

Rachna Gupta, Wyatt Wren, and Quadri Durojaiye



**DOWN WITH THE SICKNESS!**

# The Impact of Residential Living on the Spread of Illness

# Background on IMSA Residence Halls / Jan 2018 Outbreak



- IMSA has 7 halls where students of each grade live together in single rooms with a roommate.
- 2018's flu outbreak saw the campus closed for a full week as the school was thoroughly disinfected

## Interviews with IMSA Students

- “My roommate and I always catch each other’s sicknesses. I can definitely see how residential life accelerates the spread of illness. I know that Rush-Copley has even told us that IMSA has a higher potential for outbreaks” - Ashley Homecgoy, Junior
- “I’m a sophomore and I don’t always go the nurse because I’m afraid they’ll send me home and I’ll miss school.” - Anonymous Sophomore



# Comparison of Data from Jan 2018 Flu Outbreak

IMSA v. General Rockford Area

1



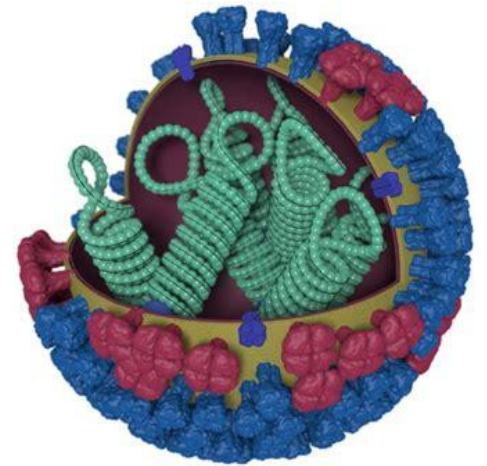
Influenza pandemics must be taken seriously precisely because of their capacity to spread rapidly to every country in the world.

- Margaret Chan (Director General of World Health Organization for 11 years)



# Background on Influenza

AN INFLUENZA VIRUS

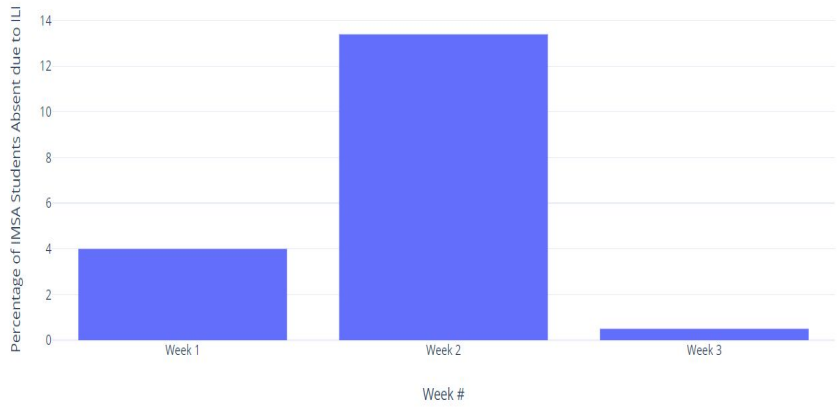


- “a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs.”
- “can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death.”
- Best protection from the flu is yearly vaccinations.

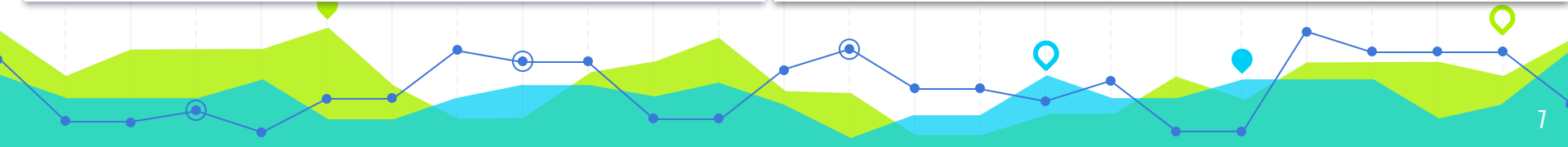
(From CDC)

# Data from IMSA Nurse's Office vs. Illinois Public Department of Health

Percent of IMSA Students Absent due to ILI (Flu Outbreak of Jan 2018)

