



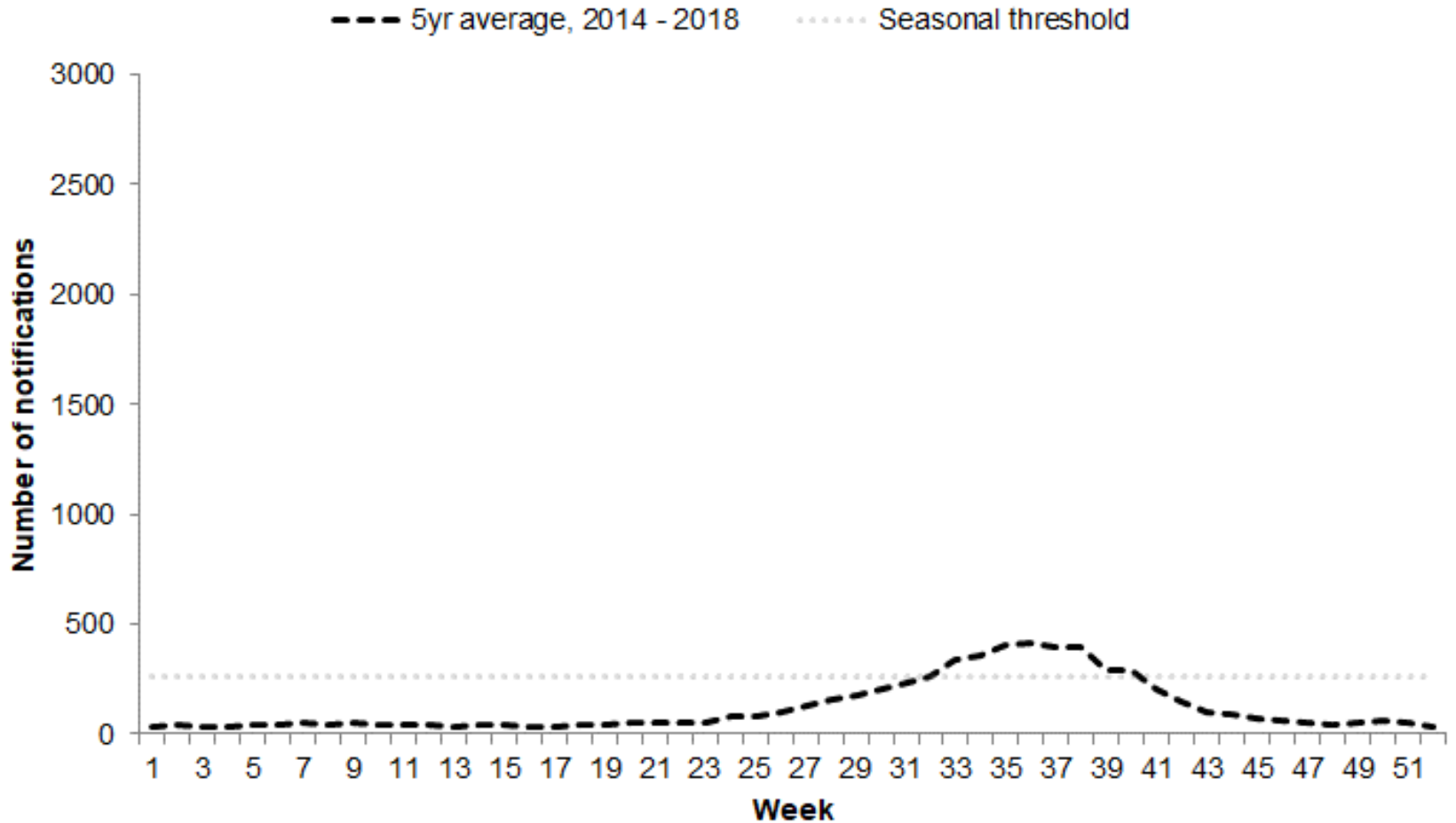
Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Influenza Epidemiology in Western Australia

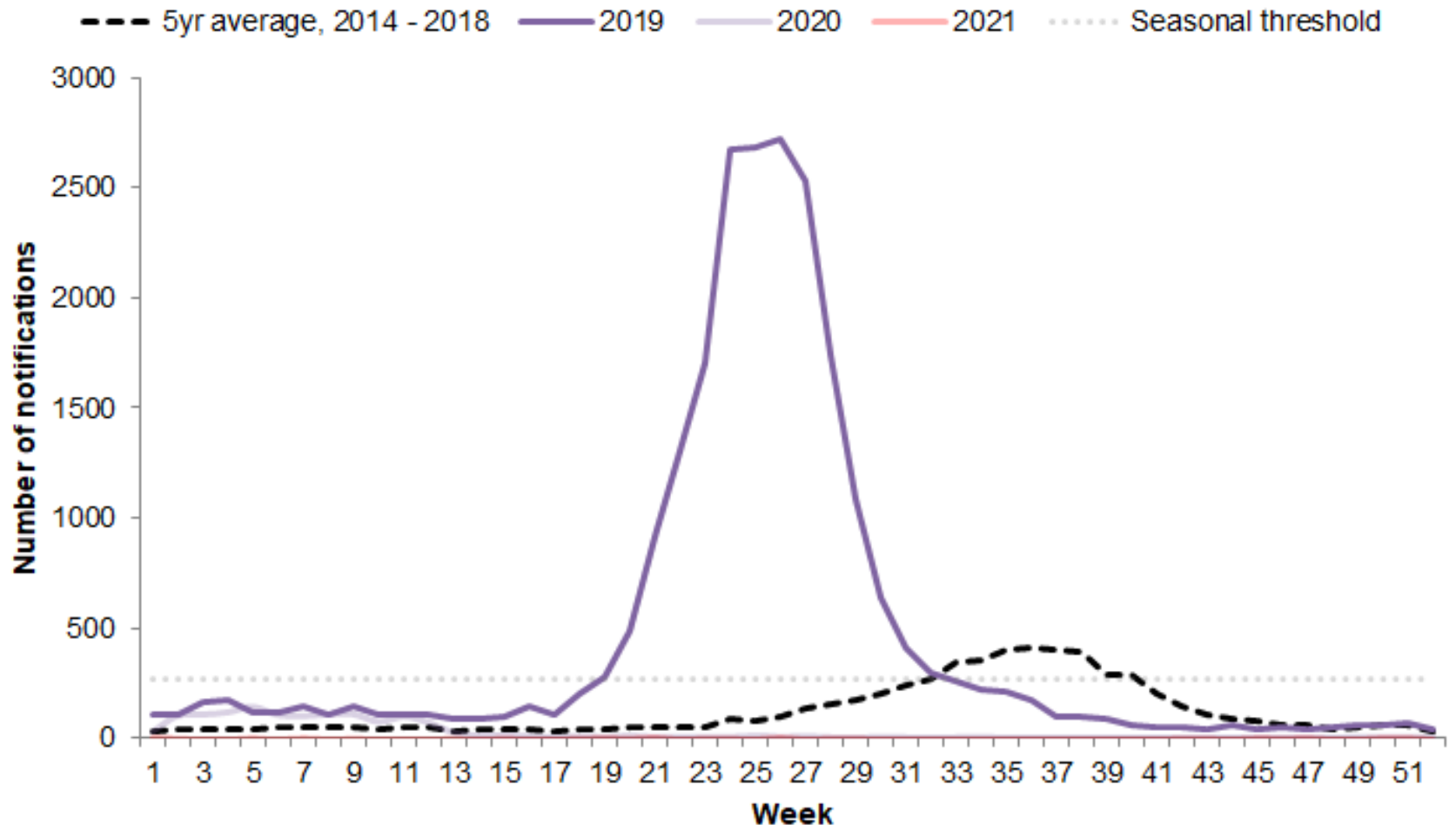
Dr Dylan Barth
Senior Epidemiologist
CDCD



