

# INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

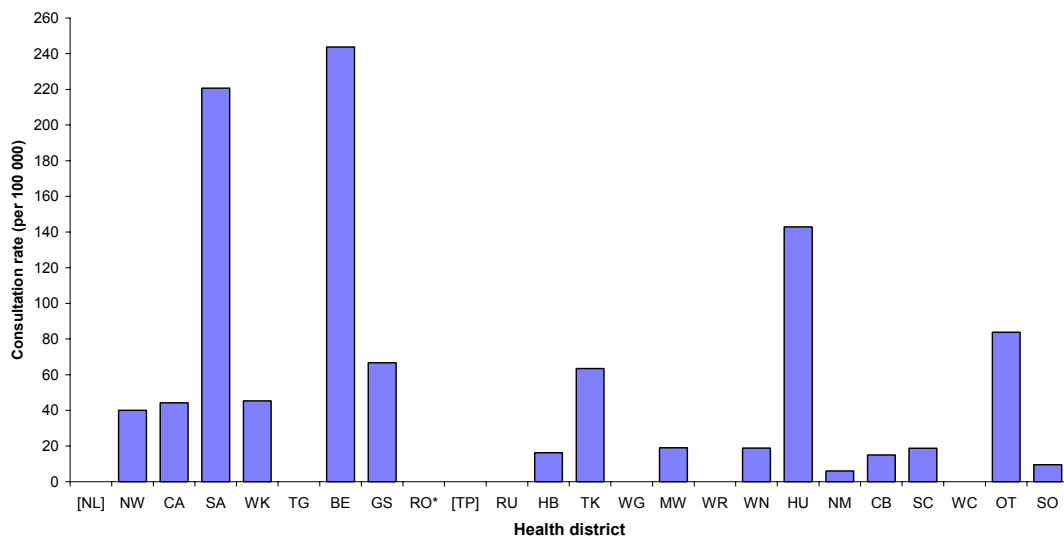
2004/35: 23 August – 29 August 2004

In the past week, a total of 148 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 82 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 42.5 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 (243.8 per 100 000), followed by South Auckland (220.7 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district  
week ending 27 August 2004*



[ ] Health Districts not participating

\* Health District did not participate for the week

Forty-six swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Thirty-five swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, three influenza viruses were identified, two as influenza A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2) viruses from Central Auckland and North West Auckland, and one as influenza A (yet to be subtyped) from Canterbury.

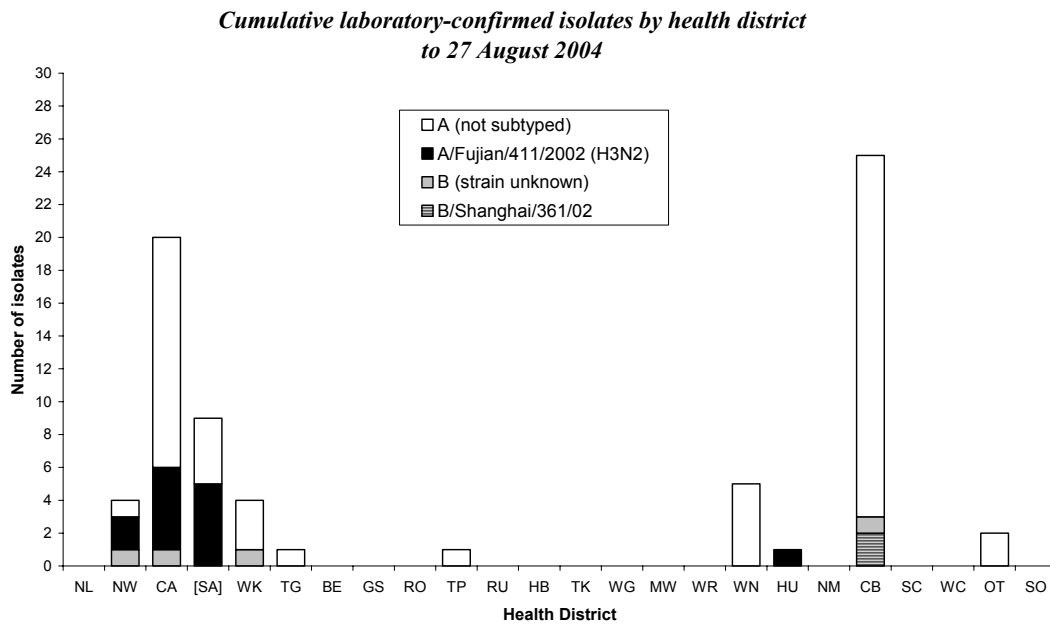
In addition, 21 influenza isolates were reported this week for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Of these, 20 were identified as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), and one as influenza B. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

	CA	SA	WK	WN	CB	Total
A	6	2	2	5	5	20
B	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 35, August 2004. A total of 72 isolates were identified. Of these, 53 were influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 13 were subtyped as A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2), two as B/Shanghai/361/02-like, and four as influenza B (not typed).

