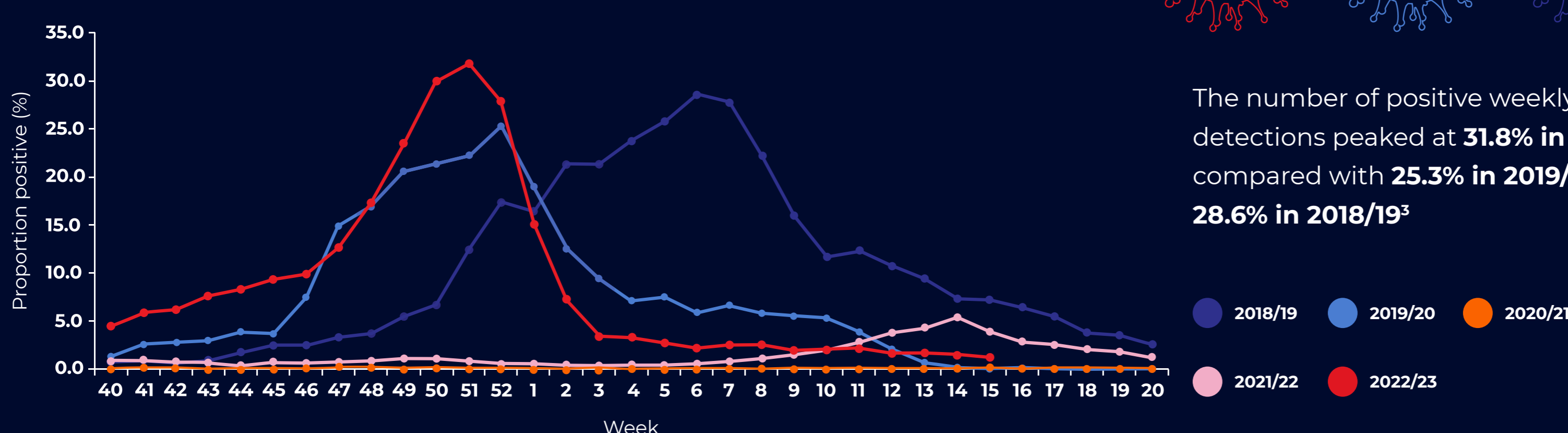


INFLUENZA BURDEN OF DISEASE

With the last of COVID-related measures lifted, influenza activity in 2022/23 returned to pre-pandemic levels,¹ placing a substantial burden on patients and healthcare systems.² Cases were mostly concentrated in a 7 week window (week 48 2022 to week 3 2023)¹

WEEKLY INFLUENZA SWAB PERCENTAGE¹

Detections of all influenza through Respiratory DataMart, sentinel laboratories in England, 2017 to 2023



The number of positive weekly detections peaked at **31.8% in 2022/23** compared with **25.3% in 2019/20** and **28.6% in 2018/19**³

