

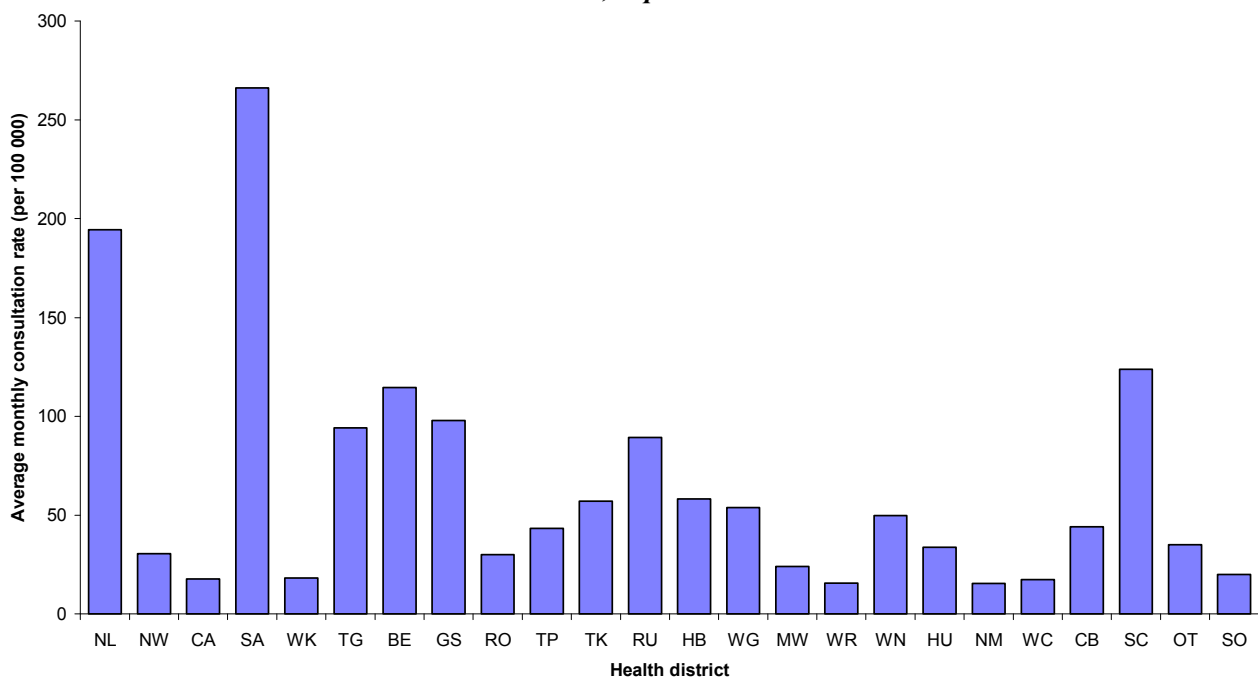
INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 2008

During September (weeks 36 – 40), 527 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 64 general practices (on average) in all of the 24 health districts. The average weekly consultation rate for September was 40.1 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the average weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district during September. South Auckland had the highest consultation rate (266.1 per 100 000), followed by Northland (193.4 per 100 000).

Figure 1

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



A total of 123 swabs were sent for testing during September from sentinel surveillance. One hundred and fifty-five influenza swabs were received by the regional virology laboratories. Of these, 63 influenza viruses were identified, 43 influenza B (not antigenically typed), 12 B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like, four influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), two B/Florida/4/2006 – like, one influenza A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed) and one A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Antigenic Strain	NL	NW	CA	WK	TG	BE	GS	RO	RU	HB	WG	MW	WR	WN	HU	NM	CB	SC	OT	Total
A (not sub-typed)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4
A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) - like	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
B (not antigenically typed)	0	2	1	8	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	5	4	3	43
B/Florida/4/2006 - like	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
B/Malaysia/2506/2004 - like	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	12
Total	1	2	1	15	5	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	4	3	3	7	4	5	63

In addition, 69 influenza viruses were reported from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, 59 influenza B (not antigenically typed) and 10 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in

Table 2.

Table 2.

Antigenic Strain	CA	WK	HB	CB	Total
A (not sub-typed)	2	0	1	7	10
B (not antigenically typed)	8	5	4	42	59
Total	10	5	5	49	69

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) for September 2008. A total of 132 isolates were identified, 14 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), one A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, one influenza A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), 102 influenza B (not antigenically typed), 12 B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like and two B/Florida/4/2006 – like.

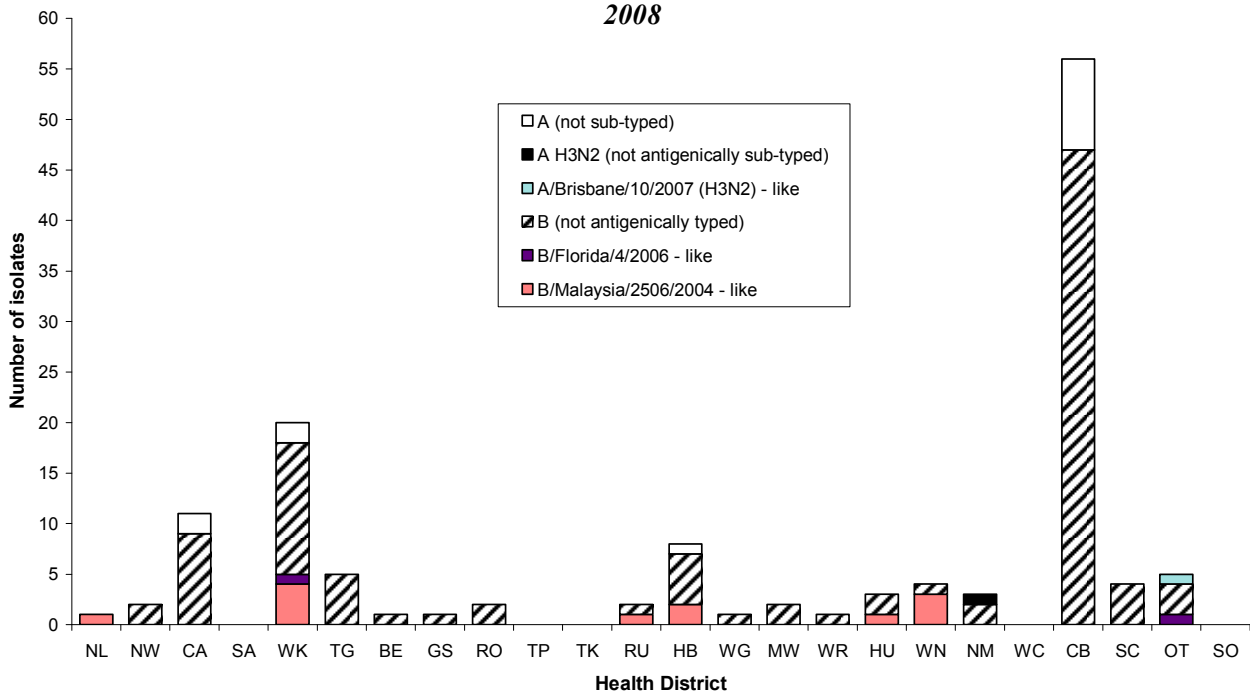
Figure 2**Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district, September 2008**

Figure 3 shows the national weekly consultation rates to the end of week 40, September 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

