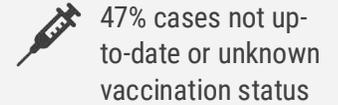
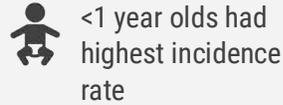
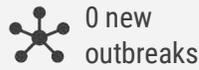
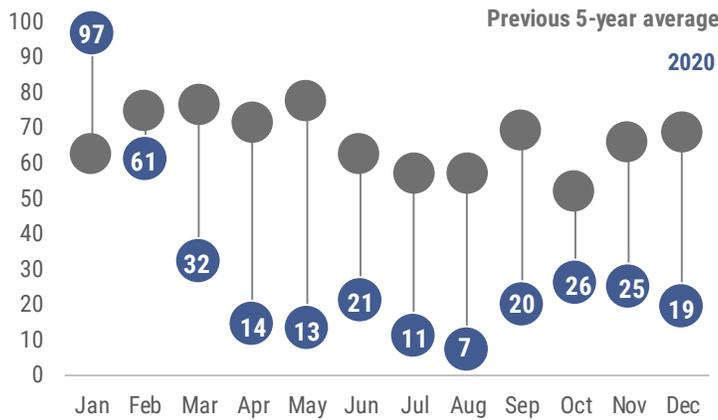


Varicella Surveillance

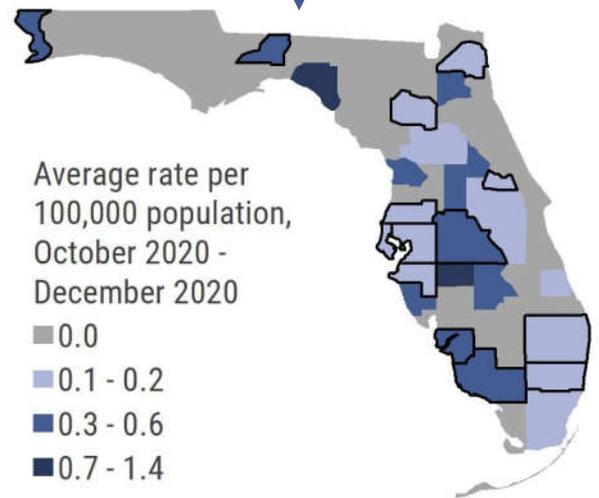
December Key Points



The number of varicella cases reported in December 2020 decreased from the previous month and remained below the previous 5-year average. Due to robust vaccination programs, there is no longer discernable seasonality for varicella cases in the United States.

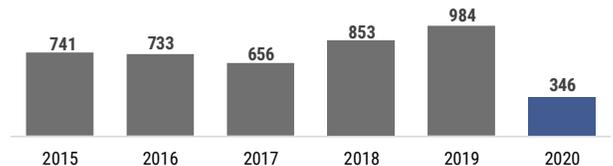


In December 2020, 19 varicella cases were reported in 14 counties, which are outlined in black in the map below. From October 2020 through December 2020 the average county rate varied throughout the state.

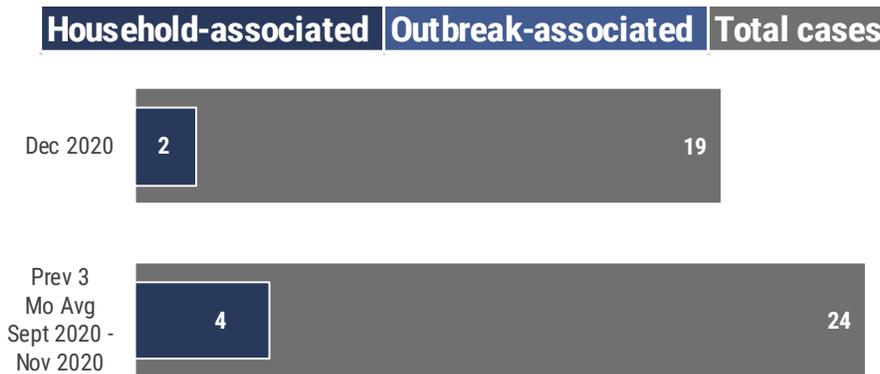


From January 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020, 346 varicella cases were reported in 45 counties.

The annual number of reported varicella cases decreased from 2015 to 2017. In 2020, case counts are lower than those seen in previous years at this time.