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 higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

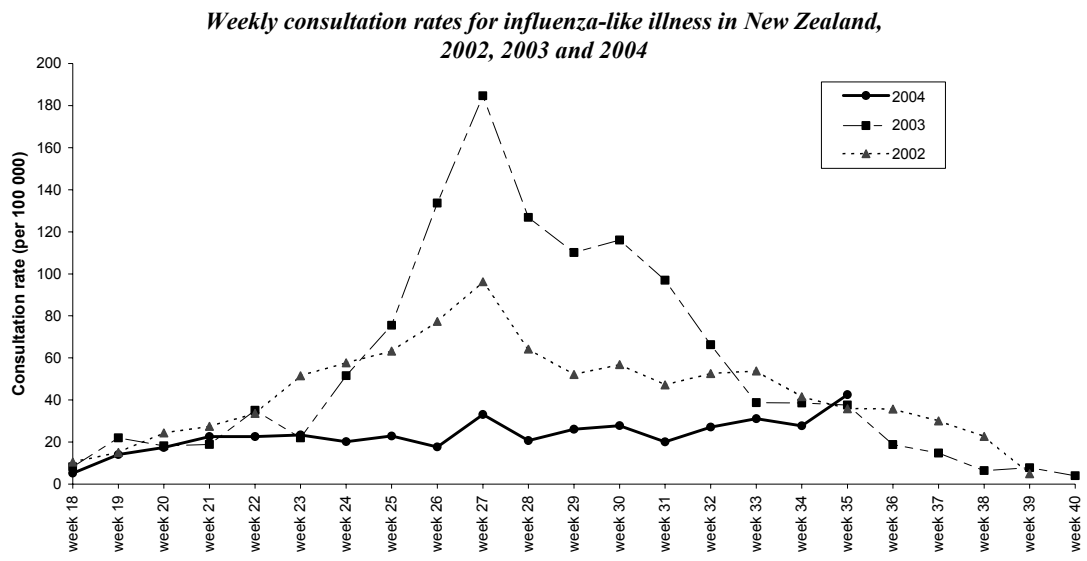
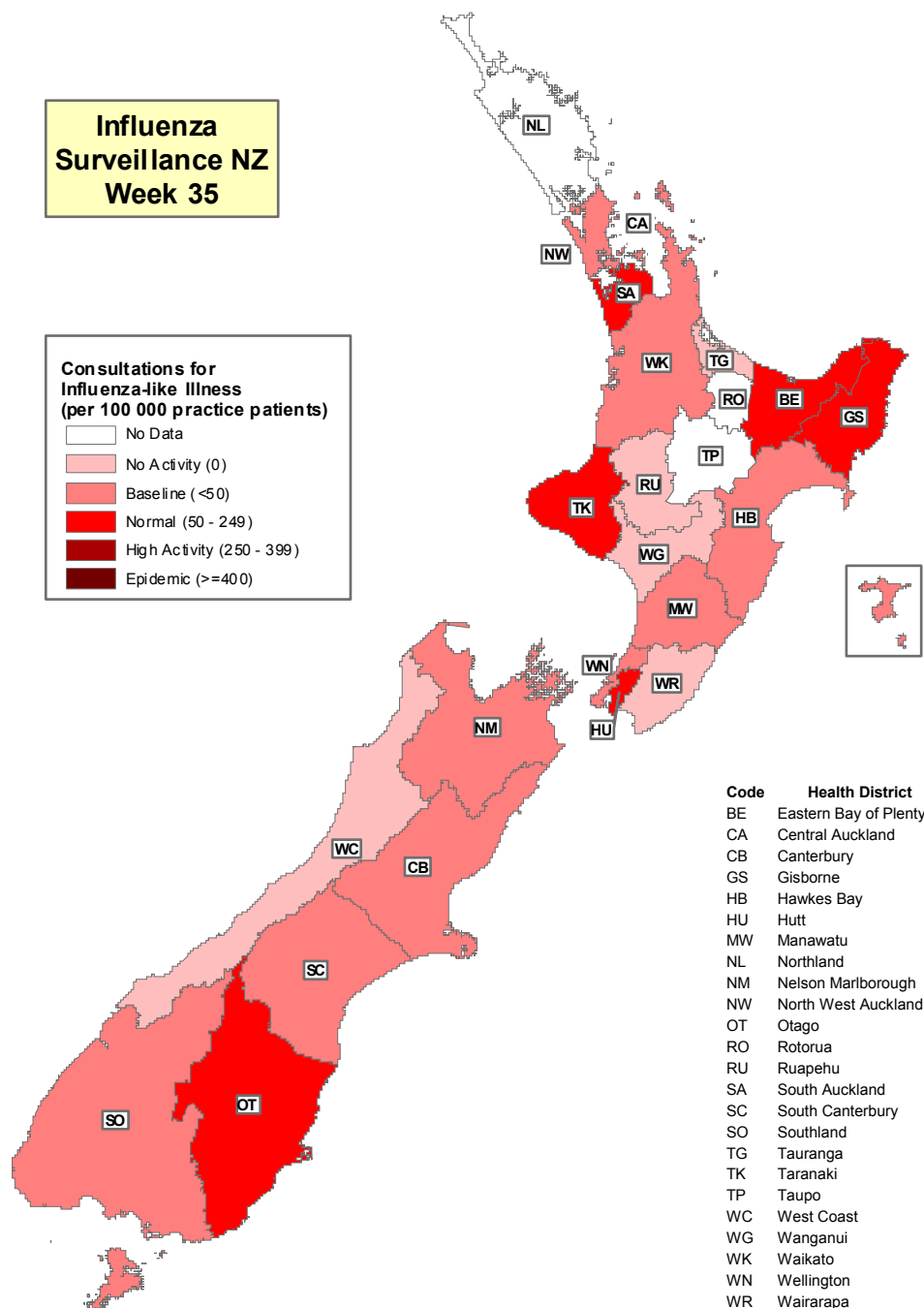


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 35, 2004.

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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