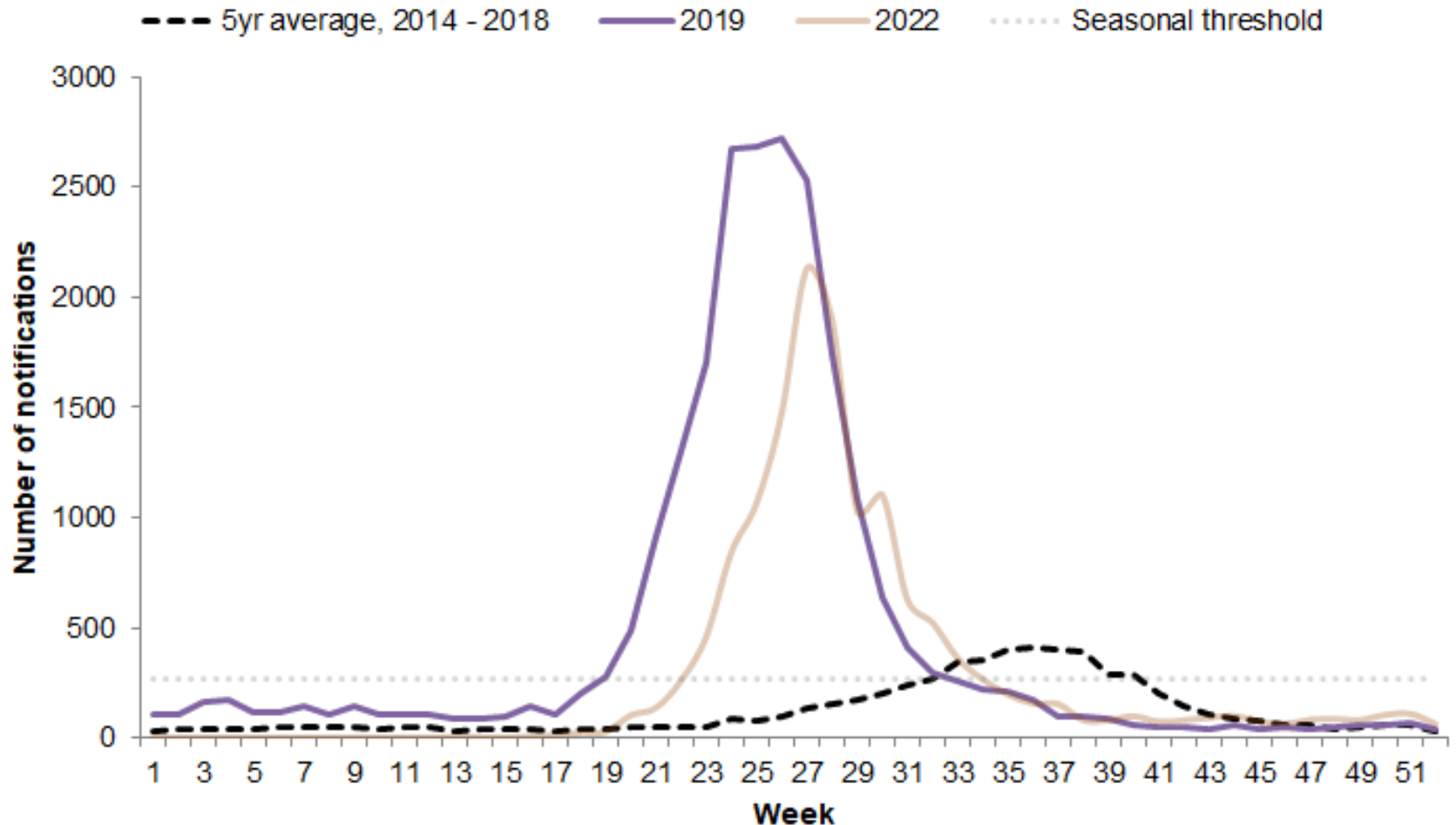
Influenza in WA – a changing landscape



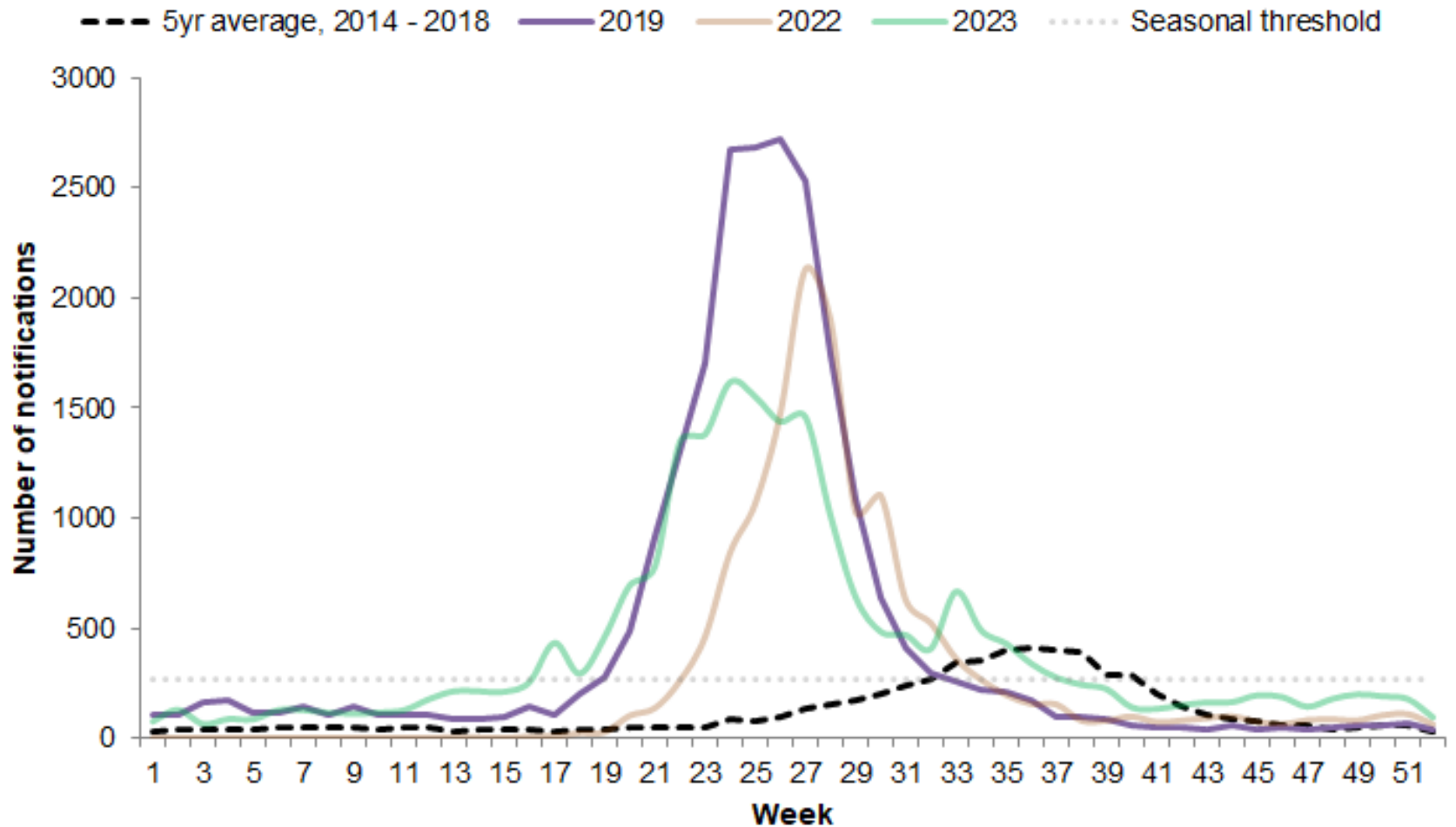
Influenza in WA – a changing landscape



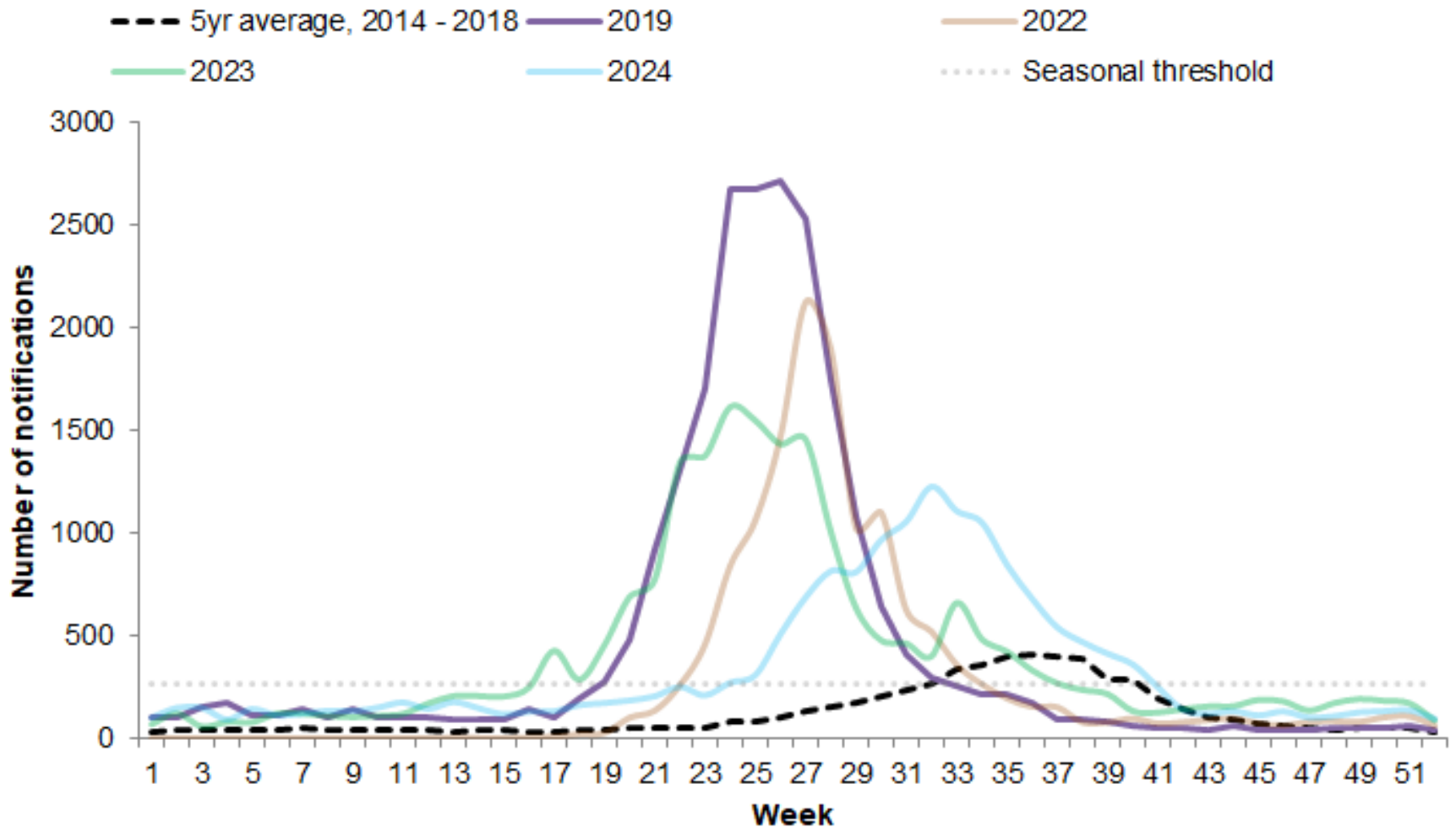
Influenza in WA – a changing landscape



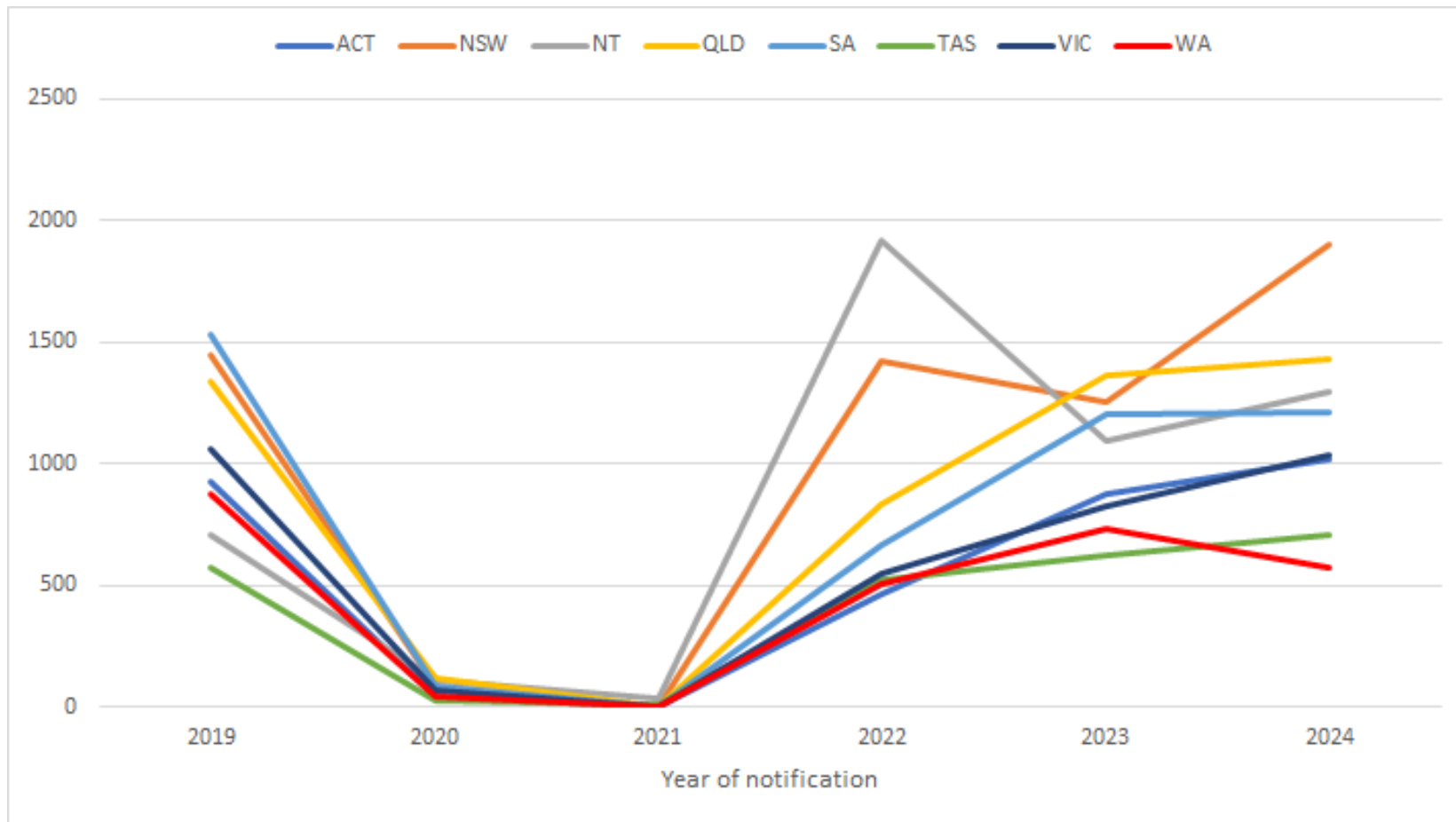
Influenza in WA – a changing landscape



Influenza in WA – a changing landscape