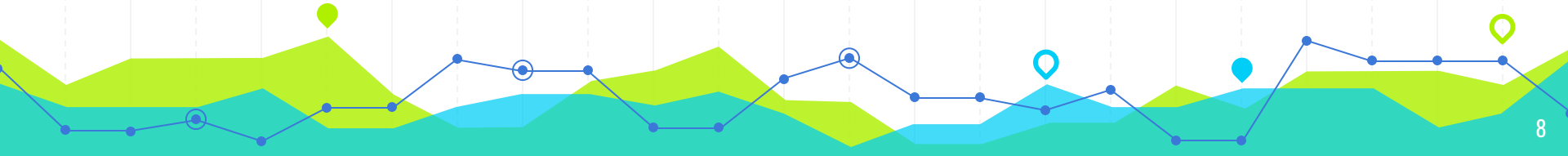


Percent of General Rockford Population who visited physicians due to ILI (Flu Outbreak of Jan 2018)



## Conclusions from Comparison

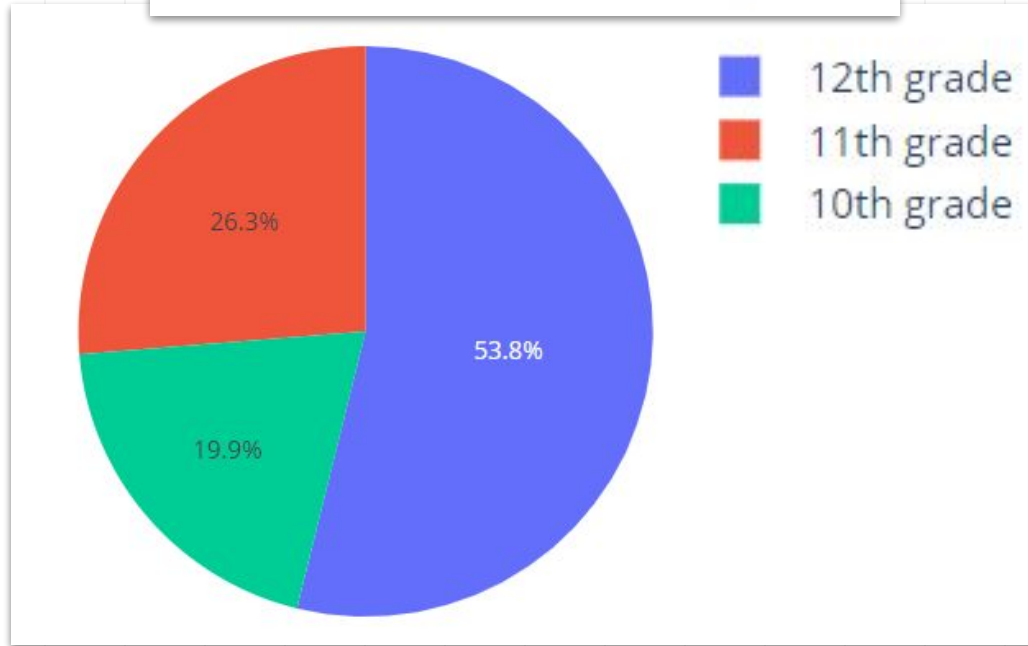
- The rate at which the outbreak arose was higher in the IMSA population than in the general area
- The school shutting down was effective and cleared out the illness





