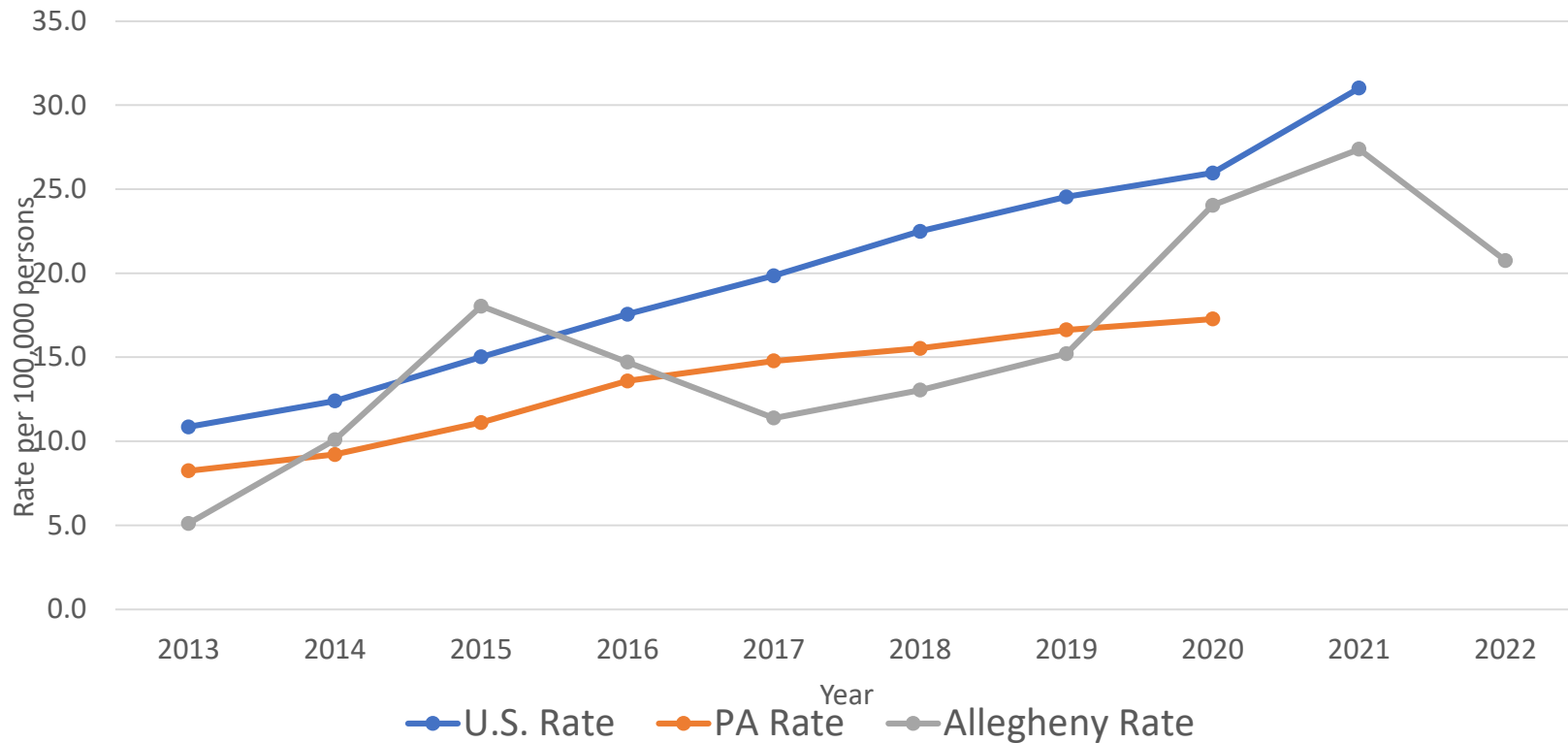
## PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### 2022 - PAHAN -669-11-2-22-ADV

## Historic Increases in Reported Congenital Syphilis

- Jan-Oct 2022, 11 cases of congenital syphilis (excludes Phila)
  - Projected 14 cases by end 2022
  - Highest number since 1990
- Leading factor for increase: recent surge in early syphilis cases in females: 86% cases in females ages 15-44 years (highest since 1990)

