

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

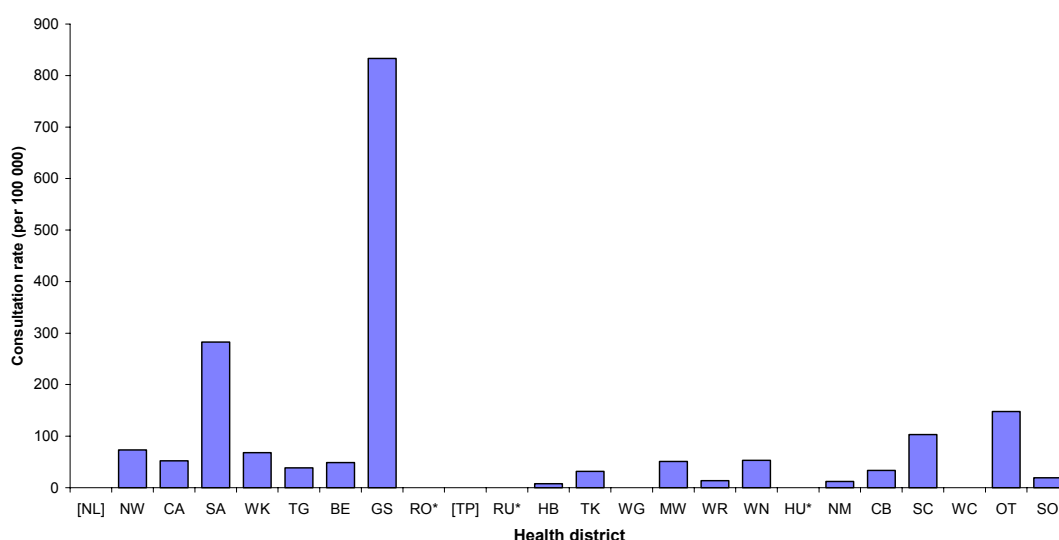
2004/36: 30 August – 03 September 2004

In the past week, a total of 247 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices in 19 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 71.9 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Gisborne had the highest consultation rate (833.3 per 100 000), followed by South Auckland (282.8 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 03 September 2004*



[] Health Districts not participating

* Health District did not participate for the week

Fifty-seven swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Fifty-five swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 11 influenza viruses were identified, eight as influenza A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) viruses, two as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), and one as influenza B. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	CA	NW	WN	CB	OT	Total
A (not subtyped)	0	0	0	1	1	2
B (not subtyped)	0	0	0	0	1	1
A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2)	1	1	4	0	2	8
Total	1	1	4	1	4	11

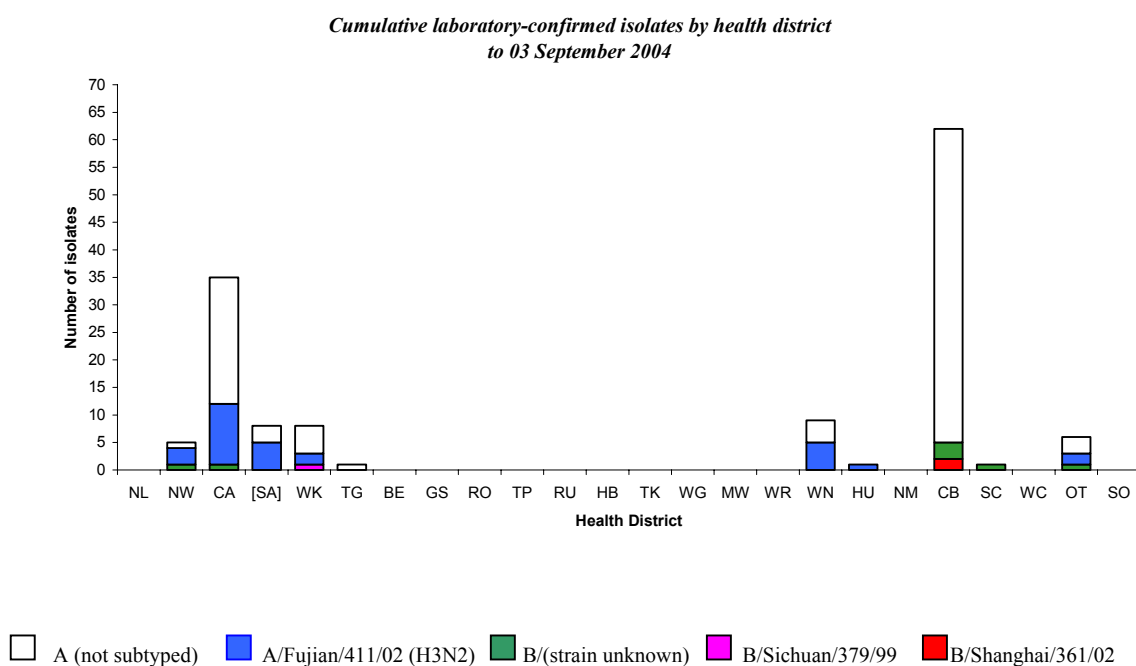
In addition, 55 influenza isolates were reported this week for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Of these, 51 were identified as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), three as influenza B, and one as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