In December, 2 varicella cases were transmitted within households, while no outbreak-associated were reported. For most varicella cases, exposure to other known cases is not identified and are not able to be linked to outbreaks.



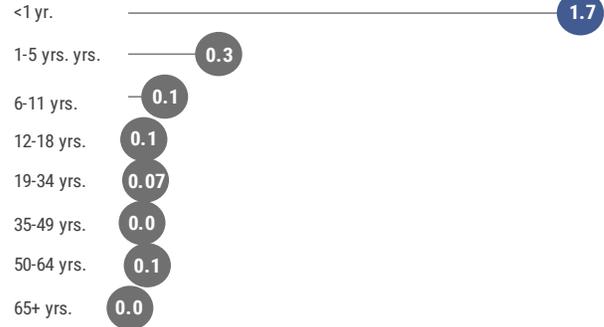
The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting health care seeking behavior, which may be impacting the diagnosis and reporting of varicella cases that are shown in this report. For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic in Florida, please visit [FloridaHealthCOVID-19.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19).



Varicella Surveillance



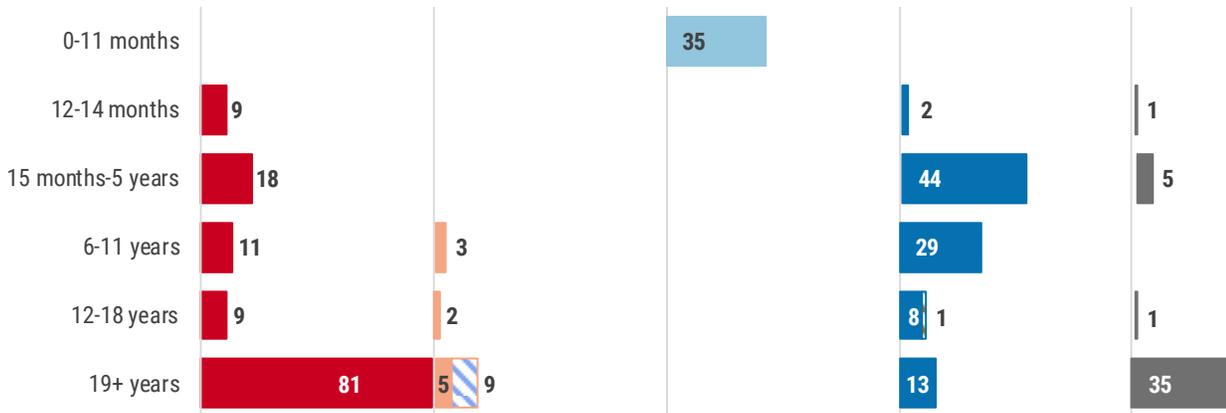
In December, the varicella rate was highest among infants <1 year old at 1.7 cases per 100,000 population, which is consistent with previous months. Infants <1 year old are too young to receive varicella vaccination, which is why vaccination of siblings, parents, grandparents, and other age groups is so important to help prevent infection in infants.



Vaccination is the best way to prevent varicella infections. In December 2020, 47% of individuals reported with varicella had not received the recommended number of varicella vaccinations for their age or had unknown vaccination status. Vaccination against varicella is important for infants, children, teenagers, and adults. See the last page of this report for links to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended vaccination schedules.



In 2020, the majority of adults aged 19 years and older with varicella were not up-to-date on their varicella vaccinations or had unknown vaccination status. Although individuals who have been vaccinated can still get varicella, **complete and timely vaccination remains the best way to prevent varicella and severe complications.** Self-reported vaccination status that could not be verified is shown with a diagonal pattern.



National activity

Varicella incidence decreased significantly following the vaccine becoming available in 1995 and has continued to decrease since 2006 when recommendations changed from 1 to 2 doses of varicella vaccine. From 2006 to 2015, all age groups had a substantial decrease in incidence with the largest decline in children aged 5 to 14 years. Although varicella is not reported to the CDC by all states, based on available data, the number of varicella cases nationally has steadily decreased each year from 2012 to 2015.

Varicella surveillance goals

- Identify and control outbreaks, monitor trends, and identify severe outcomes
- Monitor effectiveness of immunization programs and vaccines

To learn more about varicella, please visit [FloridaHealth.gov/Varicella](https://www.floridahealth.gov/Varicella). For more information on the data sources used in Florida for varicella surveillance, see the last page of this report.