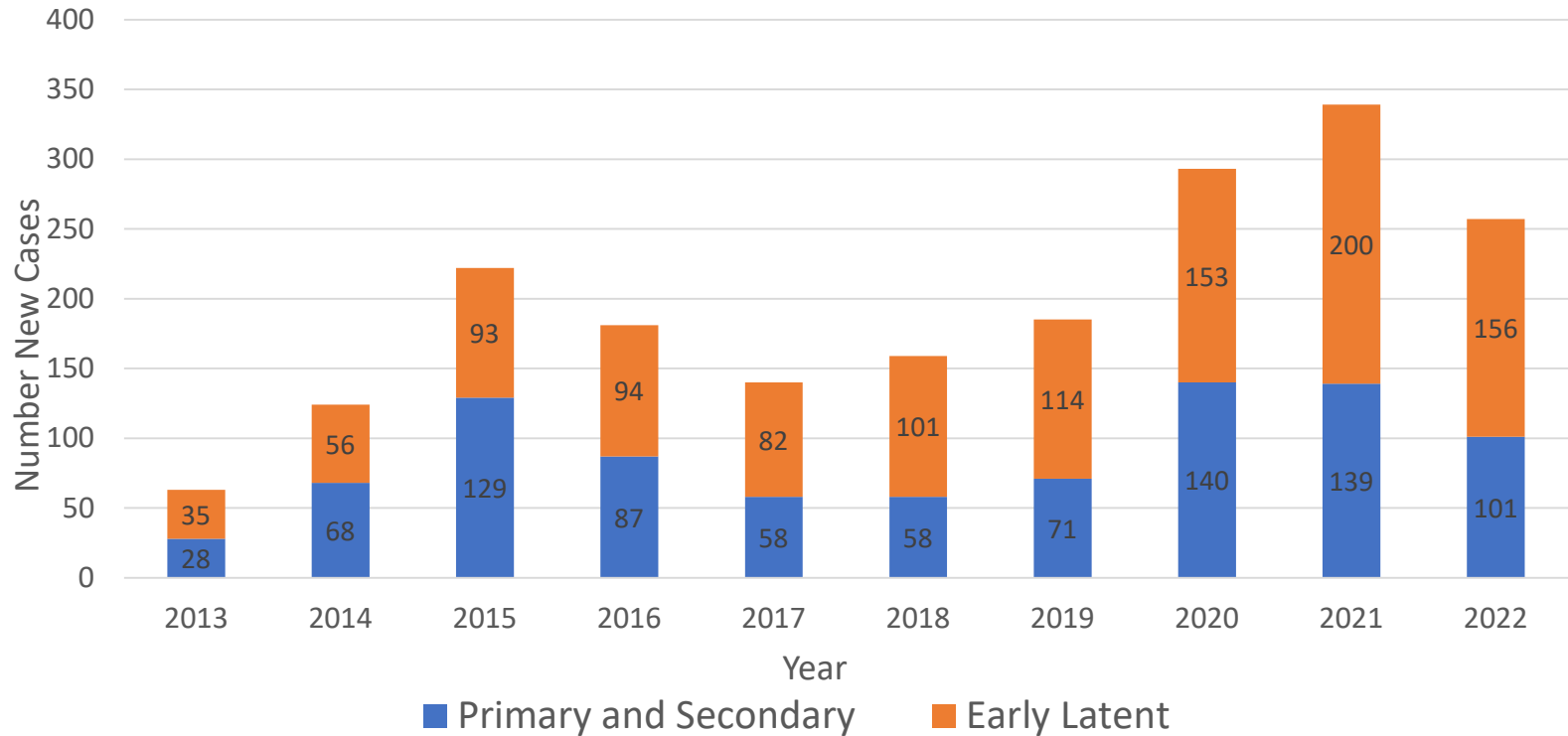
## Early Syphilis Rates, U.S., PA, Allegheny County, 2013-2022



