

Paediatric Respiratory Pathogen Report

Week 52, 27th December 2021 – 02nd January 2021

- The most common respiratory virus detected in paediatric patients this week was RSV, with 78 cases. 57 of these cases were from the Metro area. RSV activity is higher than usual for this time of year.
- There were no paediatric influenza cases detected at PathWest this week.
- The total number of paediatric cases of COVID-19 detected by PCR at PathWest is 70, as of 05th January 2022.

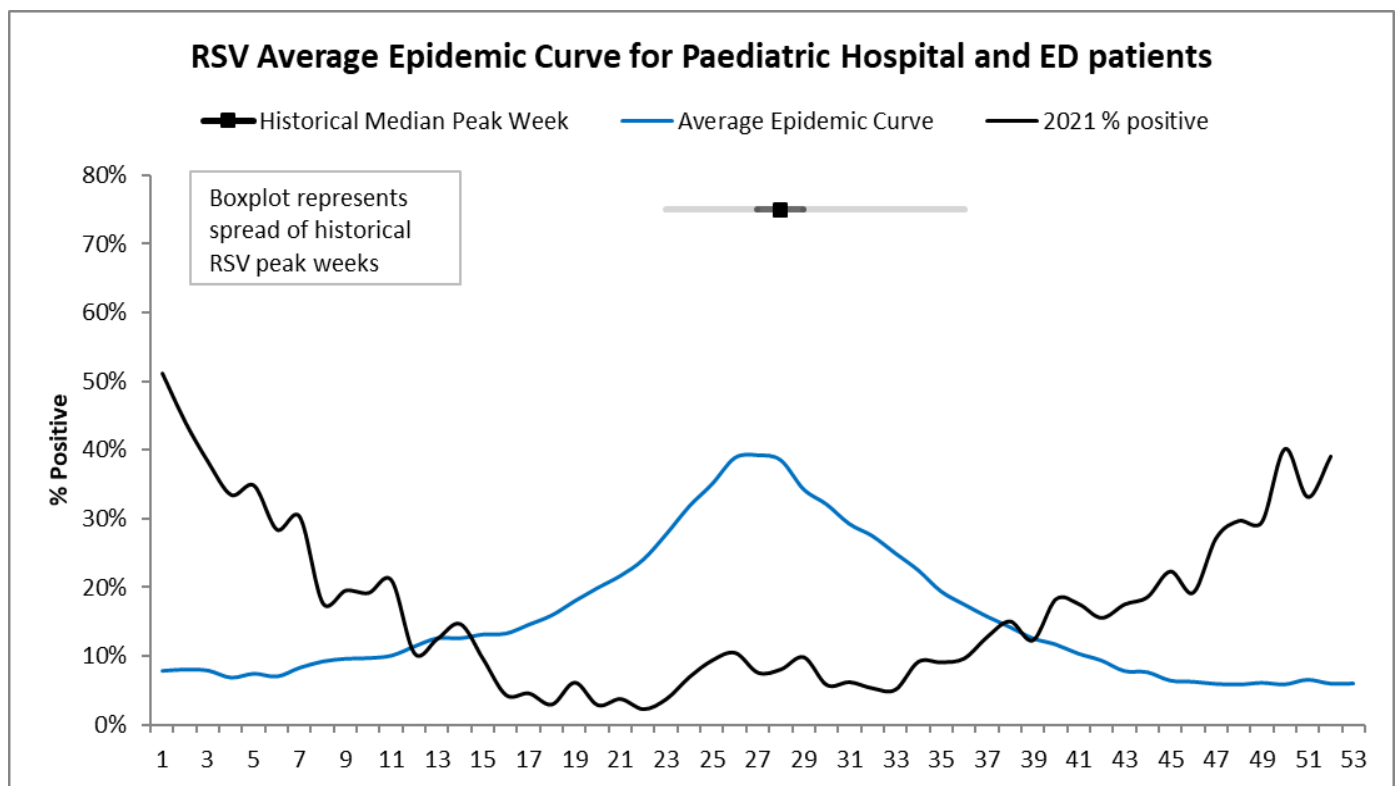


Figure 1: The current season plotted against the Paediatric RSV Average Epidemic Curve. The average epidemic curve was constructed by averaging all seasons measured at PathWest QE2 from 2007-2019. The high intensity threshold is 1.645 standard deviations above (upper 90% CI) the average epidemic curve. Data represents all WA hospitalised and ED paediatric patients tested by PathWest.

RSV proportion positive (40%) is higher than levels historically observed at this time of year.

