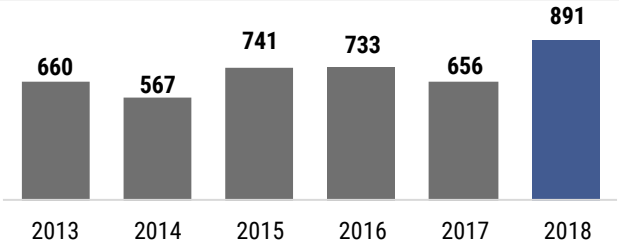
Varicella Surveillance
2018 Yearly Summary

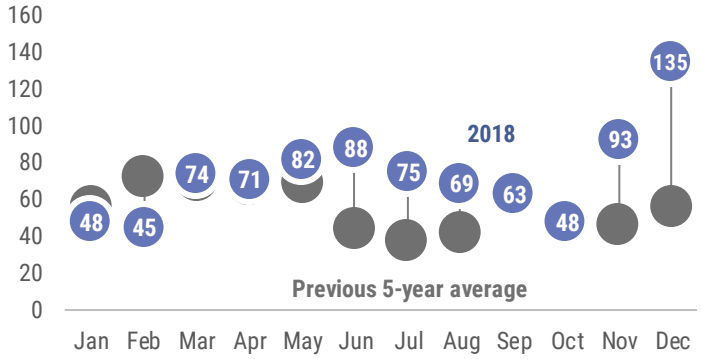
The number of varicella cases reported in 2018 was notably higher than that seen during the previous 5 years. There were 12 outbreaks, half of which occurred in schools. Vaccination is the best way to prevent varicella, and 35% of cases were never or under vaccinated.

From January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, 891 varicella cases were reported in 52 counties.

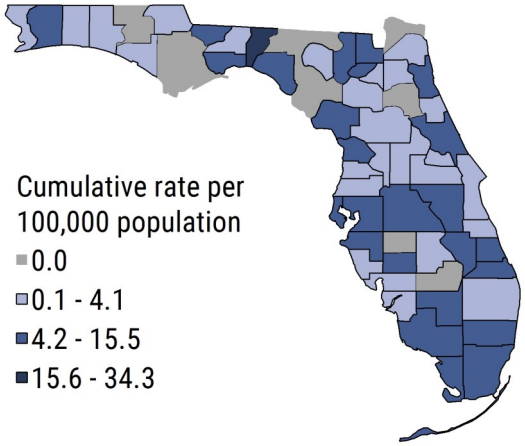
In 2018, case counts were notably above the total number of cases in previous years.



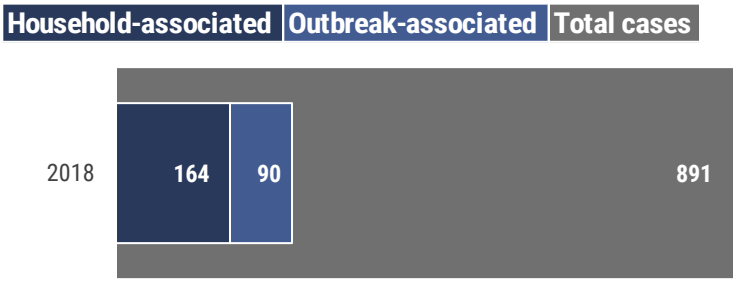
The number of varicella cases reported in 2018 was above the previous 5-year average for every month starting in March.



The 891 varicella cases in 2018 were reported among 52 of Florida's 67 counties.

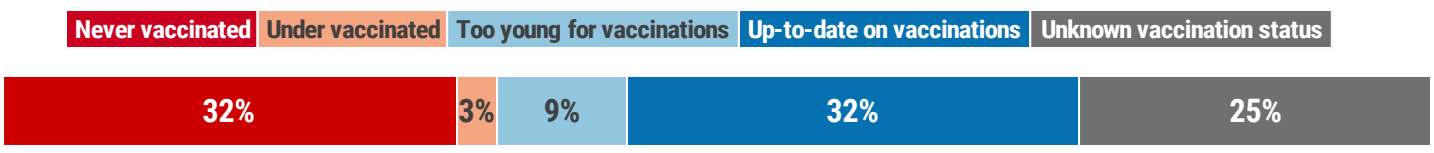


In 2018, 164 (18%) of 891 total cases were associated with transmission within households and 90 (10%) cases were outbreak-associated.



There were a total of 12 outbreaks in 3 setting types reported in 2018. For most varicella cases, exposure to other known cases is never identified, and they are not able to be linked to outbreaks.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent varicella infections. The majority of varicella cases in 2018 were too young for vaccination, not up-to-date on vaccinations, or had unknown vaccination status.



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, hepatitis A, 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, hepatitis A, 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 hepatitis A 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.
  - Measles outbreaks are defined as any person acquiring measles while in Florida.
- 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, 2018.
- 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.
- For a full text version of a new study on pertussis vaccination, please visit www.CIDID.org/Publications-1/2018/3/29/The-Impact-of-Past-Vaccination-Coverage-and-Immunity-on-Pertussis-Resurgence.