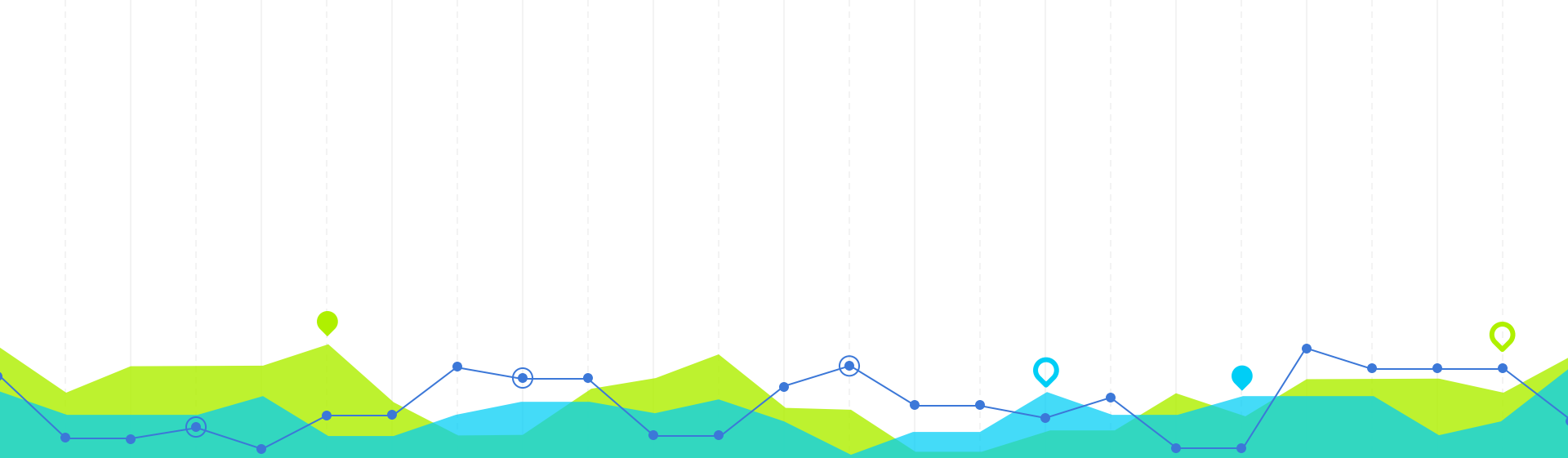
# How could Grade Level affect ILI?

Visits to the Nurse's Office with ILI by Grade



## Conclusion

- Seniors are more than half of visits to the nurse
    - Less afraid of missing classes?
    - Fewer classes to miss?
- 
- Sophomores are just under a fifth of visits to the nurse
    - Don't know what'll happen if they are sick?
    - Don't want to miss work and have to catch up later?



# Comparison of Data for General Health Office Visits

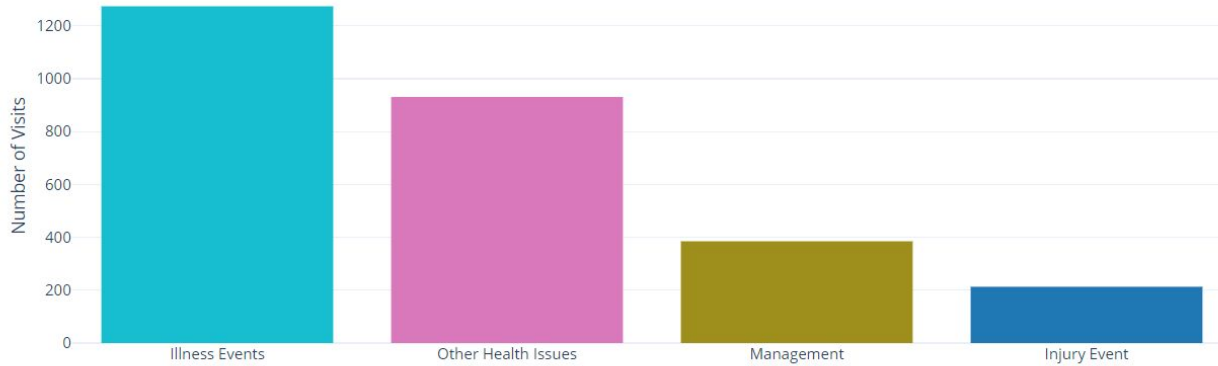
IMSA Health Office Visits v. General Students' Visits to Nurse

# 2

# IMSA Data

Approximately 75.85% of the IMSA population has visited the Nurse's Office with a health-related issue in the past school year. Each student visited approximately 2.6 times for illness events.

Number of Visits to the IMSA Nurse's Office Sorted by Reason for Visit 2018-19 School Year



Reason for Visit



$$124/637=19.5\%$$

The number of students with an ILI or an unknown illness out of the number of students in the school.

## ANCHA Benchmark Committee Report Data

- Results compiled from survey of 172 students from different schools
- The average American student visits the nurse 1.3 times a school year



## Conclusions from 2018-19 School Year Comparison

- The average IMSA student visits the Health Office twice as often as a regular student
- This could be because of the increased exposure to other students and their illnesses
- IMSA Students also could be more comfortable reporting symptoms

## Acknowledgements

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