

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

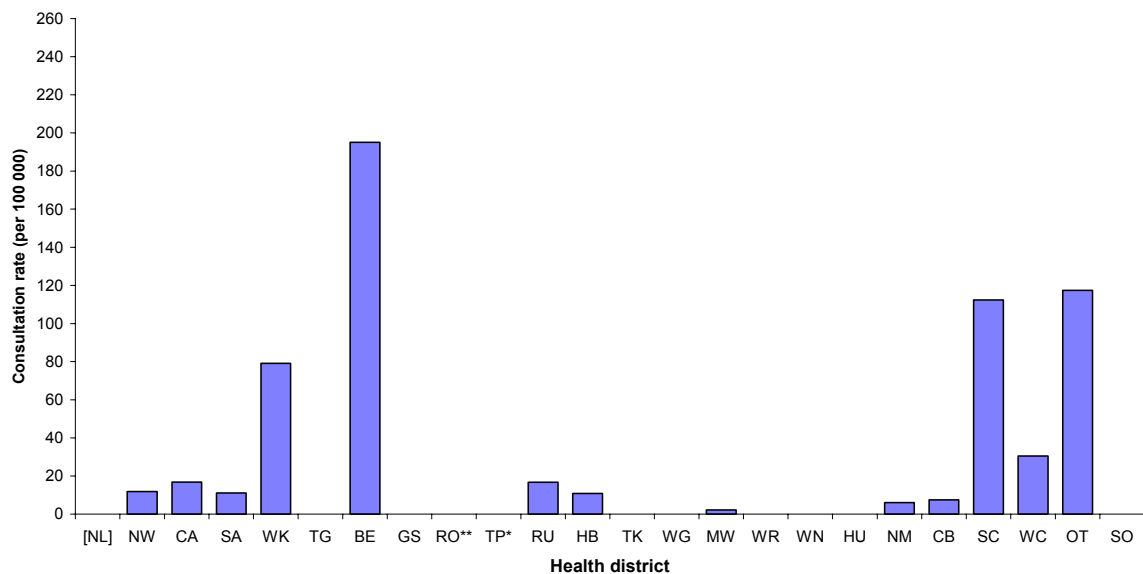
2004/29: 12 July – 18 July 2004

In the past week, a total of 87 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 78 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 25.9 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Eastern Bay of Plenty had the highest consultation rate (195.0 per 100 000), followed by Otago (117.3 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 16 July 2004*



[] Health District not participating

* No sentinel practice to date

** Health District did not participate for the week

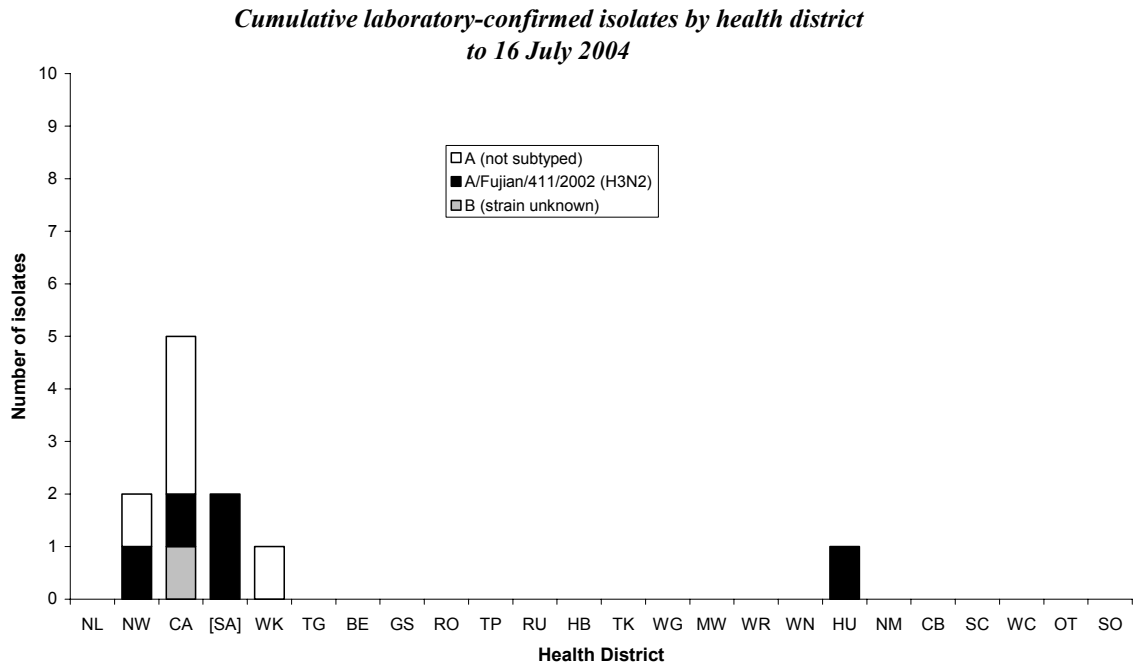
Sixteen swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Eighteen swabs were received by virology laboratories. The influenza virus is yet to be identified from these swabs.