Influenza notifications by jurisdiction, 2019-2024

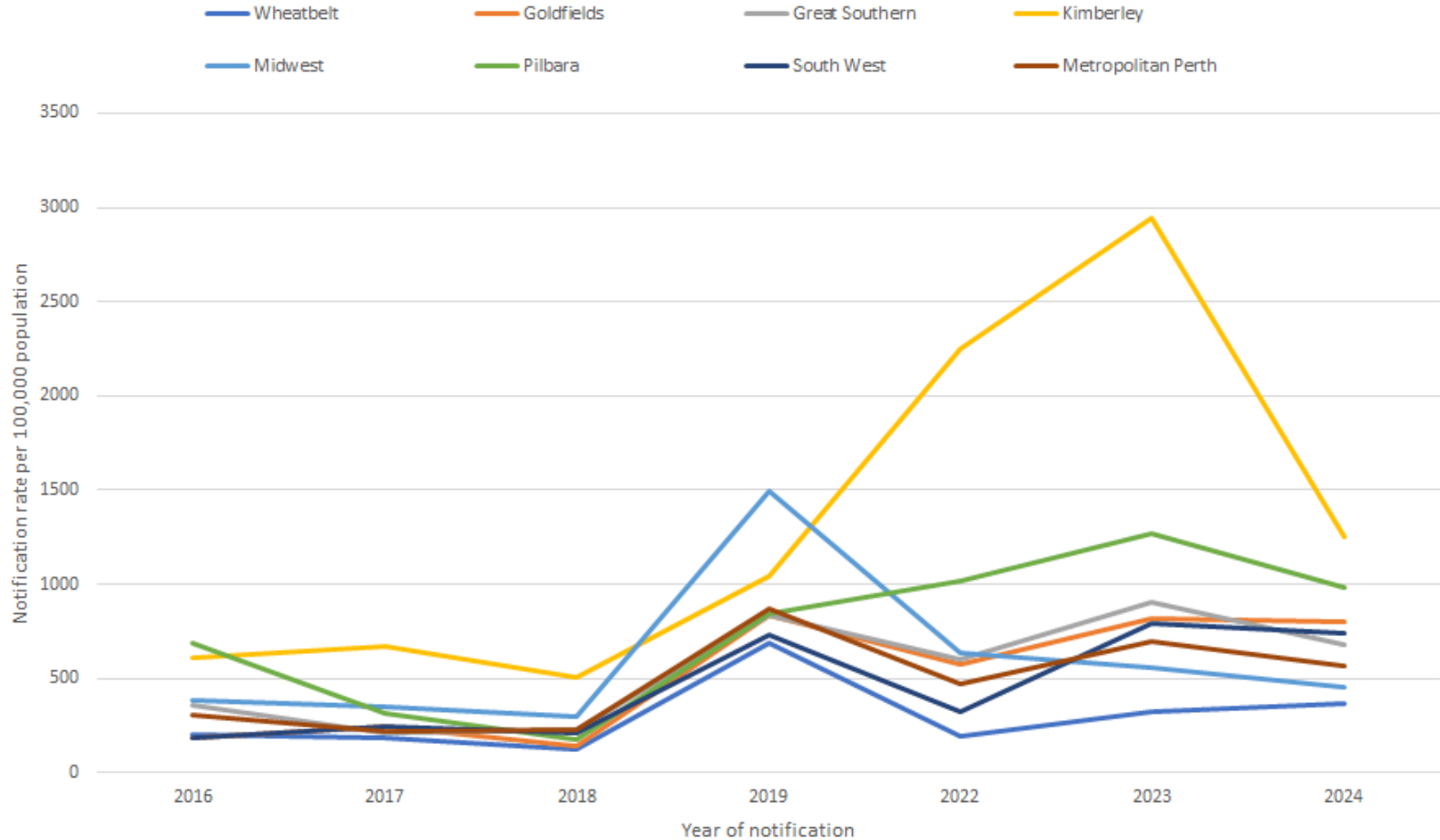


Data from the National Interoperable Notifiable Disease Surveillance System

In 2024

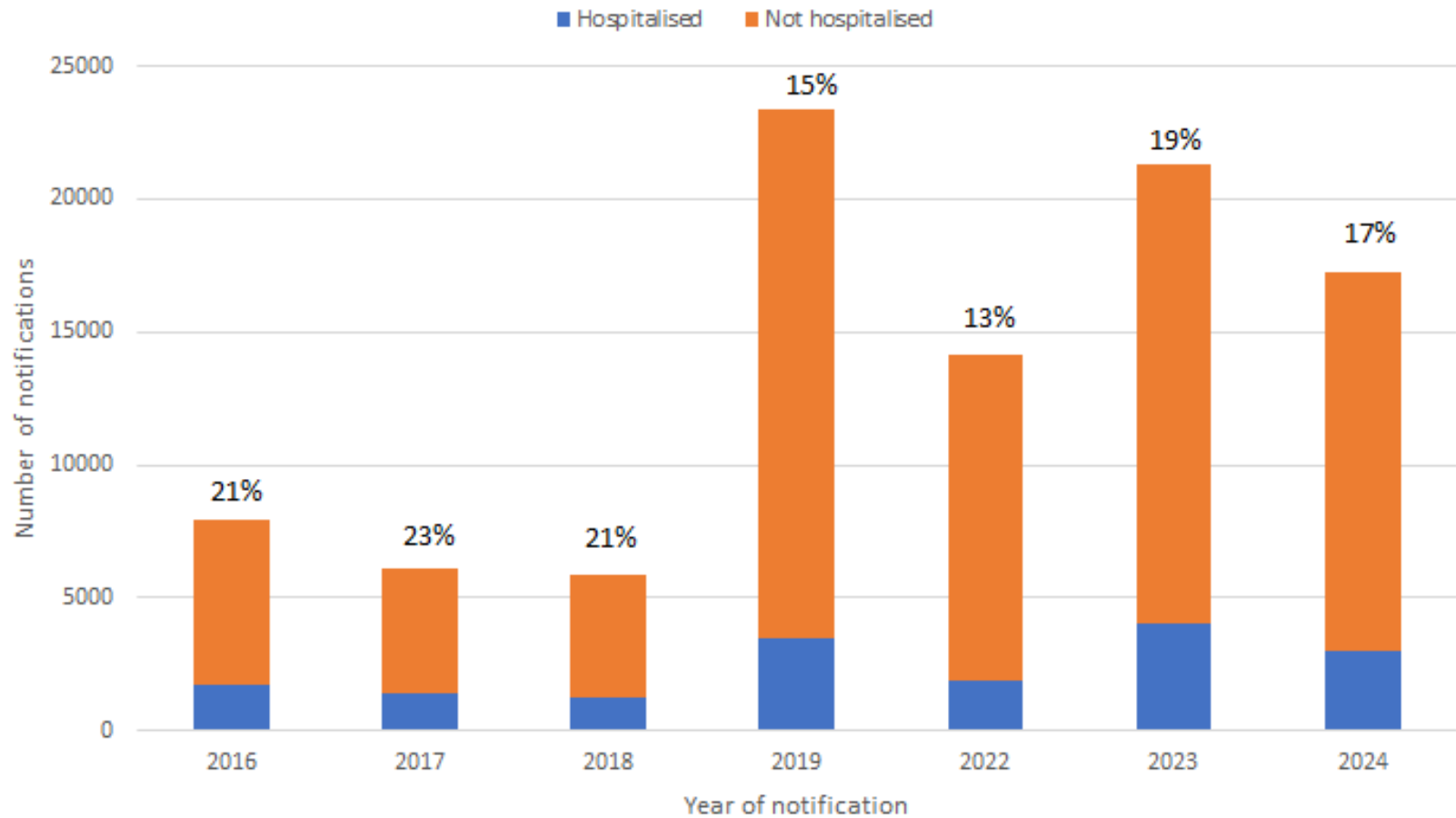
- Influenza in most jurisdictions returned to, or exceeded pre-pandemic levels
- Between 2023 and 2024, all jurisdictions increased except for WA
