

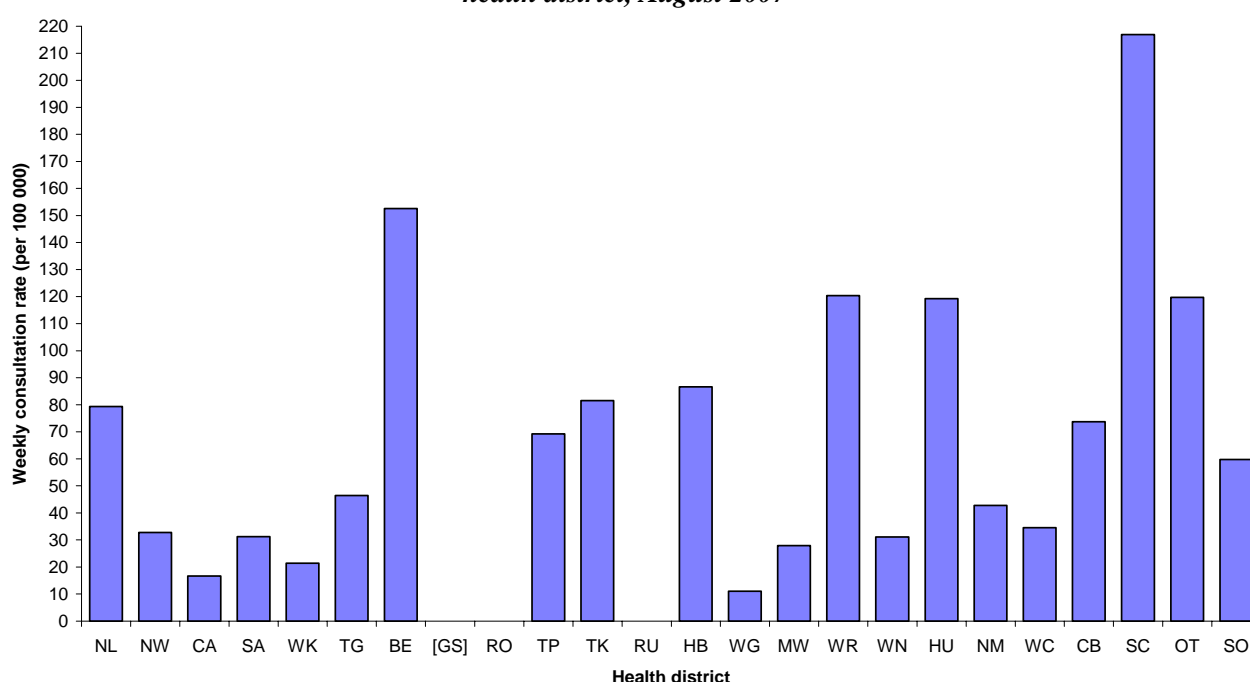
INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

SUMMARY - August 2007

During August (weeks 31 – 35), 1037 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices (on average) in 23 out of 24 health districts. The average weekly consultation rate for August was 60.8 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the average weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district during August. South Canterbury had the highest consultation rate (216.9 per 100 000), followed by Eastern Bay of Plenty (152.59 per 100 000).

Figure 1: Average weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district, August 2007



[] Health districts not participating in the influenza surveillance

A total of 232 swabs were sent for testing during August from sentinel surveillance. Two hundred and fifty influenza swabs were received by the regional virology laboratories. Of these, 35 influenza viruses were isolated, 28 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), one as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) – like, and six as B not antigenically typed. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Antigenic Strain	CA	CB	SC	Total
A (not antigenically sub-typed)	1	25	2	28
A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) - like	1	0	0	1
B (not antigenically typed)	0	5	1	6
Total	2	30	3	35

In addition, 249 influenza viruses were reported from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance in August, 211 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), four as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like, 34 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Antigenic Strain	CA	CB	HB	NW	SA	SC	WK	Total
A (not antigenically sub-typed)	1	199	5	1	1	3	1	211
A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) - like	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	4
B (not antigenically typed)	2	29	0	0	1	2	0	34
Total	4	228	5	2	4	5	1	249

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) for August 2007. A total of 284 isolates were identified, 239 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 4 as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like viruses, one as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) – like, 40 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed).

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district, August 2007

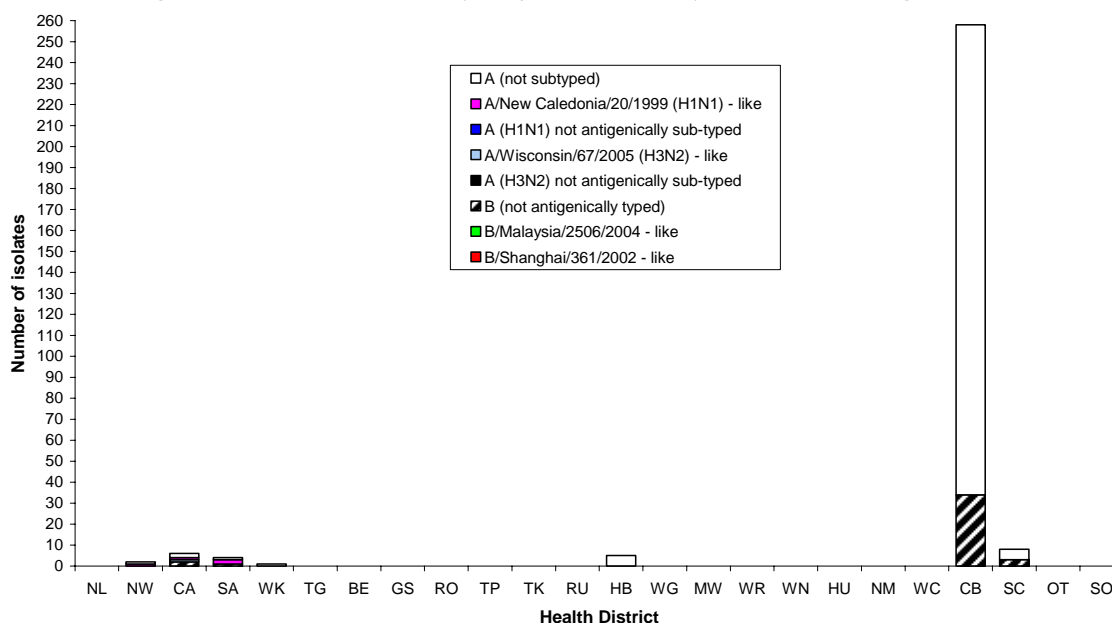


Figure 3 shows the national weekly consultation rates to the end of week 35, August 2007 and rates in 2006 and 2005.

Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2005, 2006 and 2007