Early syphilis includes primary, secondary and early latent syphilis

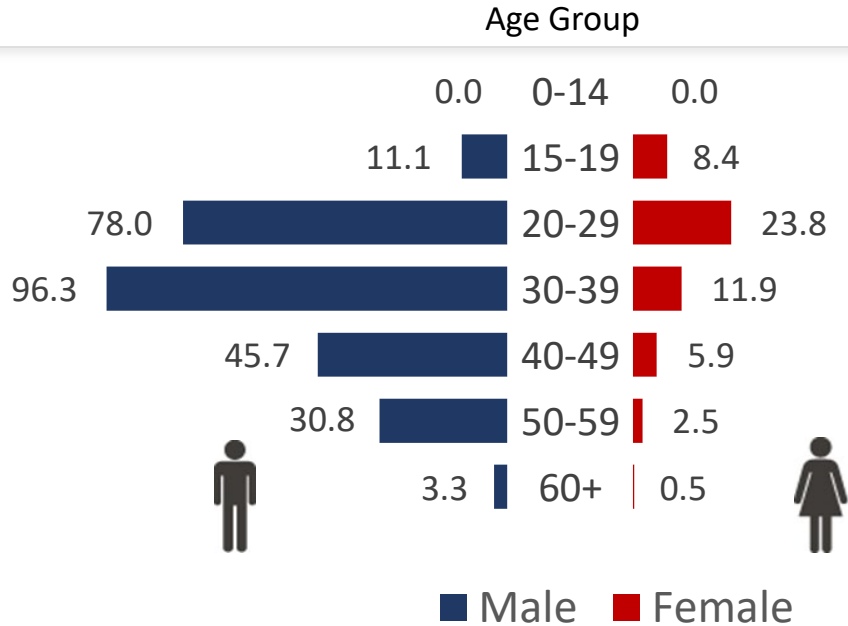
\*Preliminary Data in Allegheny County for 2022 cases, Data for PA in 2021 not available

# Early Syphilis Cases, Allegheny County, 2013-2022



\*Preliminary Data

# Early Syphilis Incidence Rate by Sex and Age Group, 2022 (Preliminary Data)



*\* Incidence rate per 100,000 population*

**\*Last congenital syphilis case reported in 2019**



## Recommendations to test for syphilis

- All pregnant females should be offered test for syphilis at first prenatal visit, third trimester of pregnancy and at delivery of child or stillborn child
- All with recent positive test for another STD (test for syphilis and HIV)
- All individuals presenting with any of following symptoms or conditions
  - macular and/or papular rash on palms or soles; generalized rash on back, chest, stomach; lesion in genital, rectal, or oral area; others
- For full list of symptoms and treatment recommendations, see
  - [2022 - PAHAN -669-11-2-22-ADV](#)
- CDC Resource: [CDC Syphilis Information](#)

# PHAB reaccreditation process

- Reaccreditation application submitted
- Anticipate release later this week
  - Community Health Assessment (CHA)
  - Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)







# Notable recent activities

## Report & website updates:

- [2021 Summary of Animal Bites in Allegheny County Report](#) (12/12/22)
- [2012-2019 Interpregnancy Interval \(IPI\) Report](#) (12/2/22)
- [2012-2021 TB Surveillance Summary Report](#) (11/14/22)
- [2020 Hepatitis C Epidemiological Profile](#) (11/4/2022)
- [2019 Allegheny County Natality Report](#) (10/26/22)

## Effective January 1, 2023 (newly online)

- Food Safety - published new Article III and simplified fee schedule
- Air Quality - published new Asbestos and Abrasive Blasting fee schedule