- Rates ranged from 577 cases per 100,000 population in WA to 1,904 cases per 100,000 population in NSW.

Influenza notification rates in WA by PHU



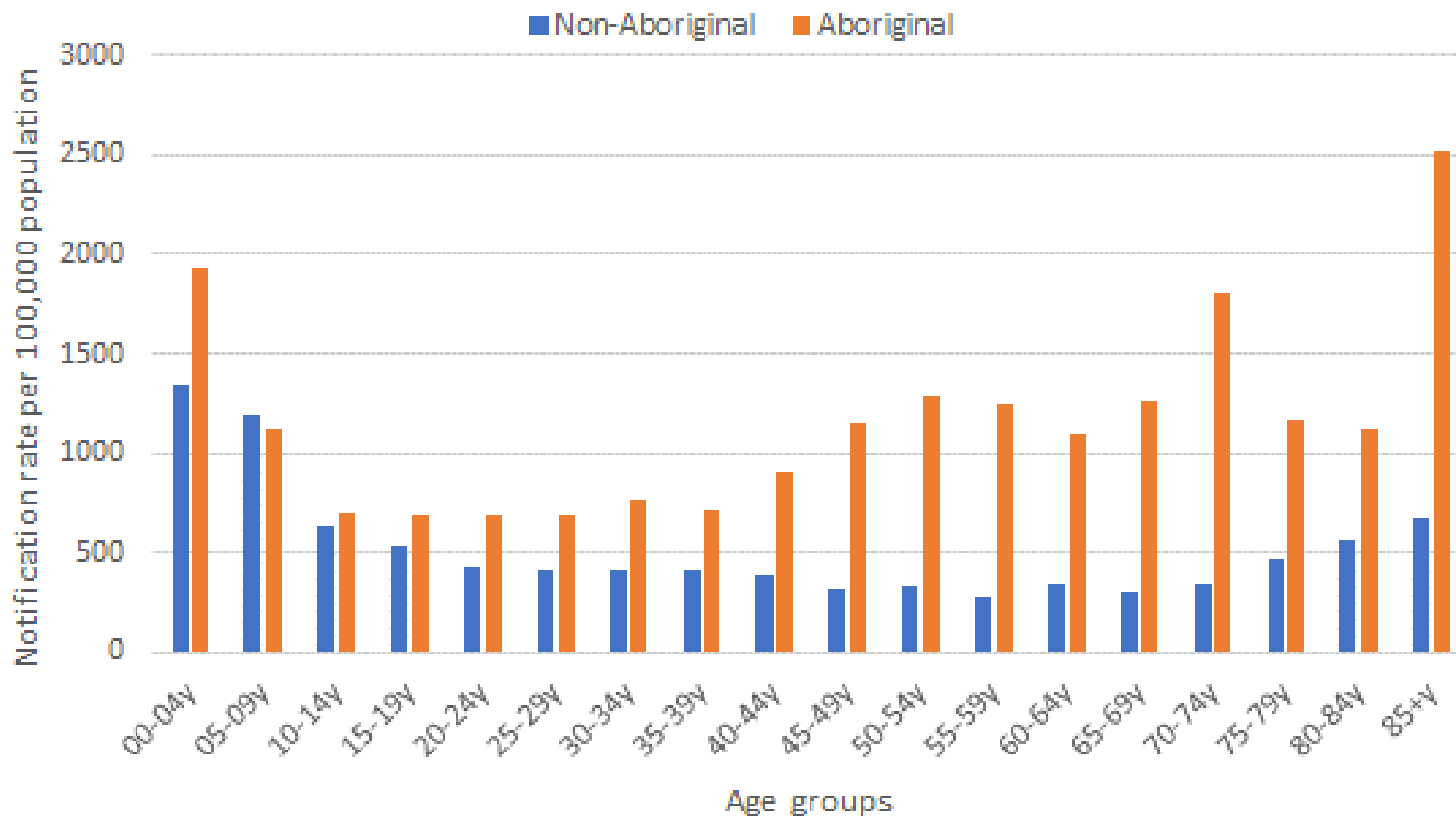
- 17,270 notifications in 2024, the third highest annual number of notifications
- Rates in 2024 lower than 2023, with exception of Wheatbelt
- Highest rates in 2024 in Kimberley and Pilbara

