

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

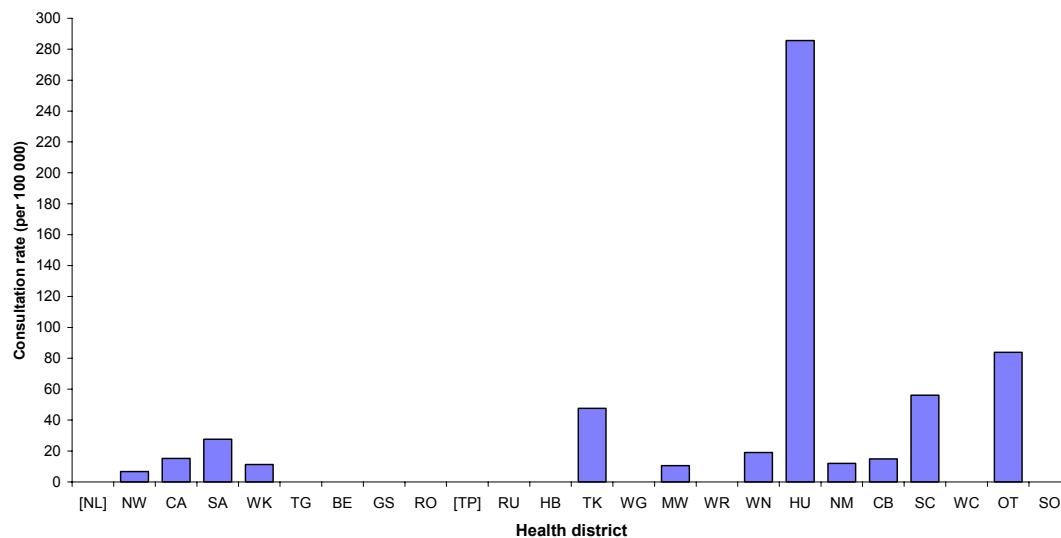
2004/31: 26 July – 01 August 2004

In the past week, a total of 73 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 86 general practices in 22 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 20.1 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Hutt had the highest consultation rate (285.7 per 100 000), followed by Otago (83.8 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 30 July 2004*



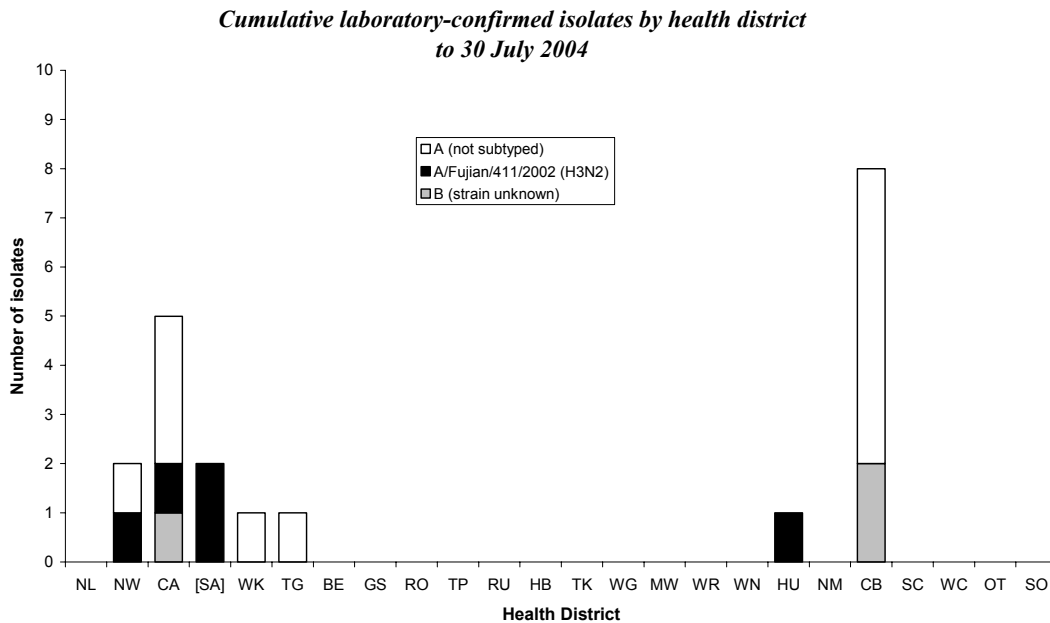
[] Health Districts not participating

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

Two influenza A isolates (yet to be subtyped) from Canterbury and Tauranga were reported for 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 31, July 2004. A total of 20 isolates were identified. Of these, 12 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