## Air quality data

Fine Particulate Pollution Annual Standard:  
Monitor Design Values (3-Year Averages) in micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )

|                | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022* |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Liberty        | 16.0 | 15.0 | 14.8 | 13.4 | 13.0 | 12.6 | 12.8 | 13.0 | 12.6 | 12.4 | 11.1 | 11.2 | 10.9  |
| Avalon         | -    | 14.7 | 13.4 | 11.4 | 10.6 | 10.6 | 10.4 | 10.2 | 9.7  | 9.8  | 9.4  | 9.4  | 9.0   |
| North Braddock | 13.4 | 12.7 | 12.5 | 11.7 | 11.4 | 11.2 | 11.0 | 10.8 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 9.7  | 9.9  | 9.7   |
| Harrison       | 13.0 | 12.4 | 11.7 | 10.6 | 10.0 | 9.8  | 9.8  | 9.8  | 9.6  | 9.3  | 8.4  | 8.1  | 7.6   |
| Lawrenceville  | 12.2 | 11.6 | 11.1 | 10.3 | 10.0 | 9.7  | 9.5  | 9.2  | 9.1  | 9.1  | 8.5  | 8.8  | 8.6   |
| Clairton       | 12.4 | 11.5 | 10.9 | 9.8  | 9.5  | 9.9  | 9.8  | 9.8  | 9.3  | 8.8  | 8.0  | 8.1  | 8.1   |
| South Fayette  | 11.0 | 11.0 | 10.5 | 9.6  | 9.0  | 8.8  | 8.5  | 8.4  | 8.3  | 8.1  | 7.4  | 7.3  | 7.1   |
| Parkway East   | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 10.6 | 10.5 | 10.6 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 9.5   |

**Annual Fine Particulate Standard: 12.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**

\*Partial year data for 2022

- 12 monitoring sites across County; 8 for PM2.5
- PM2.5 decreased **32%** at Liberty monitor since 2010 (among largest decreases anywhere in country)
- ACHD modeling predicted Liberty monitor would meet NAAQS for PM2.5 end 2021 - met end 2020!
- **11/29/2022** ACHD submitted Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for PM2.5 to EPA



# Upcoming Presentation

Geoff Rabinowitz, DPA

Deputy Director

Bureau of Environmental Health





# Allegheny County Health Department Air Quality Program – Annual Update

Geoff Rabinowitz, DPA  
Deputy Director of Environmental Health  
January 11, 2023





## Overall Program

- Organized overall program structure
  - Monitoring
  - Planning and Data Analysis
  - Permitting
  - Enforcement
- Total FTEs (positions): 60
  - Current Vacancies: 13
- Overall Program Budget
  - Operations: ~\$6,556,403
  - Pass Through Grants: \$9,427,900 (Targeted Air Shed Grants)
- Regulated Entities Portal (REP)



## Monitoring

- Update and modernize monitoring capabilities
  - New continuous PM2.5 monitors at Clairton & N Braddock stations
  - New meteorology sensors deployed
  - Switch to True NO2 monitors at all NOx stations
  - Low-cost sensor testing for community monitoring
- Cross-train staff to do both Quality Assurance and Source Testing



## Planning and Data Analysis

- Regulatory Updates
  - 10 State Implementation Plans (SIPs) finalized
  - Coke Ovens and Coke Oven Gas Rule Revision
  - PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan
- All monitoring data and emissions data submitted to EPA on time
  - Expected attainment of all criteria pollutants through 2022
- Special Studies: Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) Analyses for Mon Valley
- Applied for two EPA Targeted Airshed Grants
  - Pittsburgh Regional Transit Electric Bus and Infrastructure: ~ \$10 Mil
  - Mon Valley / Turtle Creek Valley and Steel Rivers Council of Governments Vehicle and Equipment Replacement: ~\$10 Mil
    - Includes electric firetruck to small landscaping equipment



## Permitting

- Issued 7 major (Title V) permits - including USS Clairton and ALCOSAN
- Issued/Amended other permits: 147
- Developed permitting SOPs
- Developed new application forms for Regulated Entities Portal
- Updated Permitting Fee Structure
- Addressing permit backlog continues
  - Minor/Synthetic Minor Facilities: 24.5% (2021 was 40.2%)
  - Title V: 20.7% (2021 was 20.0%)





## Enforcement

- Total Inspection: ~2,900
- Responded to ~900 Complaints
- 31 Enforcement Actions taken
  - 8 resulting in Assessed Penalties of \$5,049,650
- 39 Enforcement Actions in progress