Influenza notifications in WA by year and hospitalisation



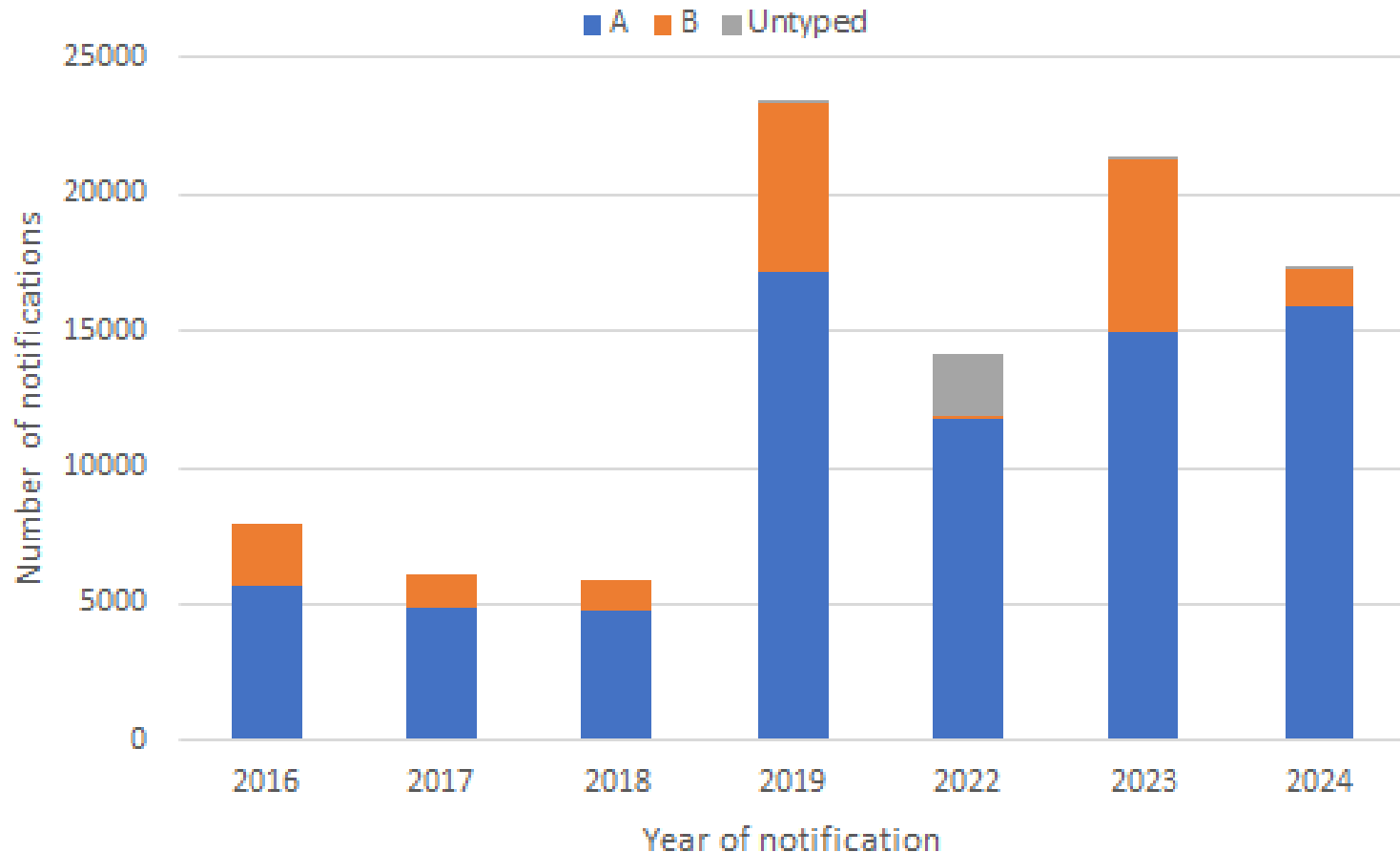
- 13 - 23% of cases were hospitalised
- 0.06 – 0.4% of cases died

Influenza rates by Aboriginality and age group, 2024



- Notification rate higher in Aboriginal people in all age groups except 05-09y cat
- Common in children <10 years; in Aboriginal population, the frequency of influenza also increased in the older age categories especially in the 85+ cat

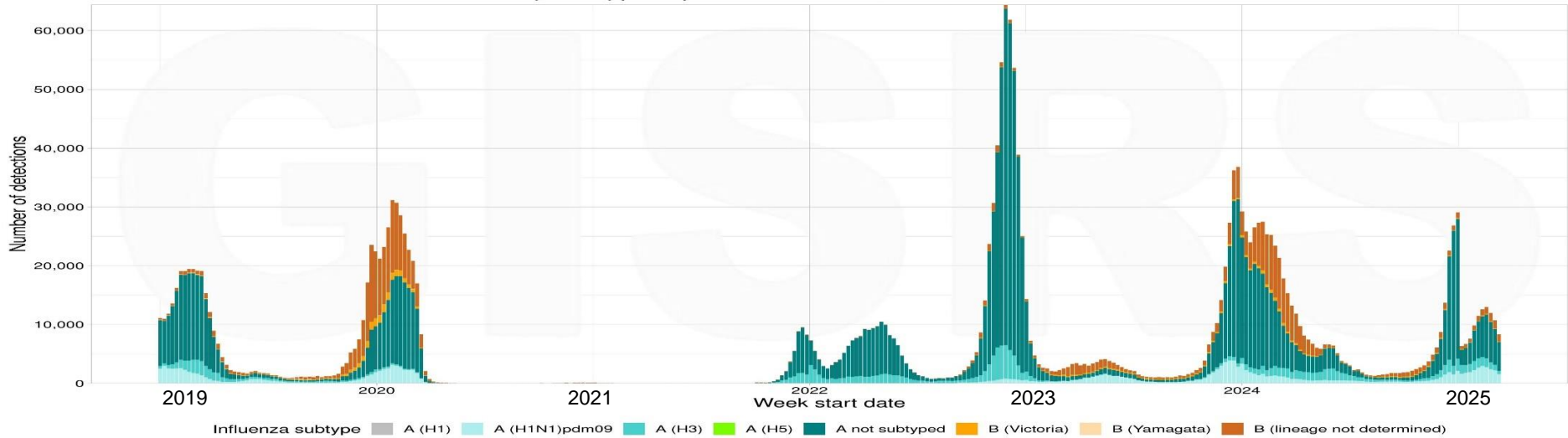
Influenza notifications in WA by year and type



- In 2024, 92% of influenza notified was type A, with 77% unspecified A, 6% A/H1N1, 17% A/H3
- In 2024, 8% of influenza notified was type B, all unspecified

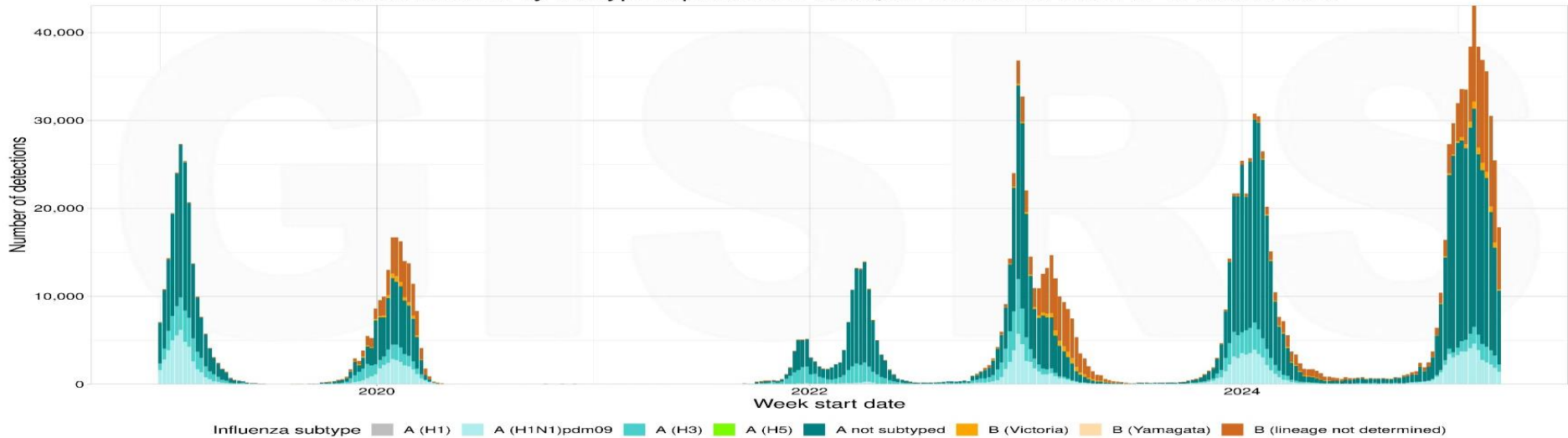
Influenza in Americas (top) and Europe (bottom)