No isolates were reported by regional virology laboratories from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance.

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 29, July 2004. A total of 11 isolates

were identified. Of these, five were influenza A (yet to be subtyped), five were subtyped as A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2), and one as influenza B.

Figure 2



[] The two A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2) viruses reported from South Auckland were specimens taken in March.

Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2002 and 2003 seasons, and 2004 so far. The current rate of influenza is lower than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

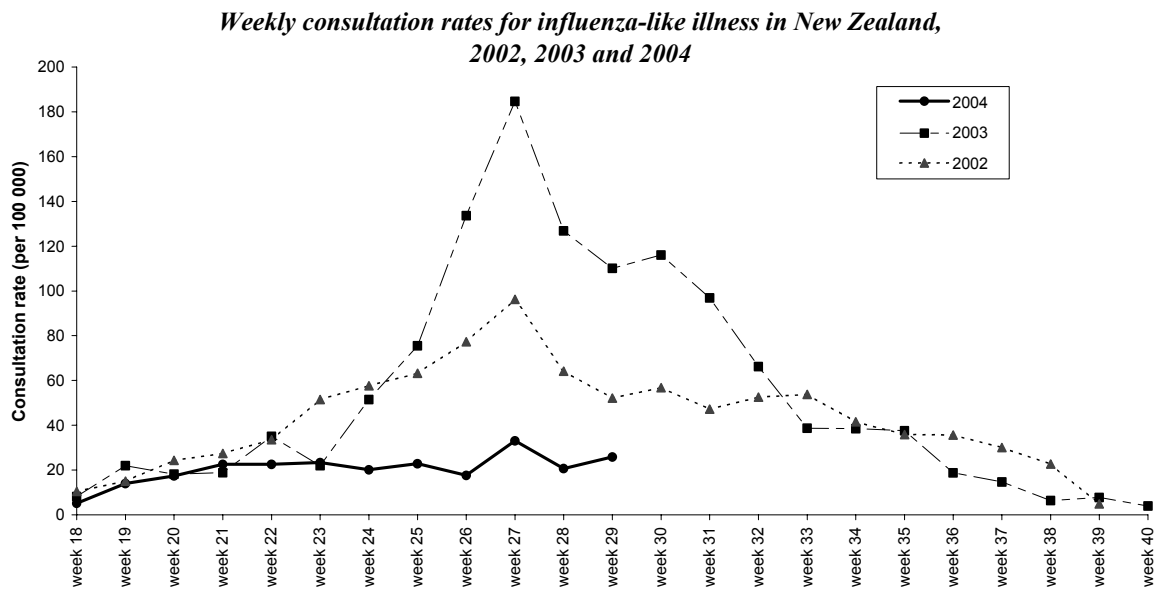
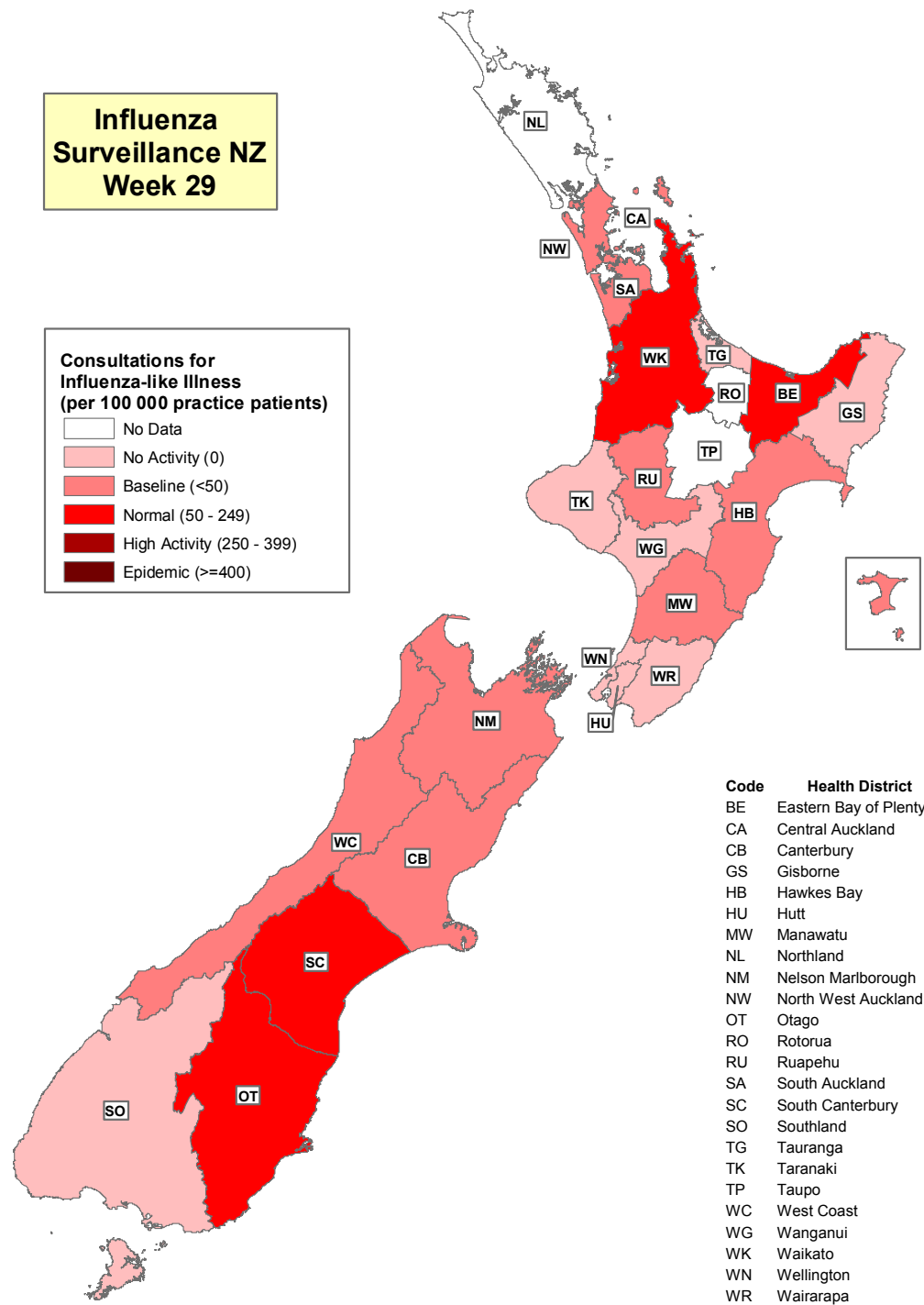


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 29, 2004.

Figure 4



The threshold used to describe the influenza-like activity can be referred in New Zealand Public Health Report 2001, 8 (1): 9-12 "Influenza surveillance and immunisation in New Zealand, 1990-1999"

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