## Opportunities/Challenges

- Continue to educate public on complicated processes that program must navigate
- Improve fiscal processes and long-term budget outlook
- Frequency of Mon Valley Episodes for PM2.5
- Staffing



## Major Program Goals for 2023

- Implement metric tracking and improve budget planning
- Begin to evaluate and implement climate resiliency goals associated with the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2023-27
- Continue to modernize monitoring capabilities
- SIP Revisions
  - SO2 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan
  - Clean Air Fund Regulation
- Assess Mon Valley PM2.5 Episodes and associated rule
- Planning for probable updated PM2.5 NAAQS



## Major Program Goals for 2023 Cont'd

- Fully launch Regulated Entities Portal and other software solutions
- Reduce permitting backlog
- Hold multiple workshops on Air Quality Permitting and associated processes
- Close 80% of current open enforcement cases in progress



# Allegheny County Health Department Air Quality Program Article XXI Amendments Request to Public Notice

Geoff Rabinowitz, DPA  
Deputy Director of Environmental Health  
January 11, 2023





## Process to Date and Request to Go To Public Notice

- Regulatory Subcommittee - 11/15/22
- Air Quality Advisory Committee – 12/12/22
  - Requested additional information and broader understanding
  - Voted to not send to BOH
- Request BOH approval for proposed rule amendment go to Public Comment to obtain robust and broad feedback
- Requested changes to address structural long-term budget needs
  - Recoup department costs for enforcement
  - Provide ability to use additional Clean Air Funds for operational costs
  - Assess metric-level programmatic costs in 2023; based on results, determine further actions



## Enforcement Amendment:

**Cost to the Department shall be calculated and applied to any penalty assessed. Initial compliance inspection(s) are not to be included in Department cost. Minimum cost to be assessed is \$500 but can be greater depending on actual cost to the Department, which may include but are not limited to salaries, benefits, supplies, and travel. All monies collected for Department cost will be deposited into the Air Pollution Control Fund.**



## Clean Air Fund Amendment

- An amount, no greater than twenty-five percent of the balance of the Clean Air Fund on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous calendar year or \$1,250,000, whichever amount is less, may be used to fund the normal operating costs of the County's Air Quality Program.
- No air pollution source, except for Department facilities supporting the Air Quality Program, which are subject to the provisions of this Article shall receive monies from this Fund, or services, equipment, or materials purchased with such monies, to fulfill its obligations under this Article.





# Allegheny County Health Department Vector Control Program Environmental Health Fund Request



Housing and Community Environment Program  
Allegheny County Board of Health Meeting  
January 2023





# Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program

Allegheny County  
Health Department

- **MISSION:** Protect, promote, and preserve the health and well-being of all Allegheny County residents, particularly the most vulnerable, through the identification, prevention, and control of mosquito-borne disease and nuisance mosquito populations.
- **FUNDING:** Yearly grant from DEP (approx. \$200,000)
  - \$45,050.00 allowance for control products in 2023 DEP grant
  - Total of \$71K in control products needed for 2023 season (larvicide and adulticide)
  - \$62,175 is needed to purchase 75 cases of Fourstar 180-day briquete larvicide
  - \$36,225 of the DEP \$45,050 grant available for Fourstar 180 larvicide (\$8,825 needed for other control products)
- **2022 EH FUND REQUEST FOR MOSQUITO LARVICIDE:** \$25,950
- **MAJOR CONTROL EFFORTS USING LARVICIDE:**
  1. *Aedes* Spring floodwater mosquito species in residential areas (nuisance)
  2. *Culex* mosquitoes in City of Pittsburgh catch basins (West Nile virus)
- Both efforts are a cost effective, direct service to Allegheny County residents aimed at reducing disease spread and mosquito nuisance.

- 75 boxes of FourStar180 briquets needed (75 boxes x \$829 = \$62,175)
- Requesting \$25,950 from EH Funds to supplement DEP grant funds
- Goal to treat 10,000 catch basins and thoroughly treat expanding mosquito habitats in Allegheny County
- Increasing personnel and larvicide costs (6% increase in larvicide pricing for 2023); explore other funding options