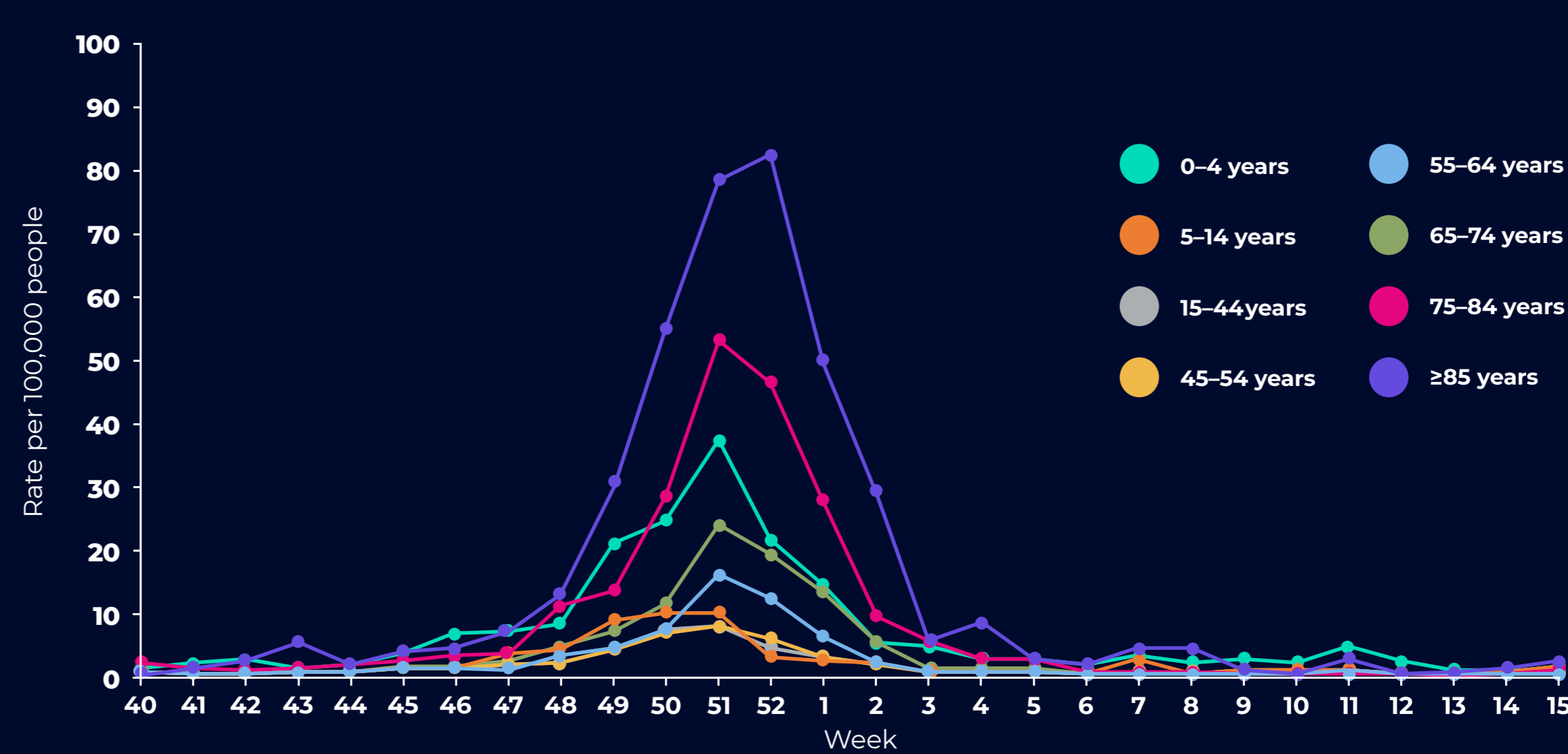


WHO WAS MOST AFFECTED BY INFLUENZA?

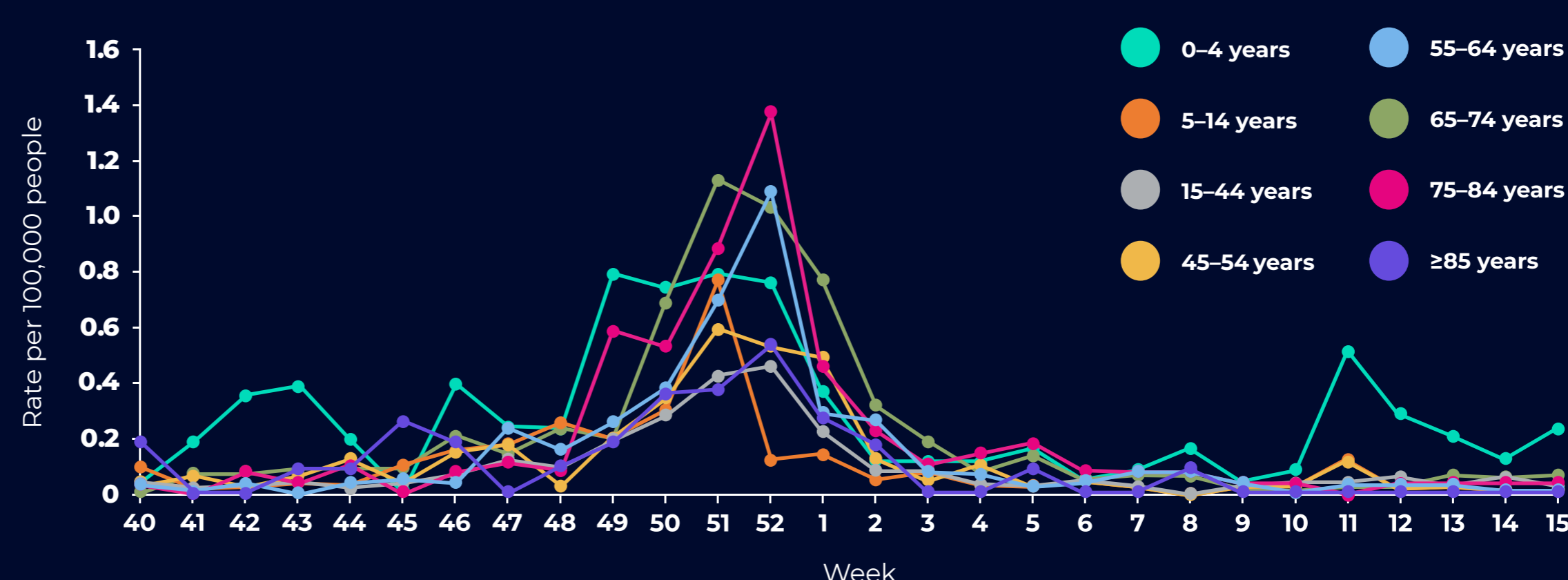
People of all ages can contract influenza, however a greater risk of influenza complications is associated with very young (0–4 years) and older age (≥65 years)^{1,4}

