

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

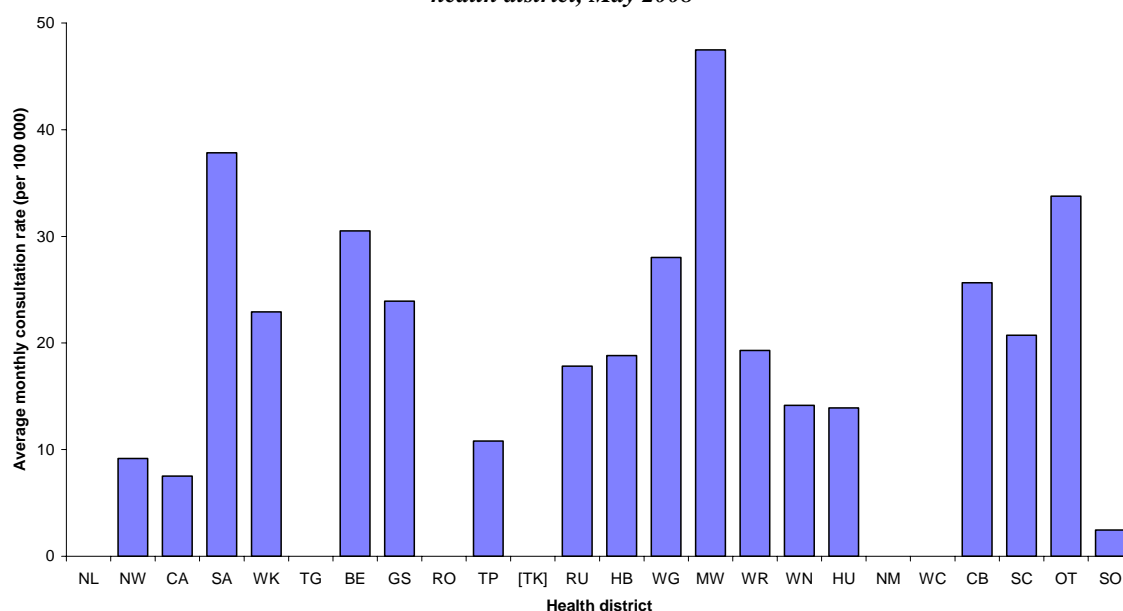
SUMMARY - MAY 2008

During May (weeks 18 – 22), 286 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 72 general practices (on average) in 23 out of 24 health districts. The average weekly consultation rate for May was 19.3 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the average weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district during May. Manawatu had the highest consultation rate (47.5 per 100 000), followed by South Auckland (37.9 per 100 000).

Figure 1

Figure 1: Average monthly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district, May 2008



[] Health district did not participate for the month

A total of 96 swabs were sent for testing during May from sentinel surveillance. Ninety-six influenza swabs were received by the regional virology laboratories. Of these, 16 influenza viruses were identified, seven A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, five influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), three influenza B (not antigenically typed), and one influenza A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Antigenic Strain	CA	WK	WG	MW	WN	CB	OT	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	5
A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) - like	0	3	2	0	1	0	1	7
B (not antigenically typed)	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Total	2	4	2	1	1	5	1	16

In addition, 22 influenza viruses were reported from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, 14 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), five A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, two influenza B (not antigenically typed), and one influenza A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

Antigenic Strain	CA	SA	WK	RO	CB	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	5	3	5	0	1	14
A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed)	1	0	0	0	0	1
A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) - like	0	0	4	1	0	5
B (not antigenically typed)	0	0	1	0	1	2
Total	6	3	10	1	2	22

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) for May 2008. A total of 38 isolates were identified, 19 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 12 A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, five influenza B (not antigenically typed), and two influenza A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed).

Figure 2

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district, May 2008

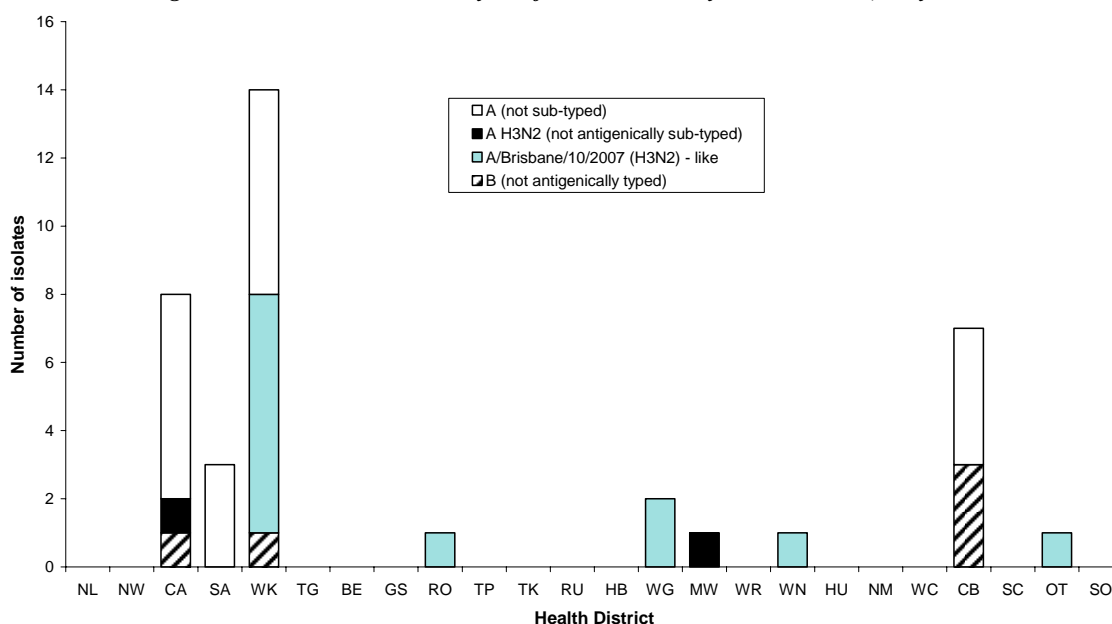


Figure 3 shows the national weekly consultation rates to the end of week 22, May 2008 and rates in 2007 and 2006.

Figure 3

Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2006, 2007 and 2008

