

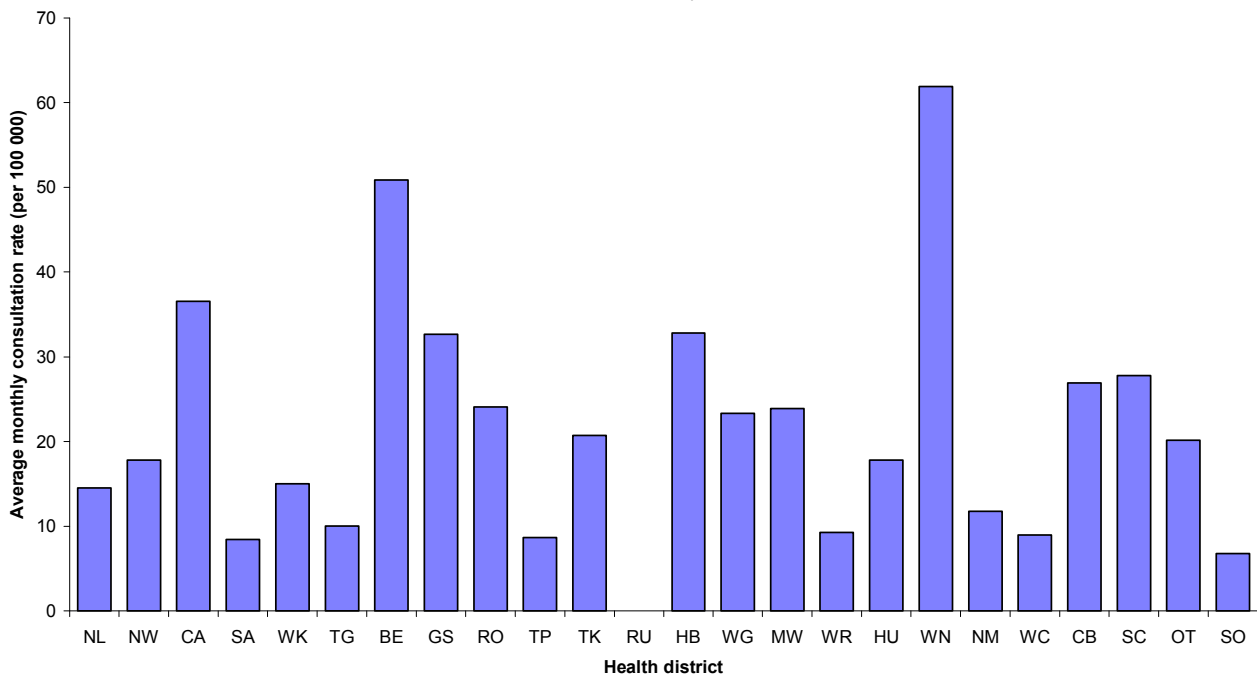
INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

SUMMARY - MAY 2009

During May (weeks 18 – 22), 420 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices (on average) in all 24 health districts. The average weekly consultation rate for May was 23.8 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the average weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district during May. Wellington had the highest consultation rate (61.9 per 100 000, 61 cases), followed by Eastern Bay of Plenty (50.9 per 100 000, 4 cases) and Central Auckland (36.6 per 100 000, 57 cases).

Figure 1: Average monthly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district, May 2009



A total of 156 swabs were sent for testing during May from sentinel surveillance. Two hundred and forty-six influenza swabs were received by the regional virology laboratories. Of these, 10 influenza viruses were identified, seasonal AH1N1 by PCR (4), A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like virus (3), seasonal AH3N2 by PCR (2), and B (not antigenically typed) (1). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Sentinel influenza viruses by Health District

Antigenic Strain	WK	TG	BE	WG	MW	WN	HU	Total
A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) - like virus	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
B (not typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Seasonal A H1N1 by PCR	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	4
Seasonal A H3N2 by PCR	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Total	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	10

In addition, 26 influenza viruses were reported from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, seasonal AH1N1 by PCR (11), seasonal AH3N2 by PCR (8), A (yet to be sub-typed) (4), A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like virus (2), and B (not antigenically typed) (1). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Laboratory-based influenza viruses by Health District

Antigenic Strain	CA	SA	WK	CB	Total
A (not antigenically sub-typed)	4	0	0	0	4
A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like virus	0	0	1	1	2
B (not typed)	1	0	0	0	1
Seasonal A H1N1 by PCR	2	1	6	2	11
Seasonal A H3N2 by PCR	7	0	0	1	8
Total	14	1	7	4	26

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) for May 2009. A total of 36¹ isolates were identified, seasonal AH1N1 by PCR (15), seasonal AH3N2 by PCR (10), A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) – like virus (5), A (yet to be sub-typed) (4) and B (not antigenically typed) (2).

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district, May 2009

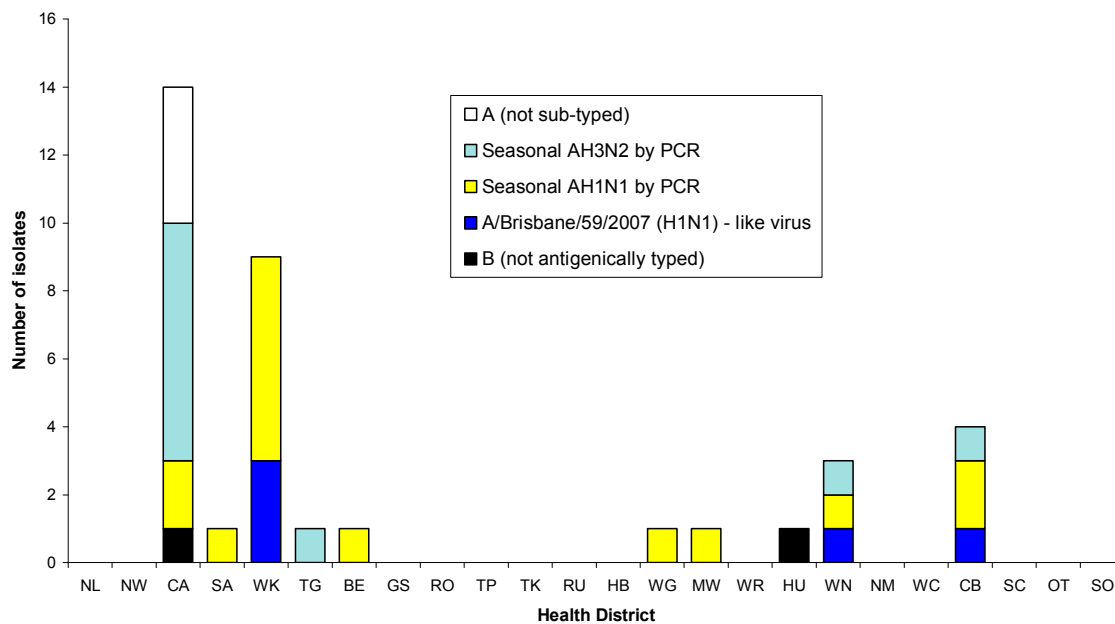


Figure 3 shows the national weekly consultation rates to the end of week 22, May 2009 and rates in 2008 and 2007.

¹ Data based on date specimen taken.

Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2007, 2008 and 2009

