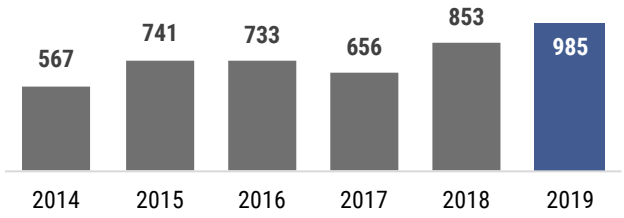
# Varicella Surveillance
## 2019 Yearly Summary

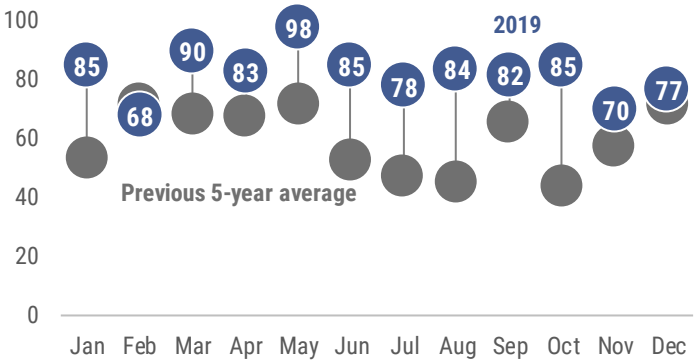
The number of varicella cases reported in 2019 was higher than that seen during the previous 5 years. There were 2 outbreaks in a daycare and a detention center. Vaccination is the best way to prevent varicella, and 41% of cases were never or under vaccinated.

**From January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, 985 varicella cases were reported in 57 counties.**

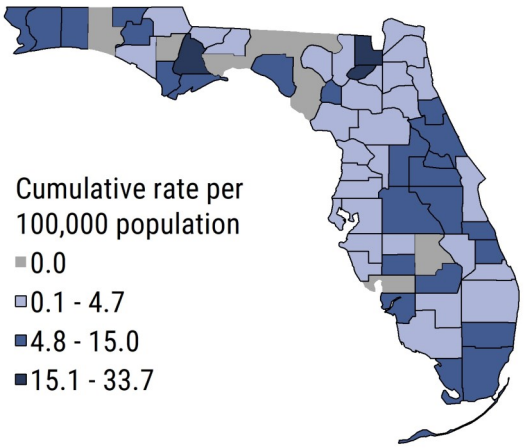
In 2019, case counts were above the total number of cases in previous years.



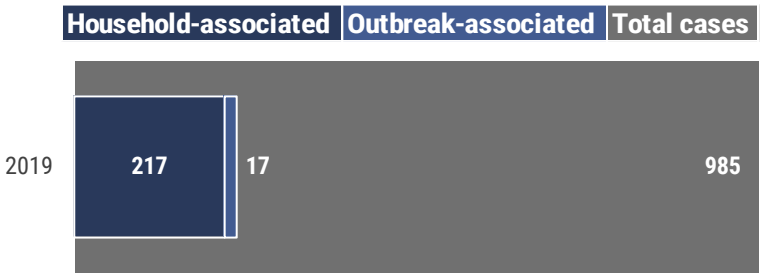

**The number of varicella cases reported in 2019 was above the previous 5-year average for every month except February.**



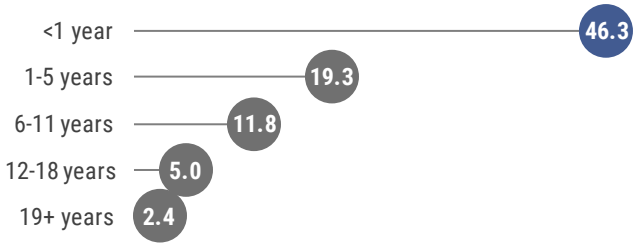

The 985 varicella cases in 2019 were reported throughout the state.



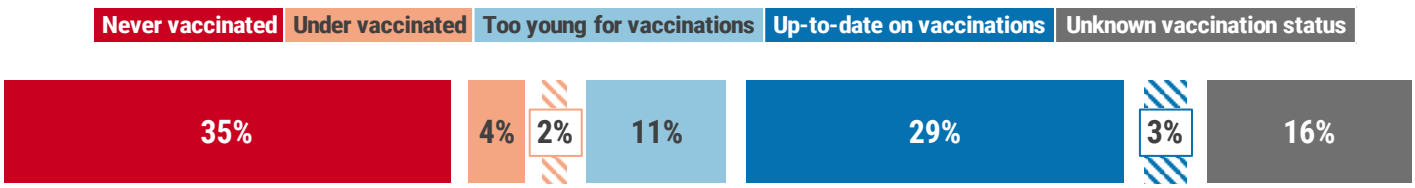

**In 2019, 217 (22%) of 985 total cases were associated with transmission within households and 17 (2%) cases were outbreak-associated.** There were a total of 2 outbreaks in a daycare and detention center reported in 2019.




**In 2019, the varicella rate was highest among infants <1 year old at 46.3 cases per 100,000 population.** Infants <1 year old are too young to receive varicella vaccination, which is why vaccination of other age groups is so important.




**Vaccination is the best way to prevent varicella infections.** The majority of varicella cases in 2019 were too young for vaccination, not up-to-date on vaccinations, or had unknown vaccination status. Self-reported vaccination status that could not be verified is shown with a diagonal pattern.




Florida HEALTH

# Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Surveillance System Summary

## Case Data

- Current case data are preliminary and will change as new information is gathered. The most recent data available are displayed in this report.
- Pertussis, varicella, mumps, and measles are reportable diseases in Florida. Case information is documented by county health department (CHD) epidemiologists in Merlin, Florida's reportable disease surveillance system.
- Only Florida residents are included in case counts, but contact investigations are conducted for all exposed individuals.
  - Pertussis, varicella, mumps, and measles case counts include both confirmed and probable cases.
- Map counts and rates are determined by the individual's county of residence; these data do not take into account location of exposure.
- CHD epidemiologists also report outbreaks of pertussis, varicella, and mumps into Merlin.
  - Household-associated cases are defined as ≥2 cases exposed within the same household.
  - Pertussis and mumps outbreaks are defined as ≥2 cases associated with a specific setting outside of a household.
  - Varicella outbreaks are defined as ≥5 cases associated with a specific setting outside of a household.
- For more information about reportable diseases, please visit FloridaHealth.gov/DiseaseReporting.
- For more information about Florida's guides to surveillance and investigation, including disease-specific surveillance case definitions, please visit FloridaHealth.gov/GSI.

## Population Data

- Population data used to calculate incidence rates are from FLHealthCHARTS (Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set).
- For more information about FLHealthCHARTS, please visit FLHealthCharts.com.

## Vaccination Data

- Vaccination data for identified cases are from Merlin, as documented by CHD staff.
- Vaccination status is determined using the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger, 2019.
- For more information about immunization schedules, please visit www.CDC.gov/Vaccines/Schedules/index.html.
- Individuals are considered up-to-date on vaccinations if they have received the recommended number of doses of vaccine for a particular disease for their age at the time of their illness onset. Individuals are considered under-vaccinated if they have received at least one but not all doses of vaccine recommended for a particular disease for their age at the time of their illness onset.

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Produced by the BOE, Florida Department of Health
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