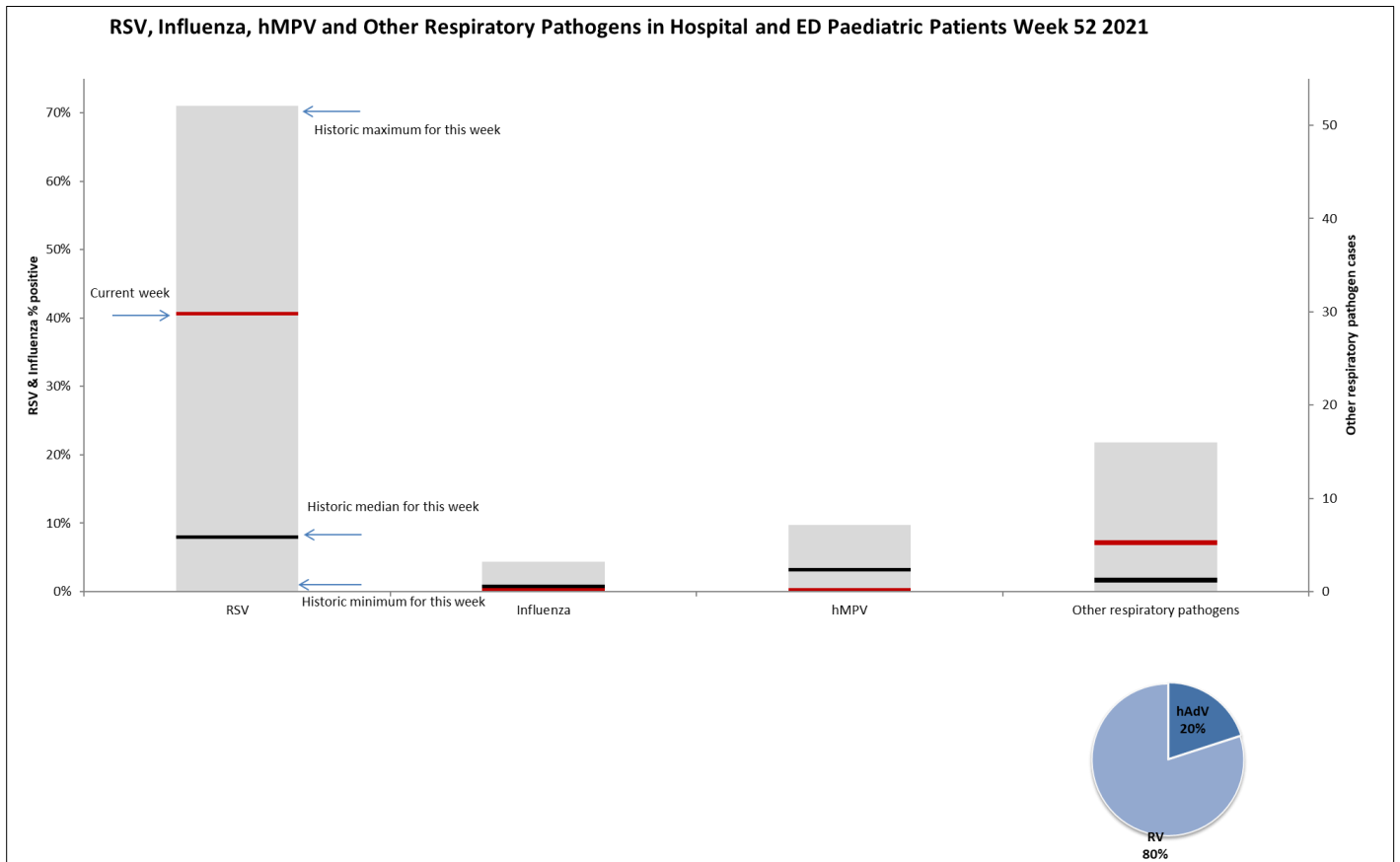


Figure 2: Proportion positive (RSV & influenza) or cases (other respiratory pathogens) for the current week (red line) plotted against the historic range (grey box) and median (black line) for this week. Pie charts represent the breakdown of influenza subtypes and the count of other respiratory pathogens. Data represents hospitalised and ED paediatric patients tested by PathWest. Historic data is for years 2007-2019. Please note: Due to the escalation of rapid PCR testing, the number influenza and RSV positive samples which do not receive a subtyping test has increased.

RSV proportion positive (40%) was higher than the historic median (8%) for this week. hMPV proportion positive (0%) was lower than the historic median (3%) for this week. Other respiratory virus detections were higher than the historic median for this week.

Data is representative of all patients attending a hospital (public or private) in Western Australia, for which a respiratory sample was collected and tested at a PathWest laboratory.