	CA	SA	WK	CB	SC	Total
A (not subtyped)	13	1	3	34	0	51
B (not subtyped)	0	0	0	2	1	3
A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	14	1	3	36	1	55

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 36, September 2004. A total of 136 isolates were identified. Of these, 97 were influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 29 were subtyped as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), seven as influenza B (not typed), two as B/Shanghai/361/02-like, and one as B/Sichuan/379/99.

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

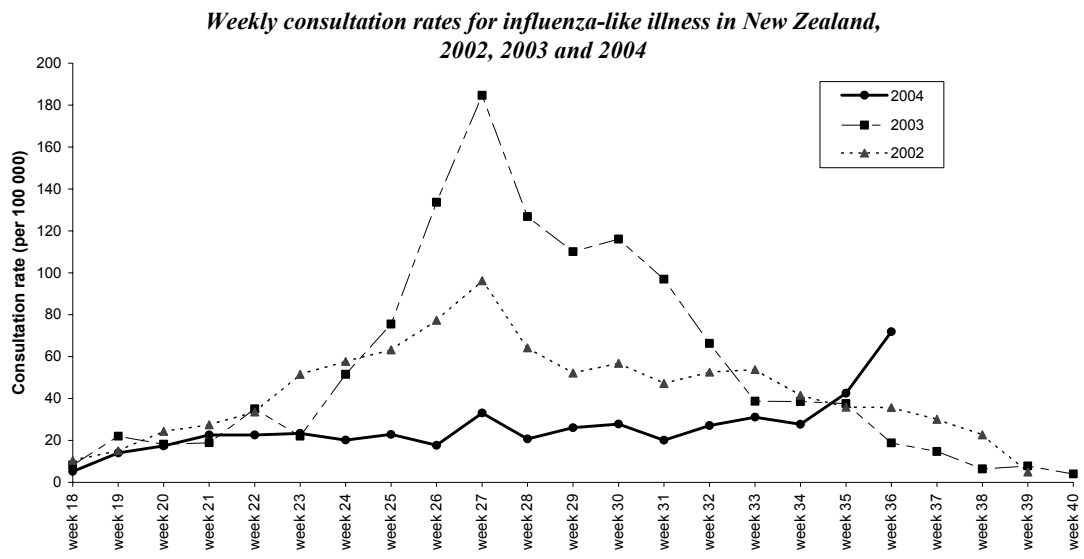
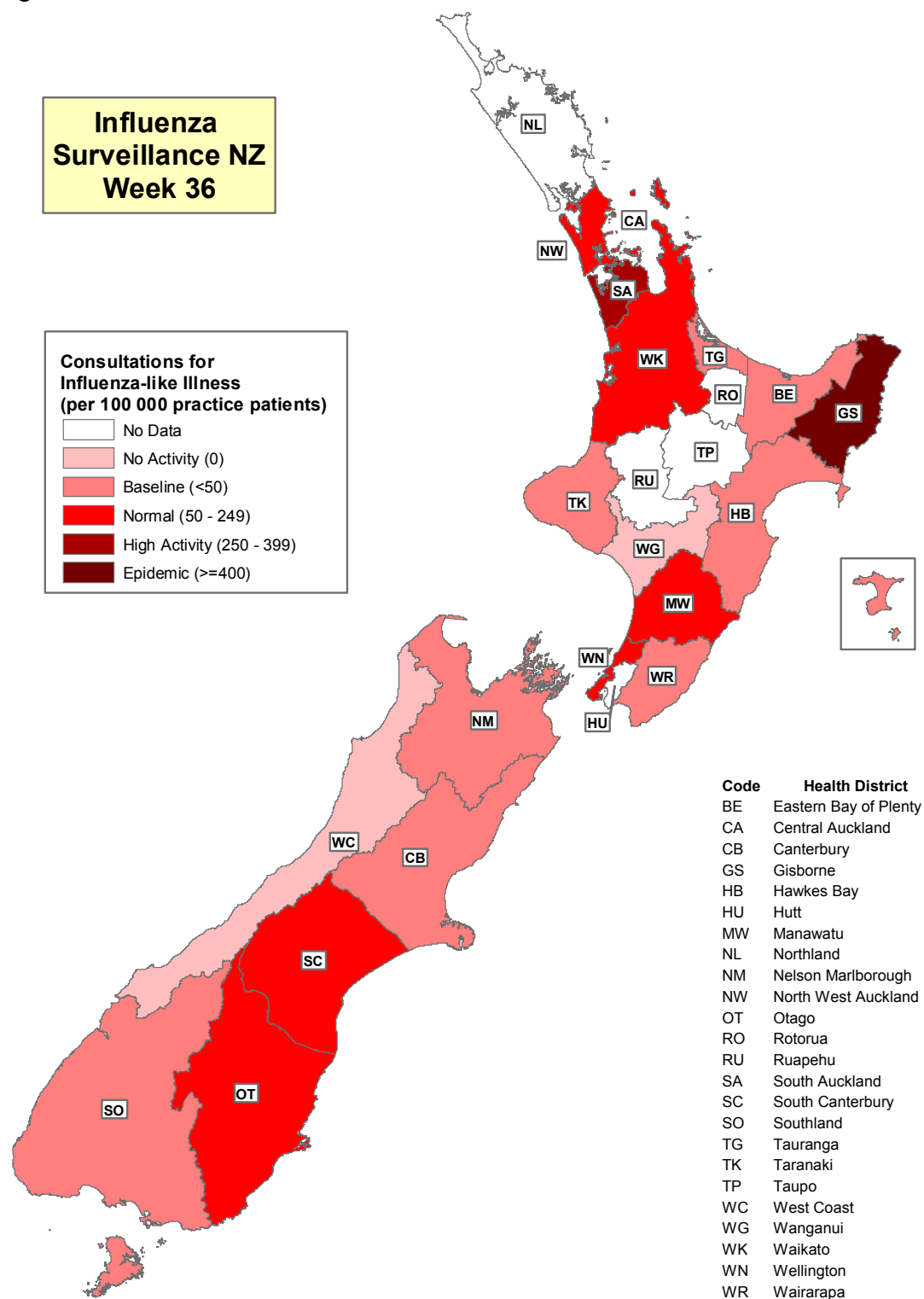


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 36, 2004.

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"

Compiled by: Liza Lopez
 Population and Environmental Health
 ESR Kenepuru Science Centre
 PO Box 50 348
 PORIRUA

phone: 04 914-0700
 fax: 04 914-0770
 email: liza.lopez@esr.cri.nz