

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

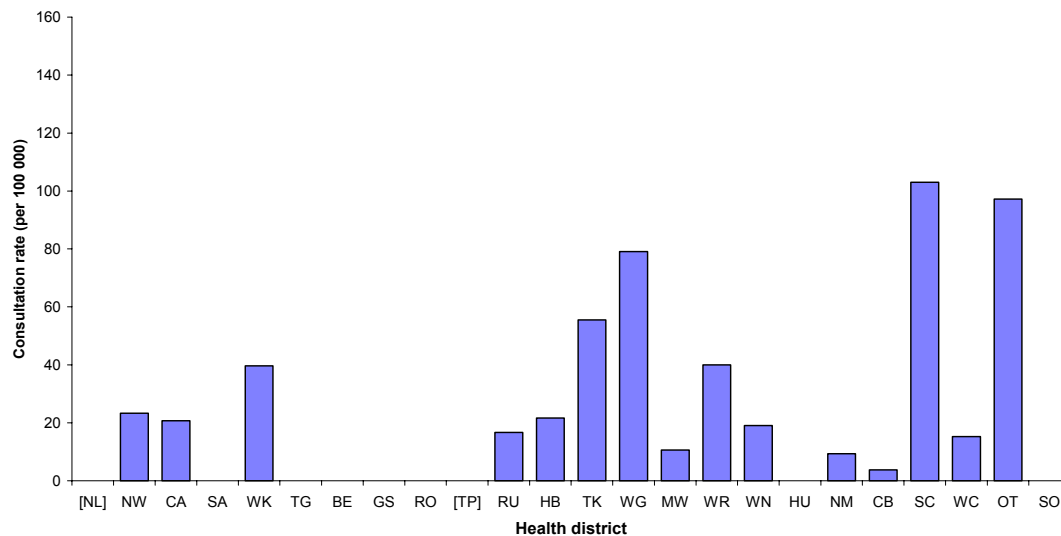
2004/30: 19 July – 25 July 2004

In the past week, a total of 98 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 83 general practices in 22 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 27.8 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. South Canterbury had the highest consultation rate (103.0 per 100 000), followed by Otago (97.2 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 23 July 2004*



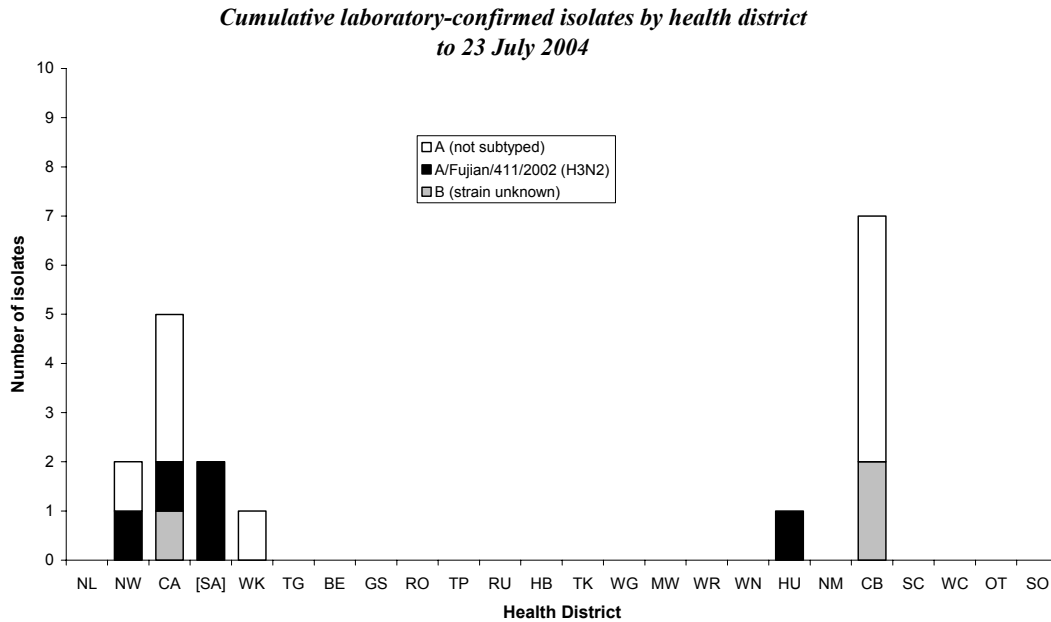
[] Health District not participating

Eighteen swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Nineteen swabs were received by virology laboratories. One influenza A virus (yet to be subtyped) was reported from Canterbury.

Six isolates were reported from Canterbury from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Of these, four were influenza A virus (yet to be subtyped), and two were influenza B (yet to be further typed). Three of the influenza A isolates have come from an outbreak in a geriatric mental health assessment unit.