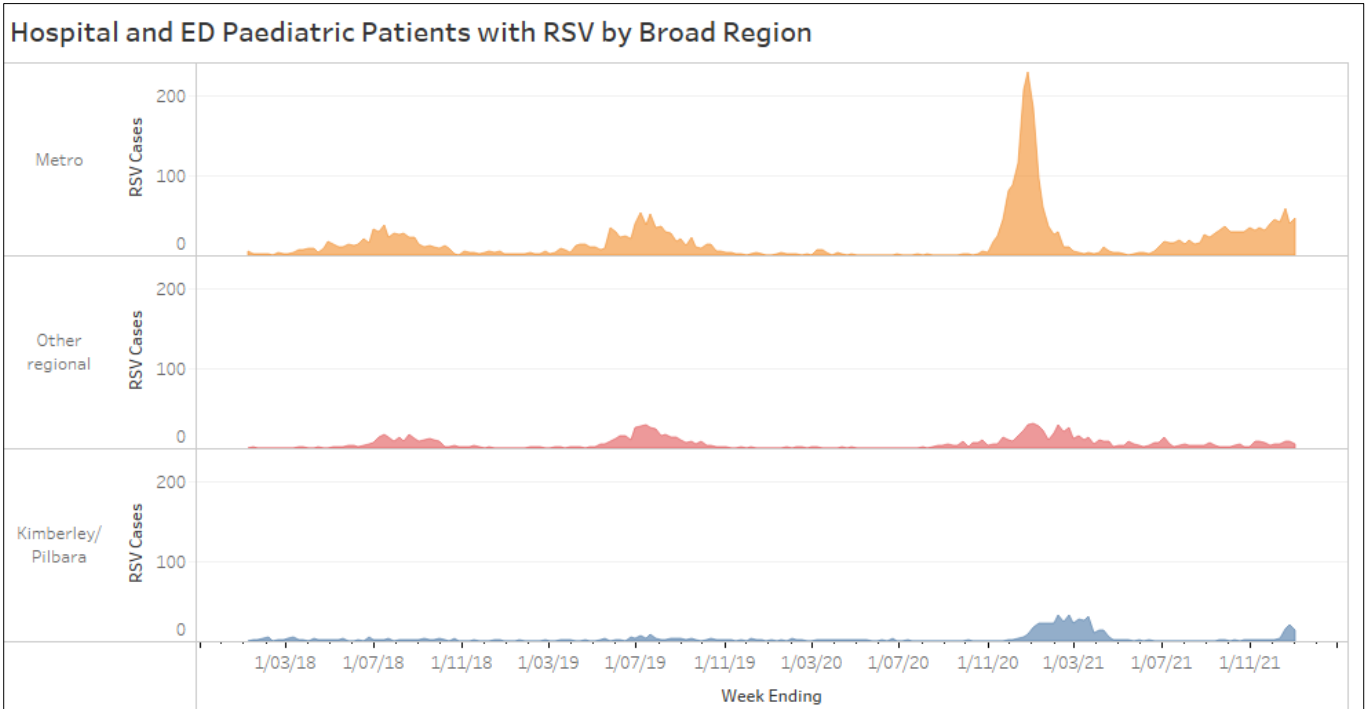


Figure 3: Hospital attending paediatric patients with RSV in Perth metropolitan region, in both Kimberley and Pilbara combined and in the remaining regions combined.

Of the 78 paediatric cases of RSV this week, 57 were from the Metro area, 14 were from the Pilbara, 4 from the Southwest and one from each of the Wheatbelt, Goldfields and Great Southern.

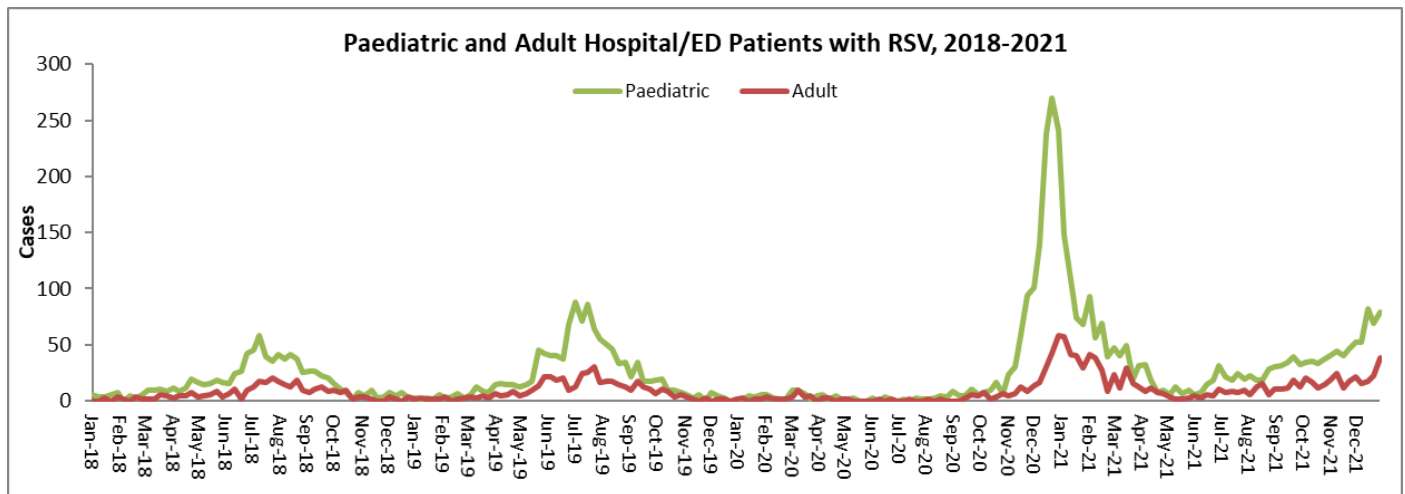


Figure 4: Paediatric and adult hospital attending patients with RSV, 2018-2021.

There were 78 children and 38 adults with RSV who attended a hospital.

Data is representative of all patients attending a hospital (public or private) in Western Australia, for which a respiratory sample was collected and tested at a PathWest laboratory.