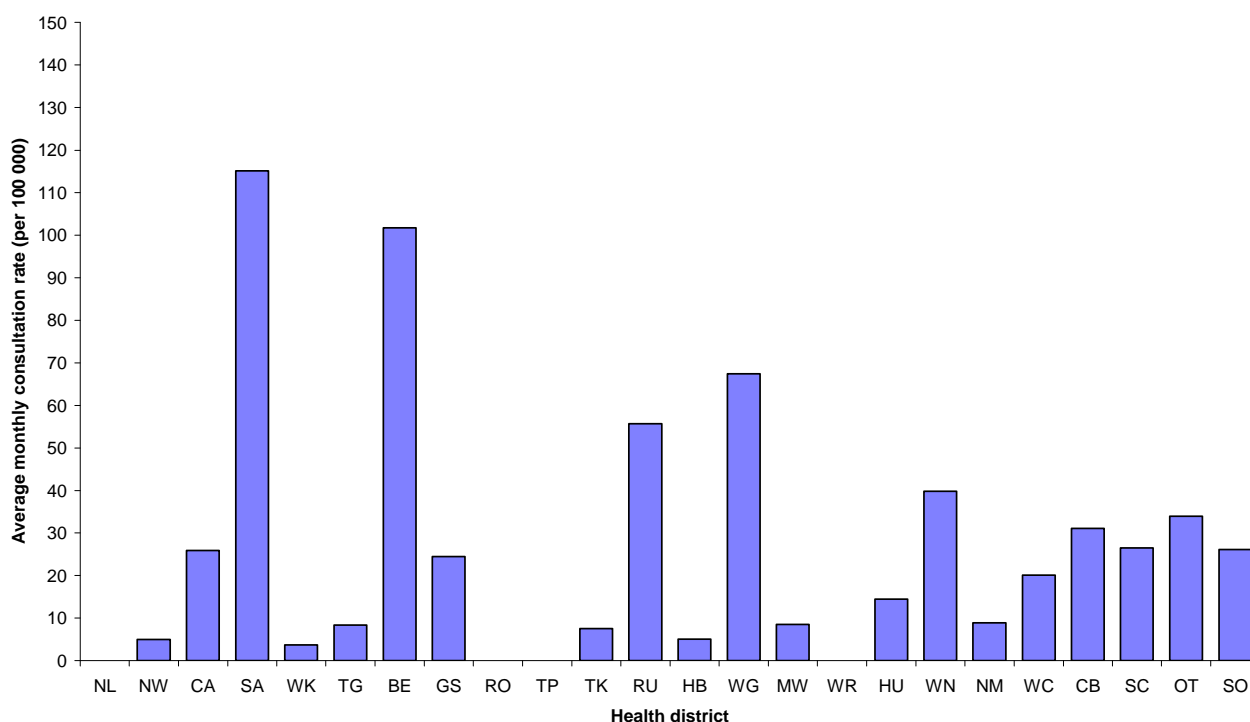


INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY - OCTOBER 2009

During October (weeks 40- 43), 601 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 85 general practices (on average) in all of the 24 health districts. The average weekly consultation rate for October was 35.2 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the average weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district during October. South Auckland had the highest consultation rate (115.2 per 100 000), followed by Eastern Bay of Plenty (101.7 per 100 000), and Wanganui (67.4 per 100 000).

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



A total of 82 swabs were received by the regional virology laboratories. Of these, one influenza virus was identified as Pandemic influenza (H1N1) 09 from South Canterbury.

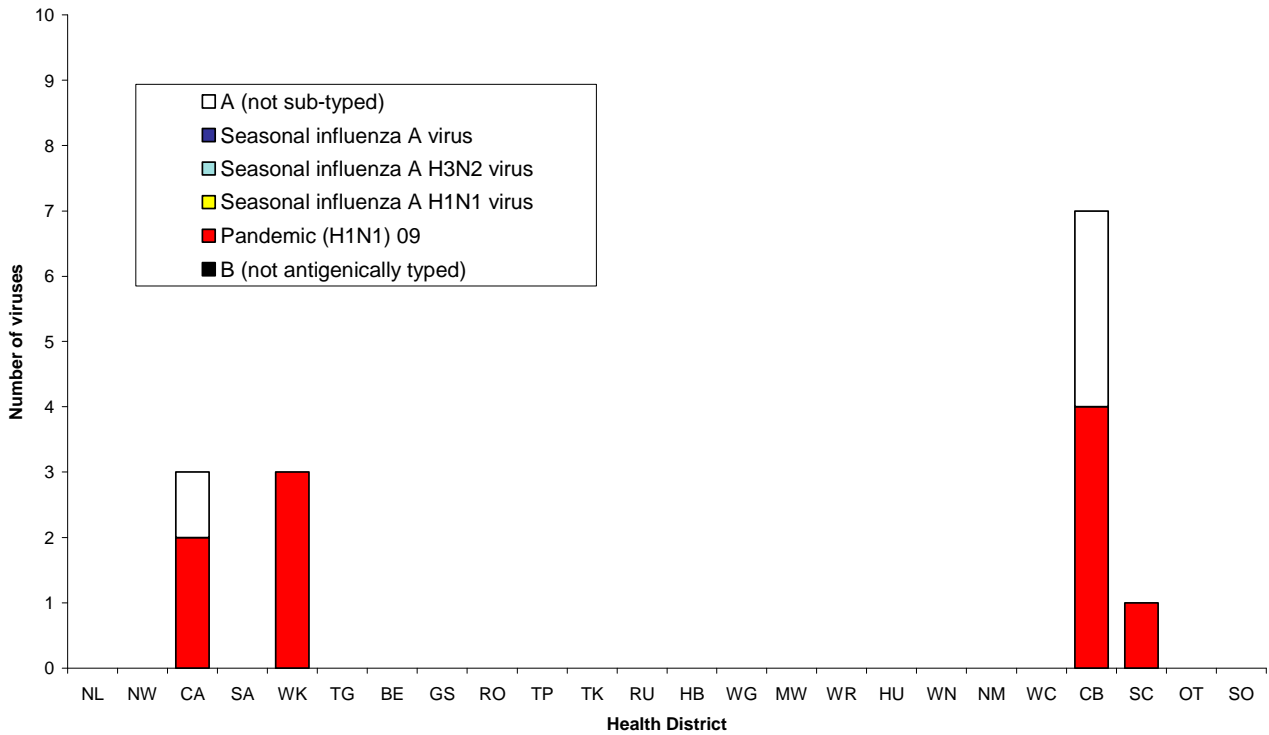
In addition, 13 influenza viruses were reported from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance: Pandemic influenza (H1N1) 09 (6), influenza A (not sub-typed) (4), and A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)v - like strain (3). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Influenza viruses from non-sentinel surveillance in October by Health District

Antigenic Strain	CA	WK	CB	Total
A (not sub-typed)	1	0	3	4
A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)v	0	3	0	3
Pandemic H1N1 09	2	0	4	6
Total	3	3	7	13

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) for October 2009¹. A total of 14 viruses were identified. The predominant strain was pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (10) including three of pandemic influenza A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)v - like strains and influenza A (not sub-typed) (4).

Figure 2: Cumulative influenza viruses from sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance by health district, October 2009



¹ Data based on date specimen taken rather than week reported.

Figure 3 shows the national weekly consultation rates to the end of week 43, October 2009 and rates in 2008 and 2007. As seen in the previous years, the rates of influenza-like illness have decreased gradually between week 34 and week 40. However, ILI consultations from the GP sentinel surveillance program are still being reported after week 40 in response to the influenza pandemic this year.

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