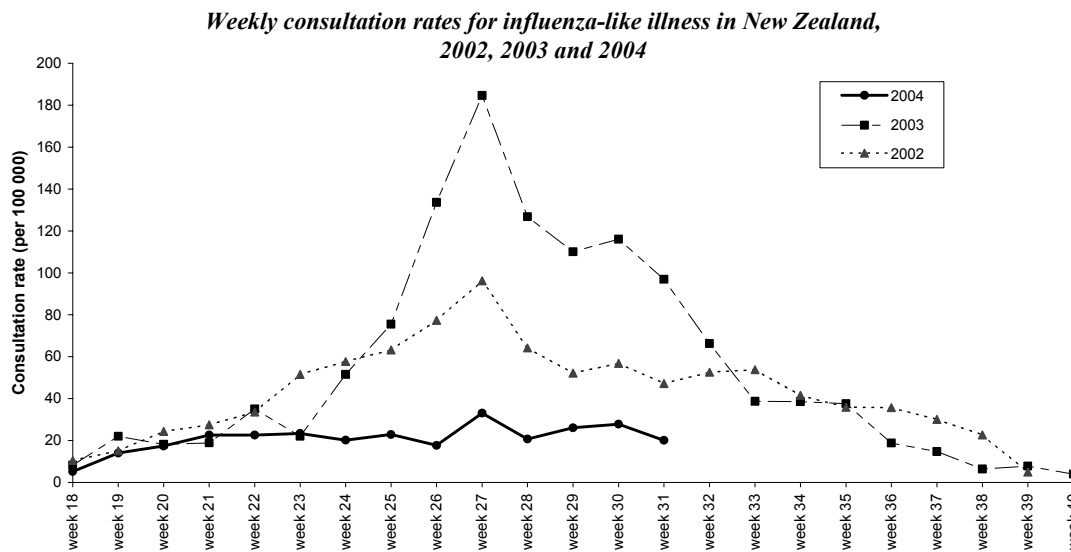
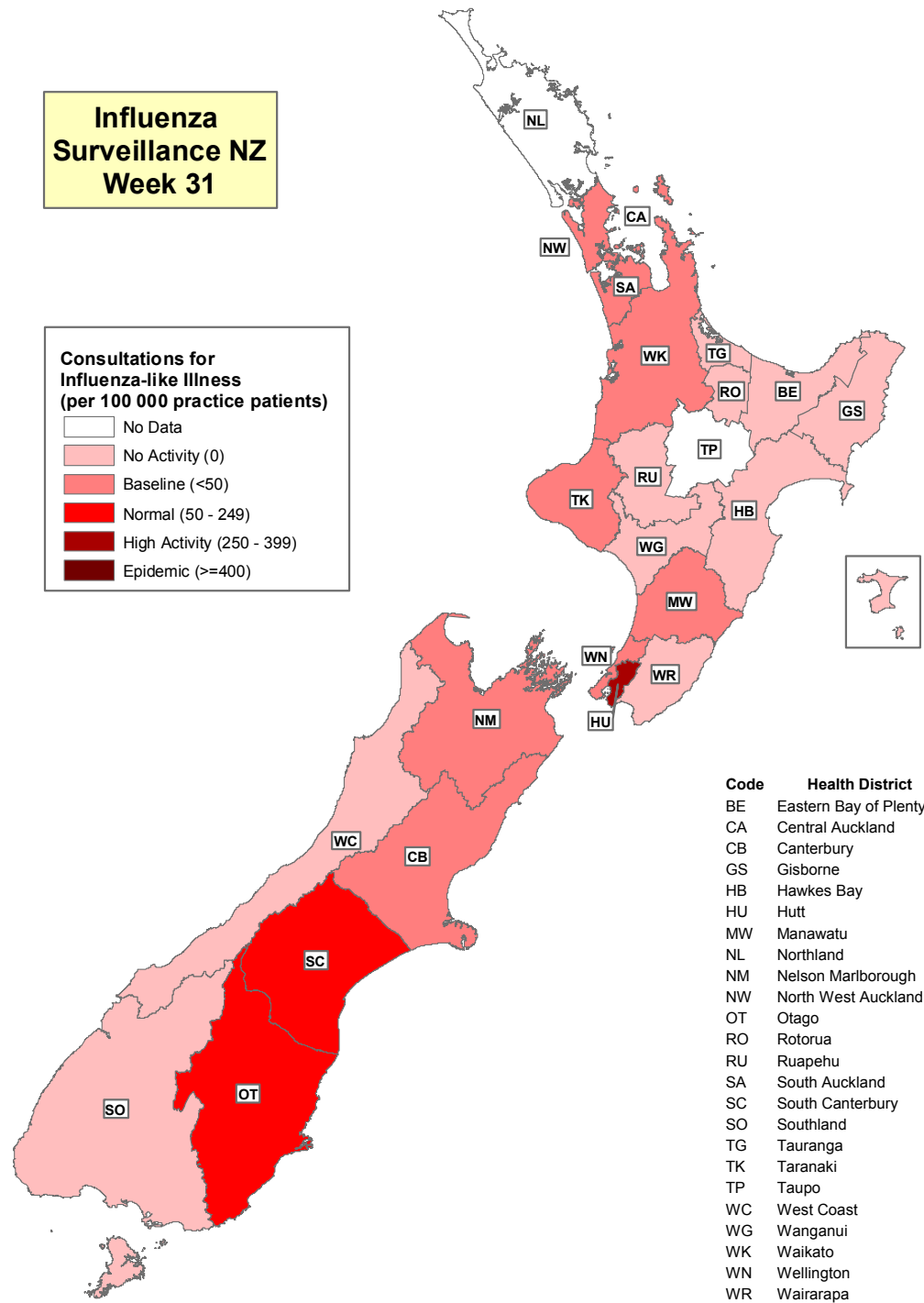


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 31, 2004.

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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