

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

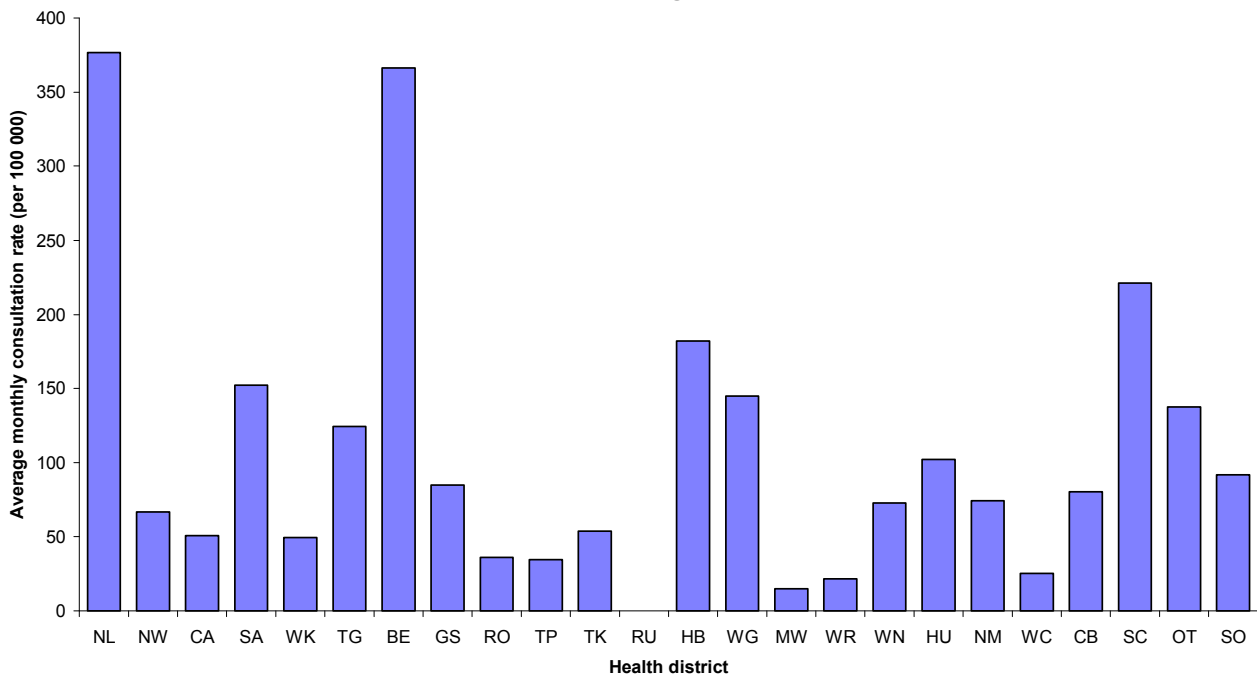
SUMMARY - AUGUST 2008

During August (weeks 31 – 35), 1486 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 81 general practices (on average) in all of the 24 health districts. The average weekly consultation rate for August was 87.1 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the average weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district during August. Northland had the highest consultation rate (376.6 per 100 000), followed by Eastern Bay of Plenty (366.2 per 100 000).

Figure 1

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



A total of 302 swabs were sent for testing during August from sentinel surveillance. Three hundred and six influenza swabs were received by the regional virology laboratories. Of these, 165 influenza viruses were identified, 94 influenza B (not antigenically typed), 34 B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like, 15 influenza A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), 11 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), seven B/Florida/4/2006 – like, three A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, and one A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Antigenic Strain	NL	NW	CA	SA	WK	TG	BE	GS	RO	TP	HB	WG	WR	WN	HU	NM	CB	SC	OT	SO	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	11
A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed)	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	15
A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) - like	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) - like	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
B (not antigenically typed)	0	10	23	1	2	6	5	4	0	2	3	3	2	5	3	2	15	2	5	1	94
B/Florida/4/2006 - like	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	7
B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	1	2	3	1	0	8	0	1	7	0	3	0	34
Total	1	11	27	2	3	11	10	8	1	4	6	5	4	17	7	5	29	4	9	1	165

In addition, 172 influenza viruses were reported from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, 126 influenza B (not antigenically typed), 44 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), and two B/Florida/4/2006 - like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

Antigenic Strain	NW	CA	SA	WK	HB	WN	NM	CB	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	1	6	2	2	2	0	0	31	44
B (not antigenically typed)	2	18	6	10	15	2	1	72	126
B/Florida/4/2006 - like	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	3	24	8	14	17	2	1	103	172

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) for August 2008. A total of 337 isolates were identified, 55 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 15 influenza A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), three A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, one A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like, 220 influenza B (not antigenically typed), 34 B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like, and nine B/Florida/4/2006 – like.

Figure 2

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

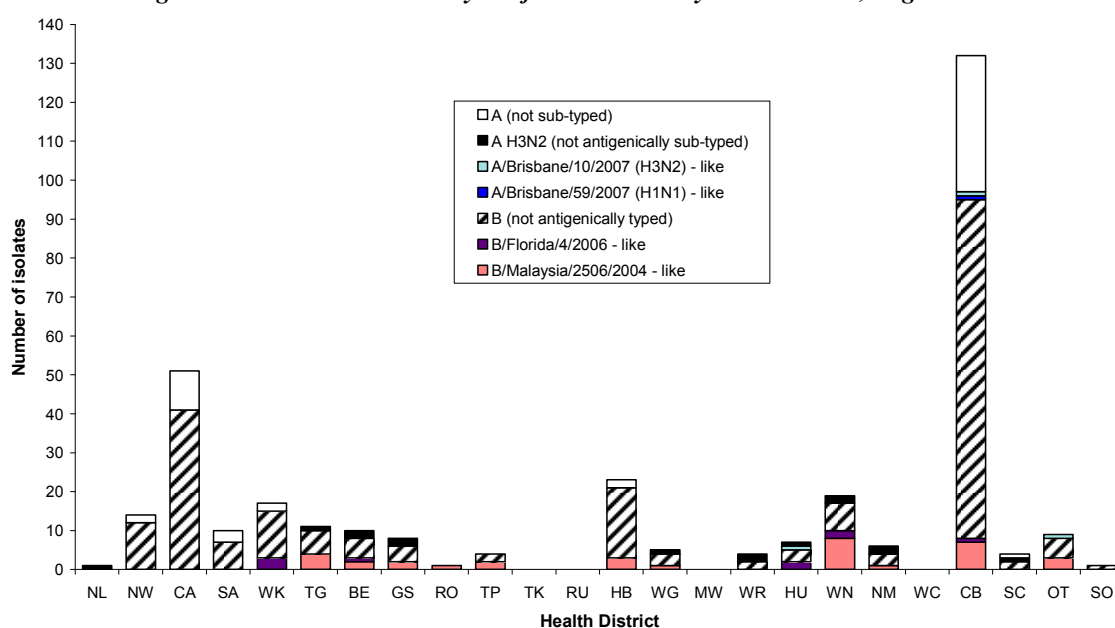


Figure 3 shows the national weekly consultation rates to the end of week 35, August 2008 and rates in 2007 and 2006.

Figure 3

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

