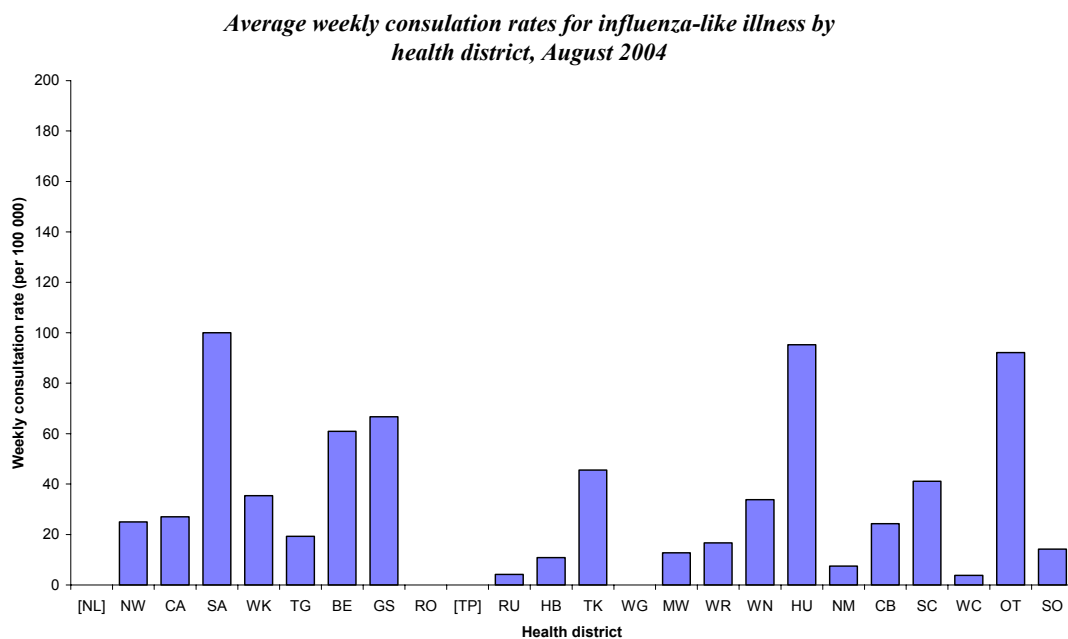


INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY - AUGUST 2004

During August (weeks 32-35), 453 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 82 general practices (on average) in 22 out of 24 health districts. The average weekly consultation rate for August was 32.08 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the average weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district during August. South Auckland had the highest consultation rate (100.0 per 100 000), followed by Hutt (95.2 per 100 000).

Figure 1



NB [] Health Districts not participating

A total of 153 swabs were sent for testing during August from sentinel surveillance. One hundred and twenty-four influenza swabs were received by the regional virology laboratories. Of these, 42 influenza viruses were identified, 32 as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), eight as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), and two as influenza B. The distribution by health district for the month of August is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

	NW	CA	SA	WK	MW	WN	NM	CB	OT	SC	Total
A (yet to be subtyped)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4	0	8
B (not typed)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2)	5	8	7	0	1	6	1	0	3	1	32
Total	6	8	7	1	1	6	1	3	8	1	42

In addition, 79 influenza viruses were reported for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) in August. Of these, 40 were identified as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 35 as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), three as influenza B, and one as B/Sichuan/379/99. The distribution by health district for the month of August is shown in Table 2.

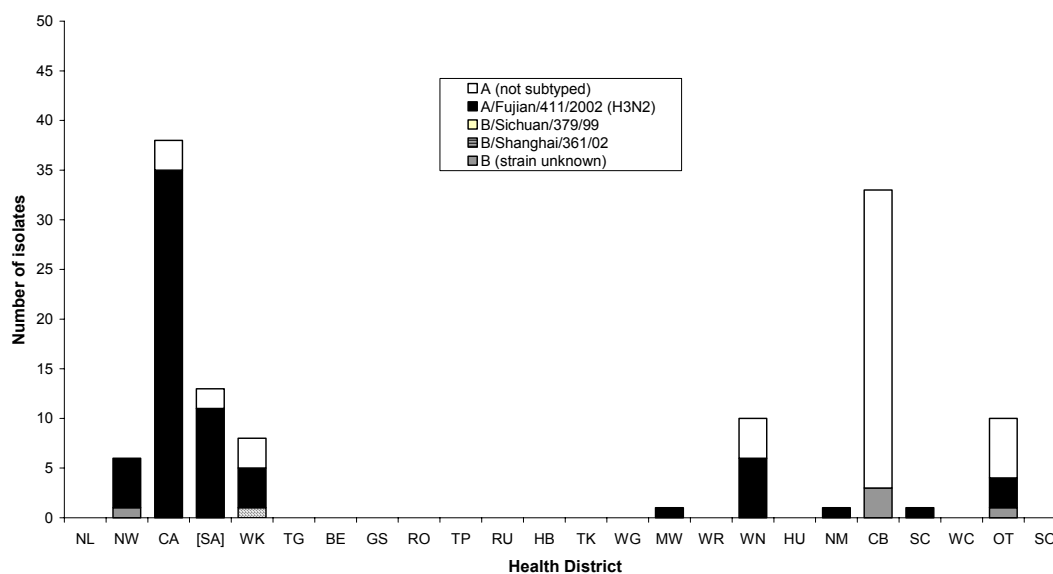
Table 2

	CA	SA	WK	WN	CB	OT	Total
A (yet to be subtyped)	3	2	2	4	27	2	40
B (not typed)	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
B/Sichuan/379/99	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2)	27	4	4	0	0	0	35
Total	30	6	7	4	30	2	79

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) for the month of August 2004. A total of 121 isolates were identified. Of these, 67 were subtyped as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), 48 as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), five as influenza B (yet to be typed), and one as B/Sichuan/379/99.

Figure 2

Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district, August 2004



[] The two A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2) viruses reported from South Auckland were specimens taken in March.

Figure 3 shows the national weekly consultation rates to the end of week 35, August 2004 compared with 2003 and 2002.

Figure 3

Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2002, 2003 and 2004