Virus detections by subtype reported to FluNet, 31 December 2018 to 10 March 2025



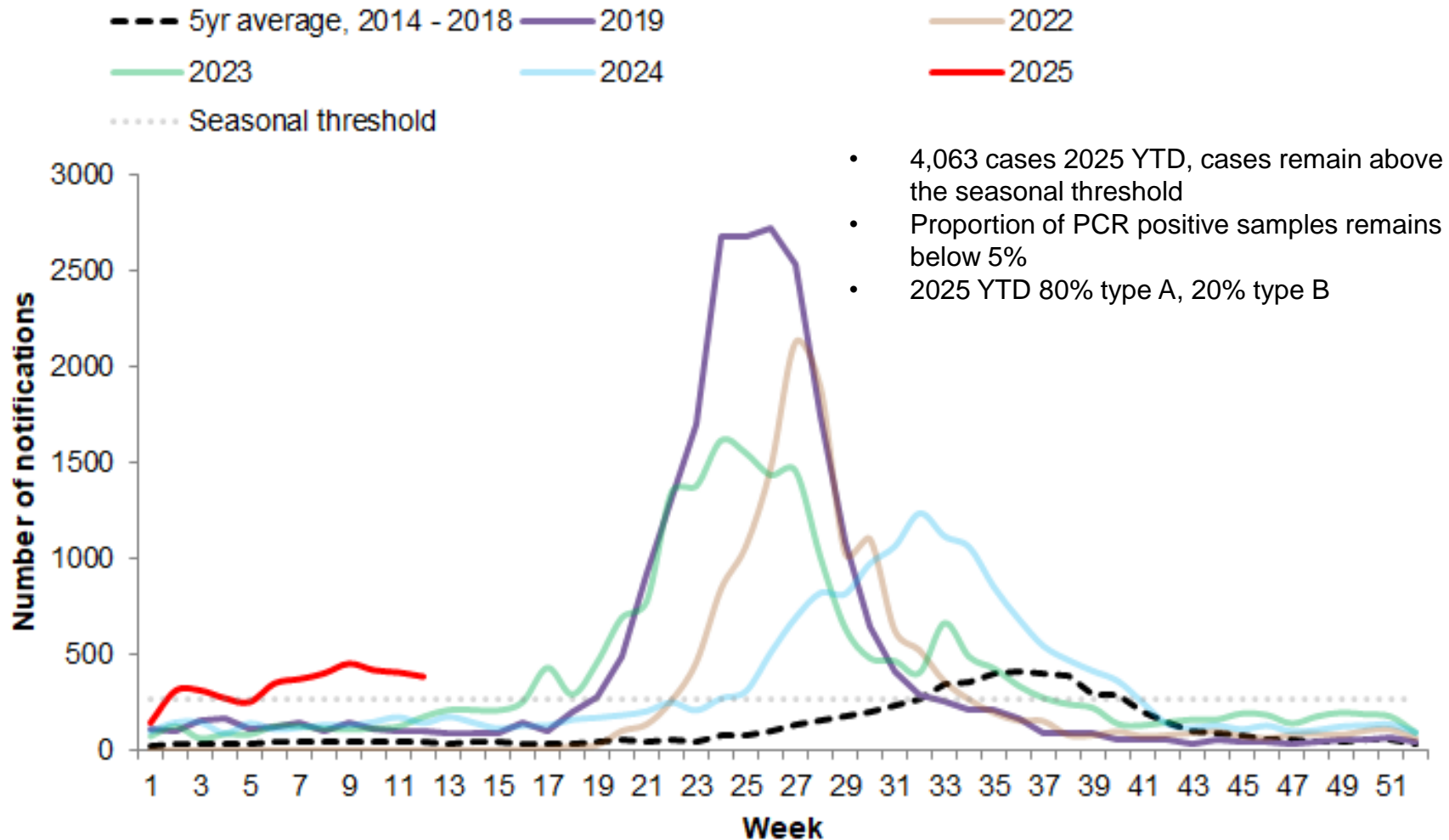
The chart above is displayed for AMR in all sites for week start dates 31 December 2018 to 10 March 2025

Virus detections by subtype reported to FluNet, 31 December 2018 to 10 March 2025

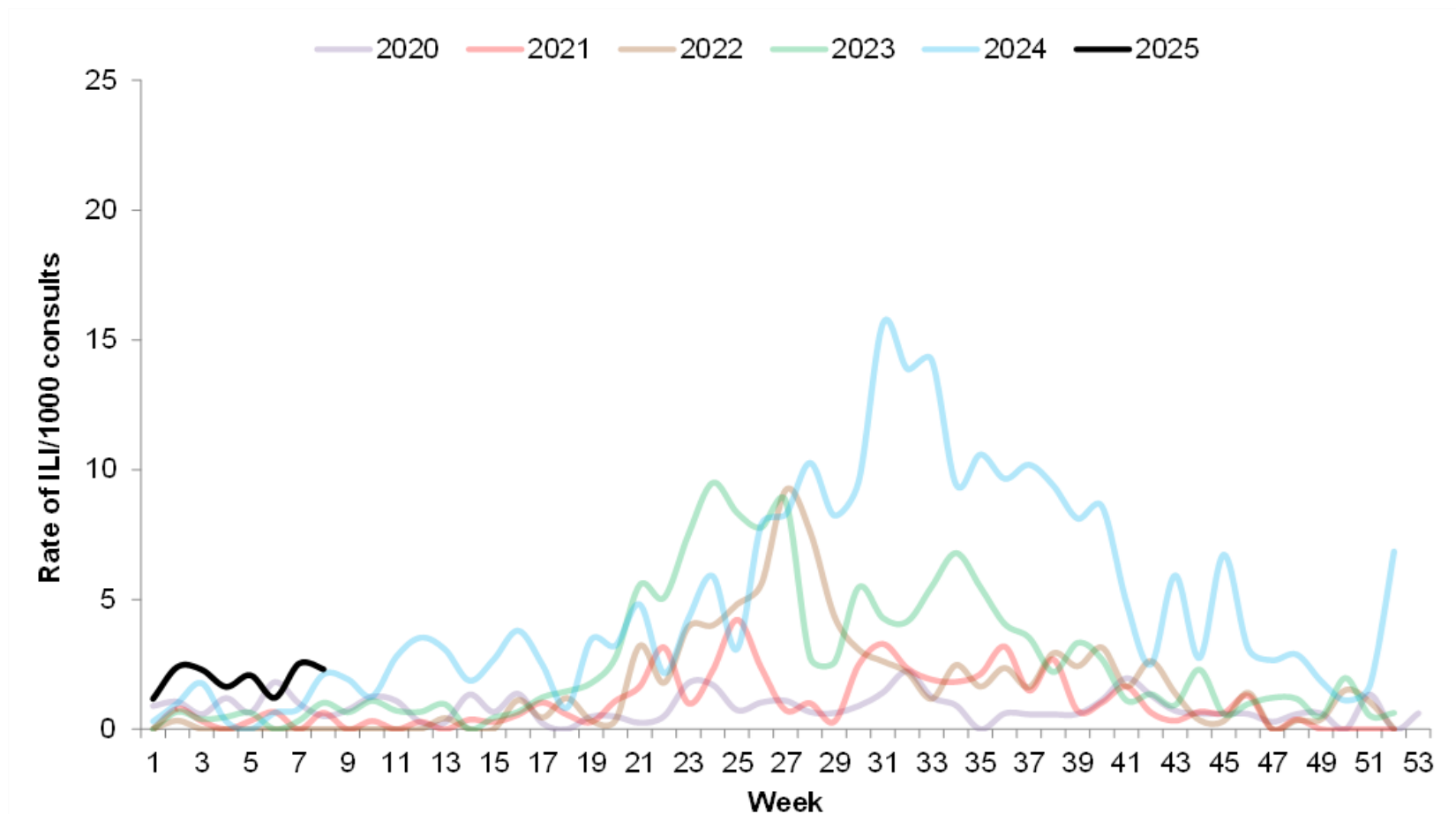


The chart above is displayed for EUR in all sites for week start dates 31 December 2018 to 10 March 2025