During the 2022/23 season in England, most hospitalisations were among people aged ≥75 years and most ICU/HDU admissions were among people aged 75–84, 65–74 and 55–64 years^{1,3}

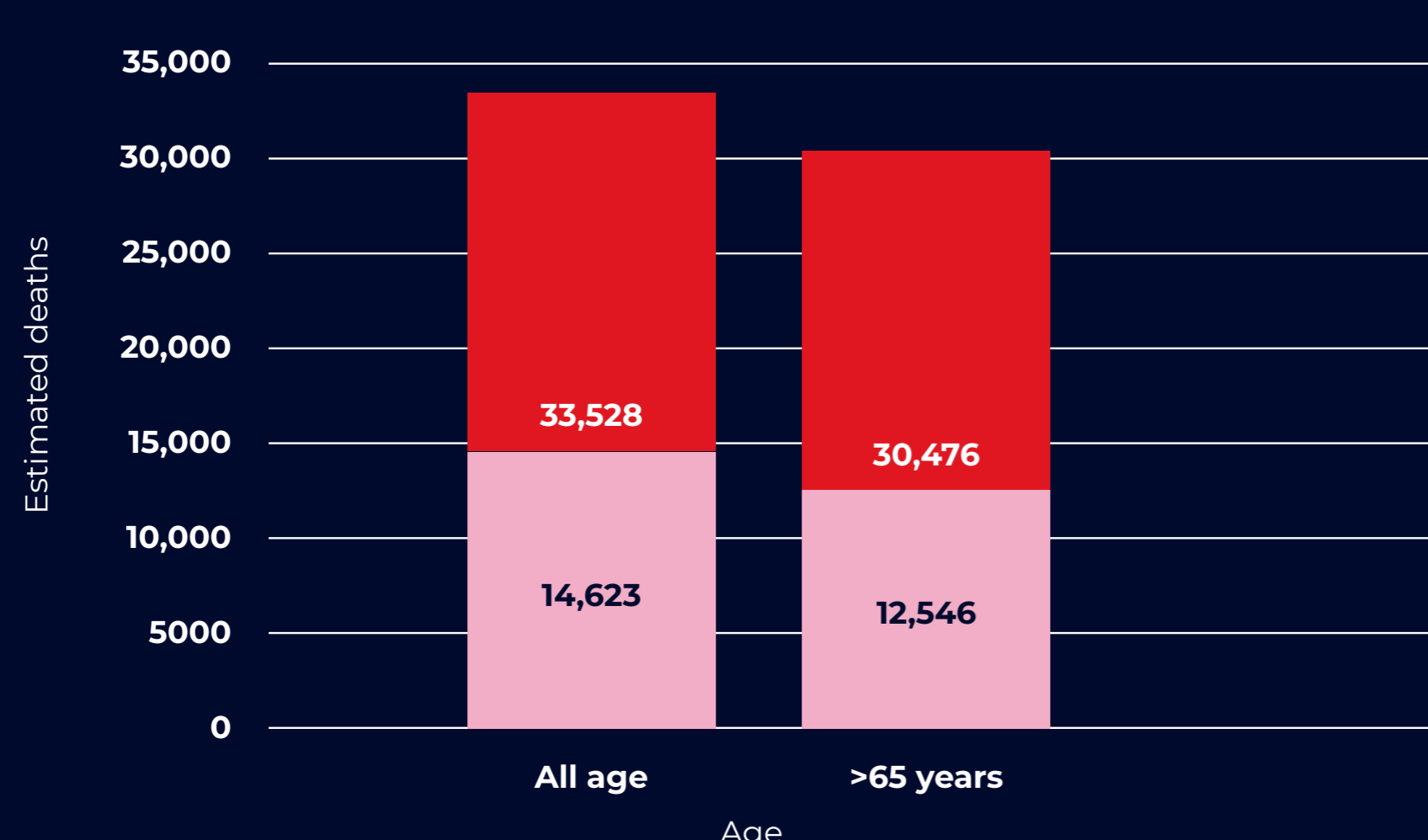
RATE OF INFLUENZA HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS BY AGE GROUP, 2022/23^{1,3}