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 30, July 2004. A total of 18 isolates were identified. Of these, 10 were influenza A (yet to be subtyped), five were subtyped as A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2), and three 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

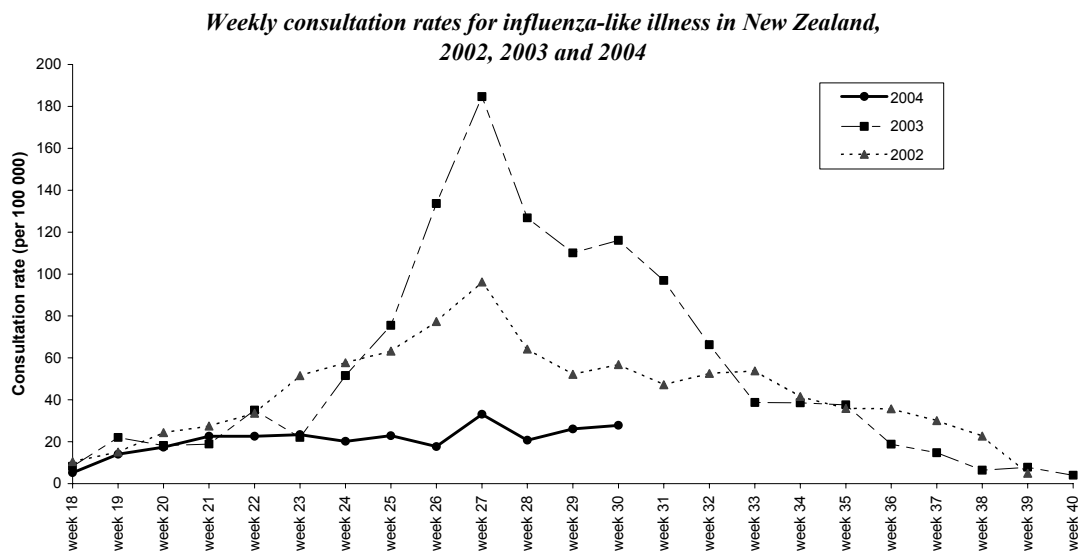
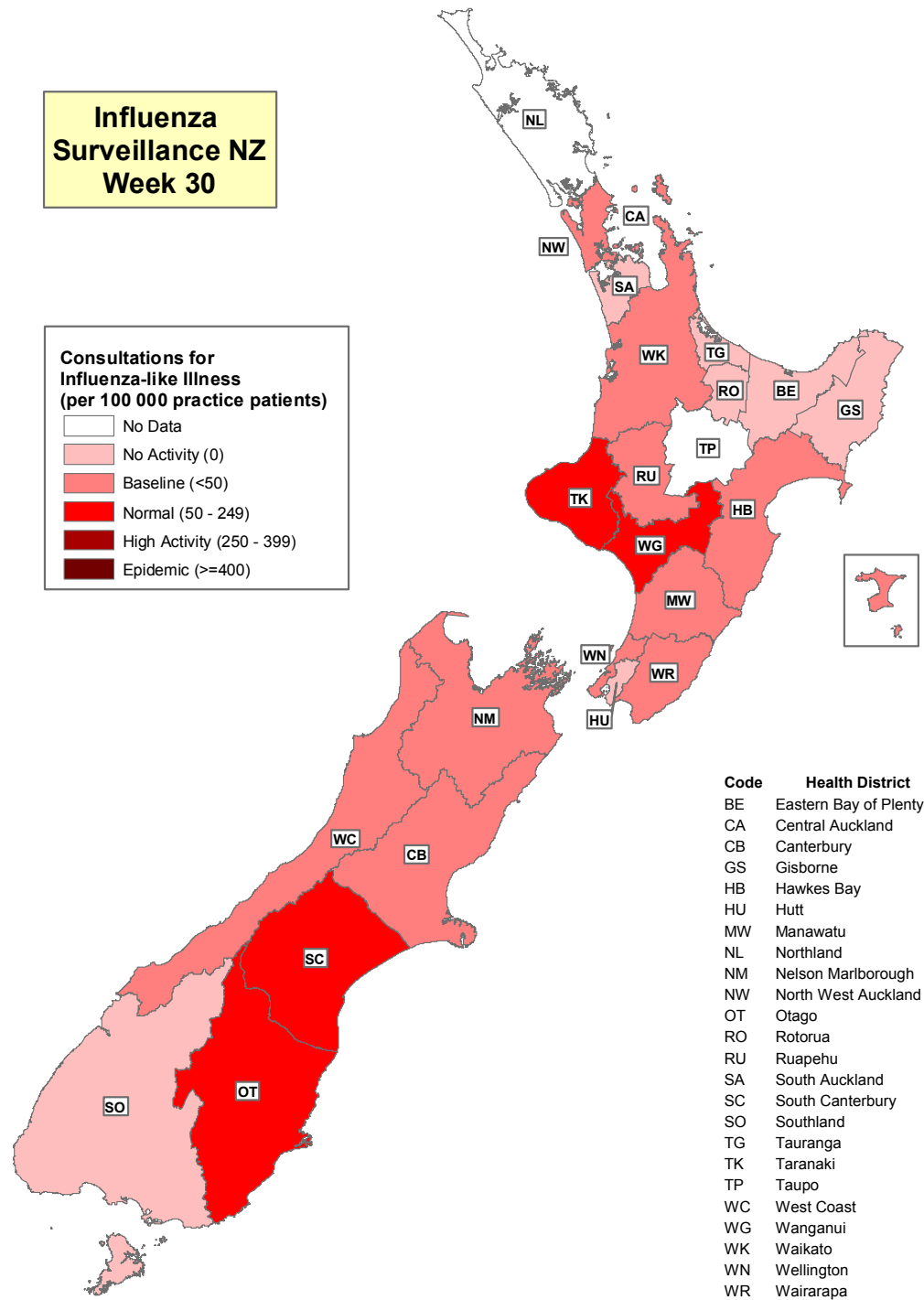


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 30, 2004.

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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