Influenza in WA – a changing landscape



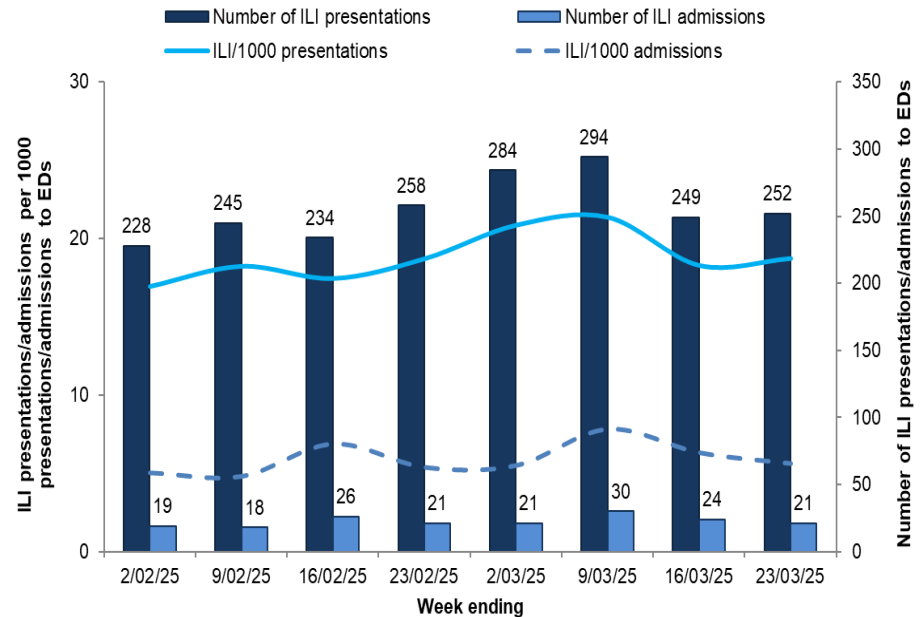
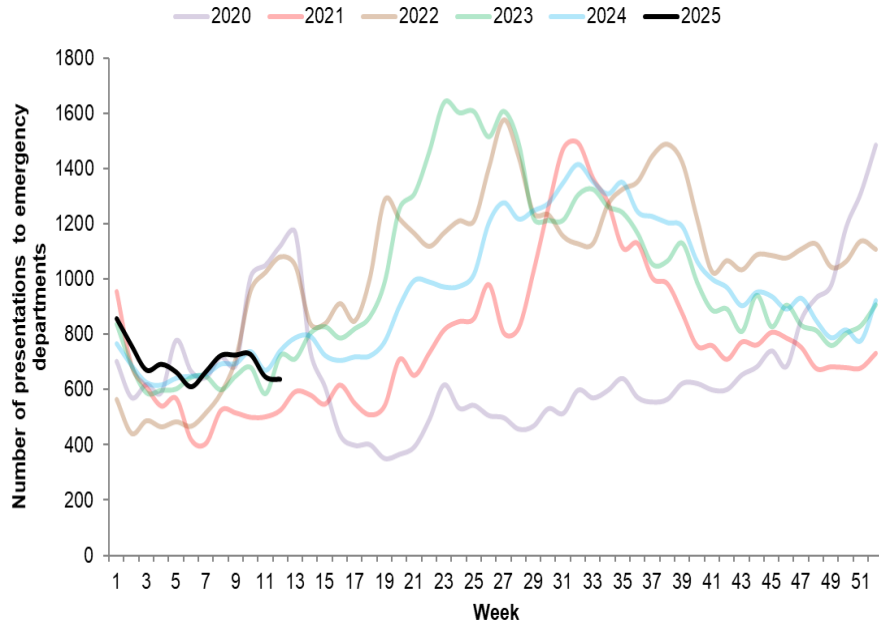
Sentinel GP presentations for influenza-like illness



Data from Australian Sentinel Practices Research Network (ASPREN) for reporting period from 01/01/2025 to 26/02/2025

- The rate of ILI presentations to sentinel GPs is in the higher range of values usually reported at this time of year

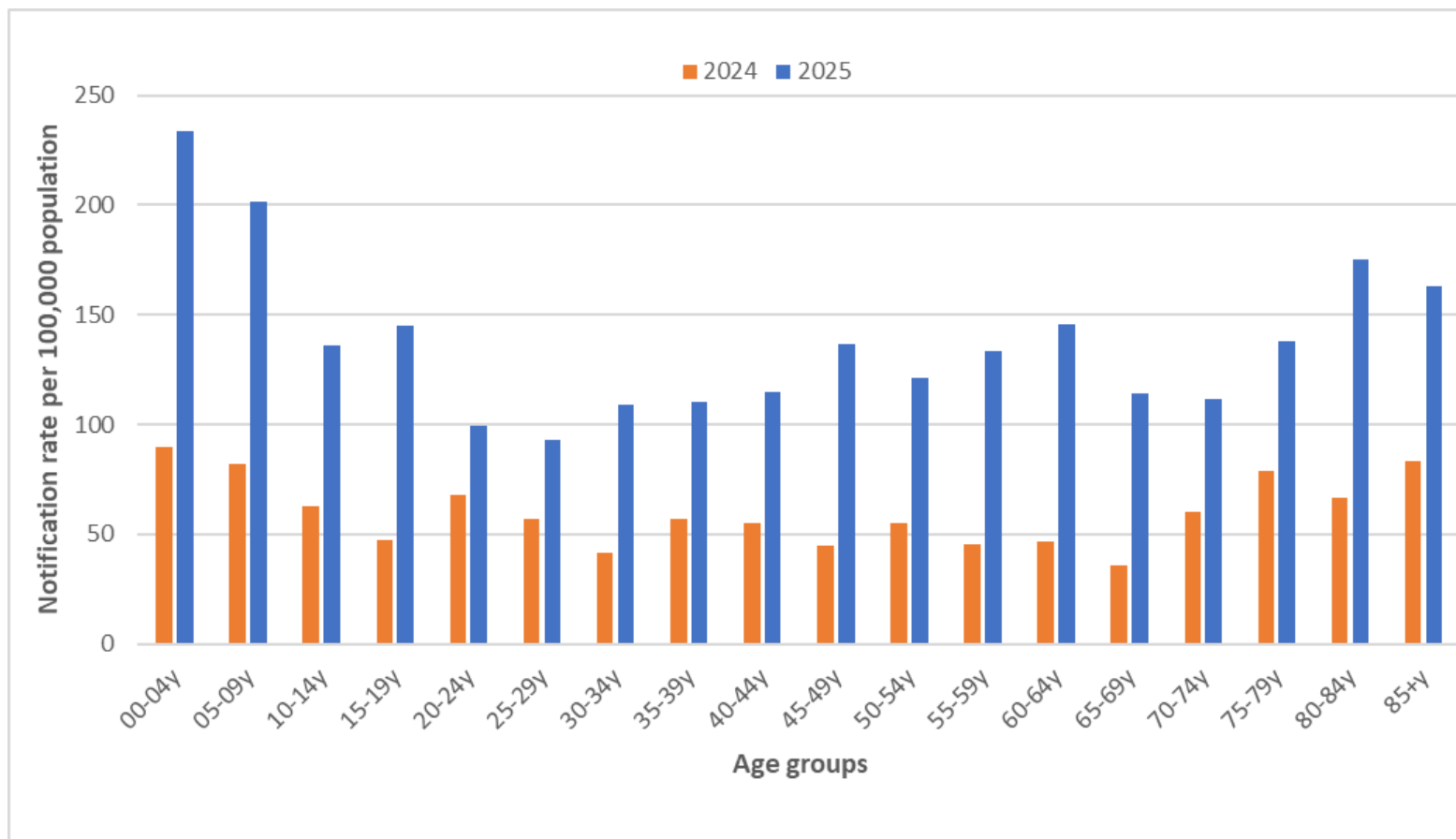
Emergency department presentations in WA



Data from EDIS ICD codes consistent with respiratory & influenza like illnesses from 01/01/2025 to 23/03/2025