RATE OF INFLUENZA ICU/HDU ADMISSIONS BY AGE GROUP, 2022/23^{1,3}



ESTIMATED DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO INFLUENZA, COVID-19 AND COLD WEATHER IN ENGLAND, 2022 TO 2023 SEASON¹



Total deaths **Influenza-related**

The winter 2022/23 spike in mortality was predominantly attributed to influenza¹

Influenza-related mortality in 2022/23 (14,623 estimated deaths) was higher than that seen in the previous 4 years¹

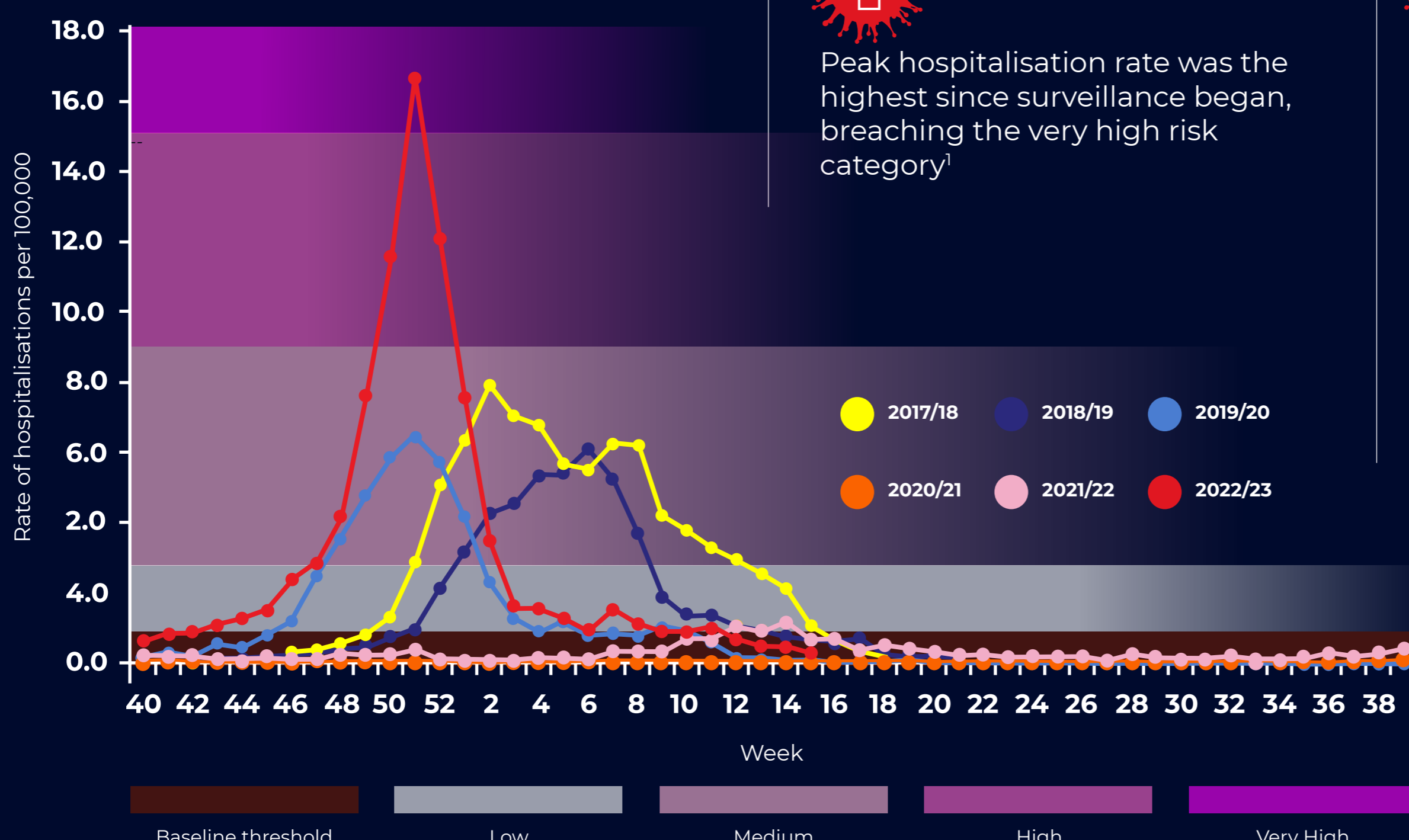
Of the deaths associated with influenza, COVID-19 and cold weather during winter 2022/23, the majority were in people aged ≥65 years. A large proportion of these was due to influenza¹