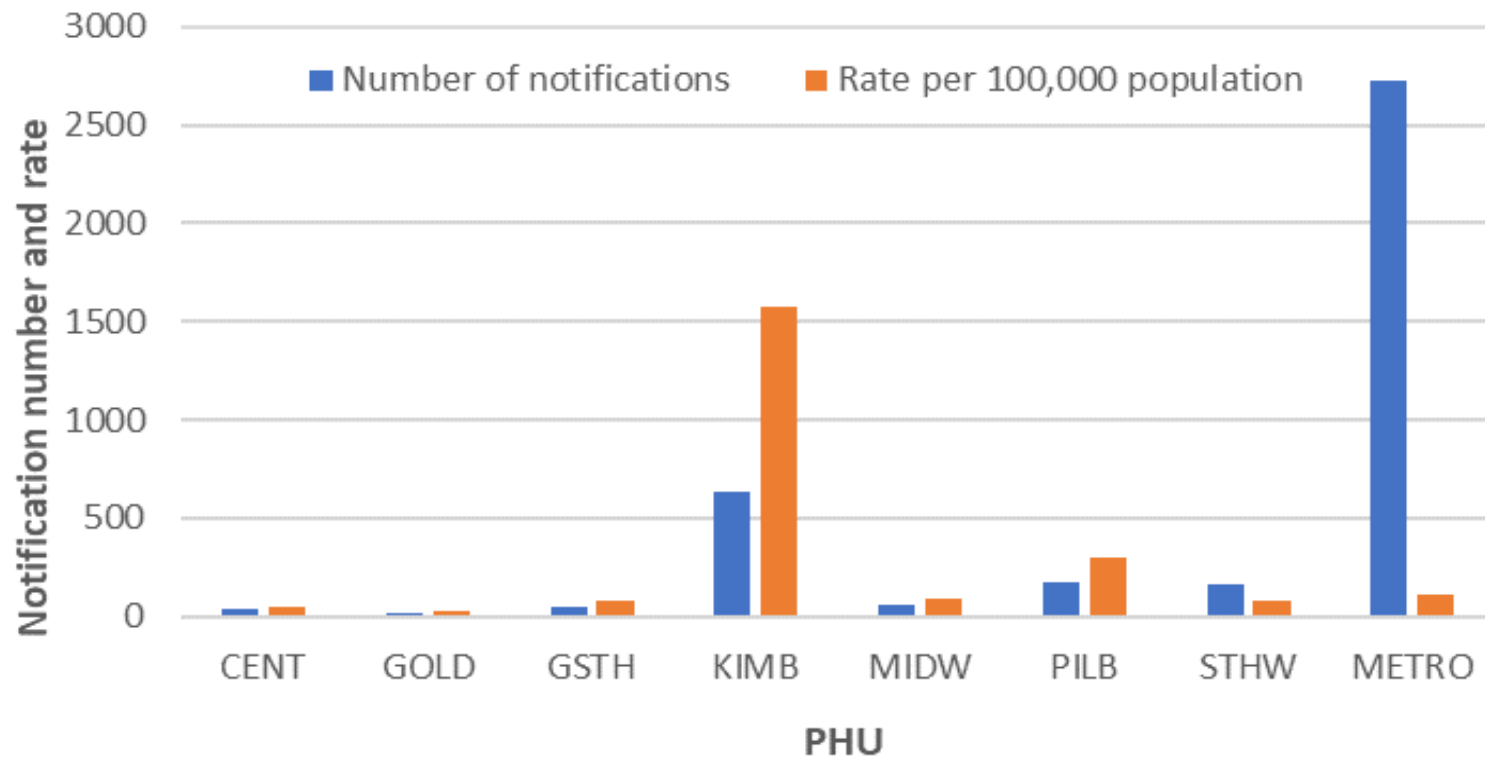
- The number of respiratory illness presentations to EDs in 2025 are in the upper range of values usually reported at this time of year
- Influenza-like illness presentations to ED have increased over the last few weeks
- 742 hospitalisations (18.3%) 2025 YTD
- No deaths reported 2025 YTD

Influenza notifications by age groups 2025 YTD



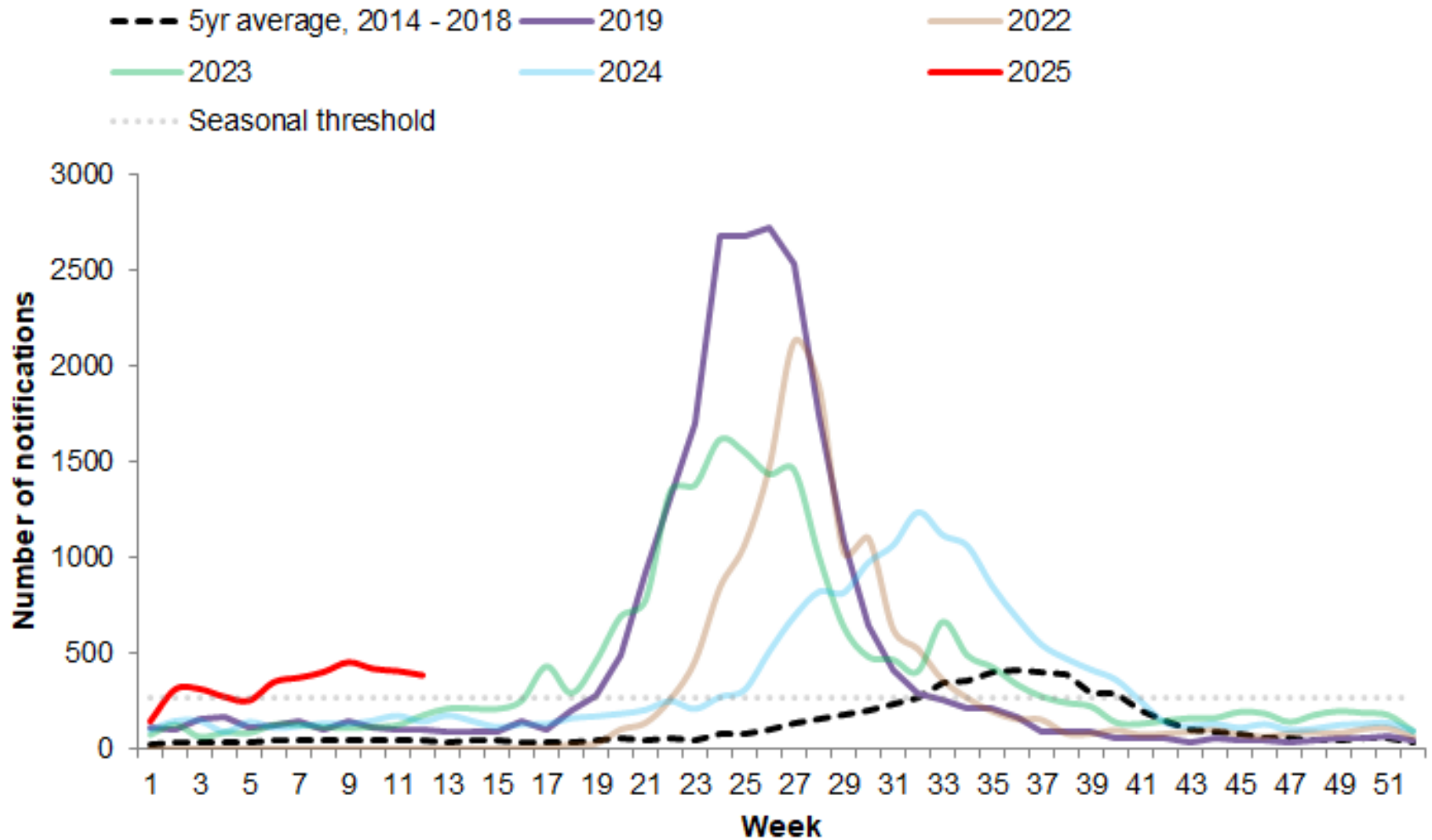
- 2025 YTD higher rates across age groups, compared to same period in 2024
- Highest rate in 2025 YTD are in 0-9 year age groups

Influenza notifications and rates by PHU 2025 YTD



- Metropolitan Perth - highest number of influenza notifications
- Kimberley and Pilbara - highest notification rate

Influenza in WA – a changing landscape



Flu Survey WA

- Survey was sent to 1,030 cases notified between 23/12/2024 and 04/02/2025, achieving a 65% response rate (n=668).
 - n=346, 52% reported recent travel
 - n=306, 88% having travelled internationally.
 - n=294, 96% visited countries in the Northern Hemisphere, primarily in Asia (n=183, 59%) and Europe (n=77, 25%).
- One-third (n=105, 34%) of international travellers also reported having close contacts with influenza-like illness
- Among non-travellers, 26% reported close contacts with influenza like illness.
 - 35% had contacts who travelled to the Northern Hemisphere.
- Influenza A (not subtyped) was the predominant strain in both groups.
- International travel, particularly to the Northern Hemisphere, was a major driver of influenza transmission in WA.

Summary

WA 2024 YTD:

- 1346 cases, below seasonal threshold
- GP presentations for ILI within expected range
- ED presentations for ILI increasing
- Highest rates in 70+ years
- Predominantly A type circulating (85%)

WA 2025 YTD:

- 4063 cases, above seasonal threshold
- GP presentations for ILI in upper ranges
- ED presentations for ILI increasing
- Highest rates in <10 years and 80+ years
- Predominantly A type circulating (80%)

Thank you.