WHAT EFFECT DID INFLUENZA HAVE ON HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS?

Influenza has a significant economic impact in the form of healthcare utilisation.⁵ The 2022/23 influenza season resulted in higher peak ED visits, hospitalisations and ICU/HDU admissions than previous years,¹ placing a significant burden on healthcare systems during this time

WEEKLY OVERALL INFLUENZA HOSPITAL ADMISSION RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION¹

SARI Watch, England 2017 to 2023



GP VISITS

Number of weekly all age GP visits for ILI in 2022/23 were comparable to pre-pandemic years³

2022/23 | 31.3 per 100,000 people
2019/20 | 19.4 per 100,000 people
2018/19 | 23.1 per 100,000 people
2017/18 | 54.1 per 100,000 people

HOSPITALISATIONS

Peak hospitalisation rate was the highest since surveillance began, breaching the very high risk category¹

ED VISITS

Weekly all age emergency department ARI attendances were higher at the peak of the season than pre-pandemic years^{11,3}

2022/23 | 47,765 attendances
2019/20 | 32,606 attendances
2018/19 | 24,293 attendances

ICU ADMISSIONS

Peak ICU admission rates were marginally higher than previous seasons with significant influenza activity, but cumulative admission rates were lower than pre-pandemic seasons^{11,3}

2022/23 | 0.65 per 100,000 people
2019/20 | 0.43 per 100,000 people
2018/19 | 0.54 per 100,000 people
2017/18 | 0.55 per 100,000 people

The easing of COVID-19 measures across the UK has led to the return of influenza activity to pre-pandemic levels, contributing to excess mortality and increased use

¹ED attendance and surveillance data presented here includes 121 EDs that reported data throughout the most recent 6 influenza seasons. ²Lower relative utilisation may reflect higher pre-pandemic testing in critical care relative to medical wards, critical care concurrent demands, and this being an A(H3N2) dominated season, rather than an A(H1N1)pdm09 dominated season which would have had higher impact on younger adults and therefore critical care. ARI, acute respiratory illness; COVID-19, coronavirus disease 2019; ED, emergency department; GP, general practitioner; HDU, high-dependency unit; ICU, intensive care unit; ILI, influenza-like illness; SARI, Severe Acute Respiratory Infection; UKHSA, United Kingdom Health Security Agency; WHO, World Health Organization. ³UKHSA. Surveillance of influenza and other seasonal respiratory viruses in the UK, winter 2022 to 2023 report. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-flu-reports/surveillance-of-influenza-and-other-seasonal-respiratory-viruses-in-the-uk-winter-2022-to-2023>. Accessed November 2023. ⁴UKHSA. The triple burden of flu, RSV and COVID-19. Available at: <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2023/02/07/the-triple-burden-of-flu-rsv-and-covid-19/>. Accessed November 2023. ⁵UKHSA. Surveillance of influenza and other seasonal respiratory viruses in the UK, winter 2022 to 2023 data set. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-flu-reports>. Accessed November 2023. ⁶UKHSA. Influenza: the green book, chapter 19. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19>. Accessed November 2023. ⁷WHO. Estimating disease burden of influenza. Available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/activities/estimating-disease-burden-of-influenza>. Accessed November 2023.