

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

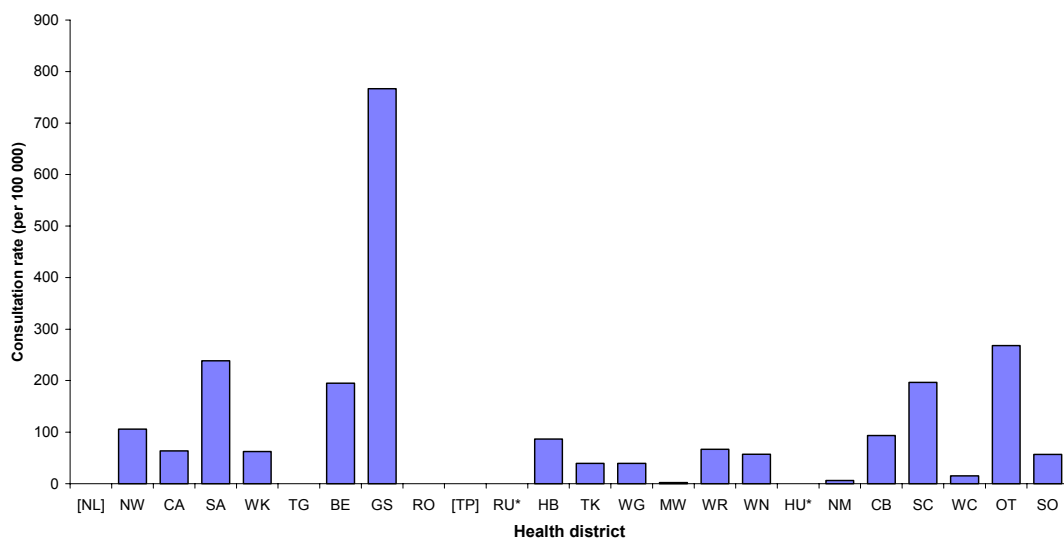
2004/37: 04 September – 12 September 2004

In the past week, a total of 314 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 79 general practices in 20 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 91.2 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 (766.7 per 100 000), followed by Otago (268.2 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 10 September 2004*



[] Health Districts not participating
* Health District did not participate for the week

Seventy swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Eighty swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 46 influenza viruses were identified, 23 as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), and 23 as influenza A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) viruses. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	NW	CA	SA	WK	HB	MW	WN	NM	CB	SC	OT	SO	Total
A (not subtyped)	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	17	0	3	0	23
A/Fujian/411/02	3	4	7	0	2	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	23
Total	3	4	7	3	2	1	2	1	17	1	4	1	46

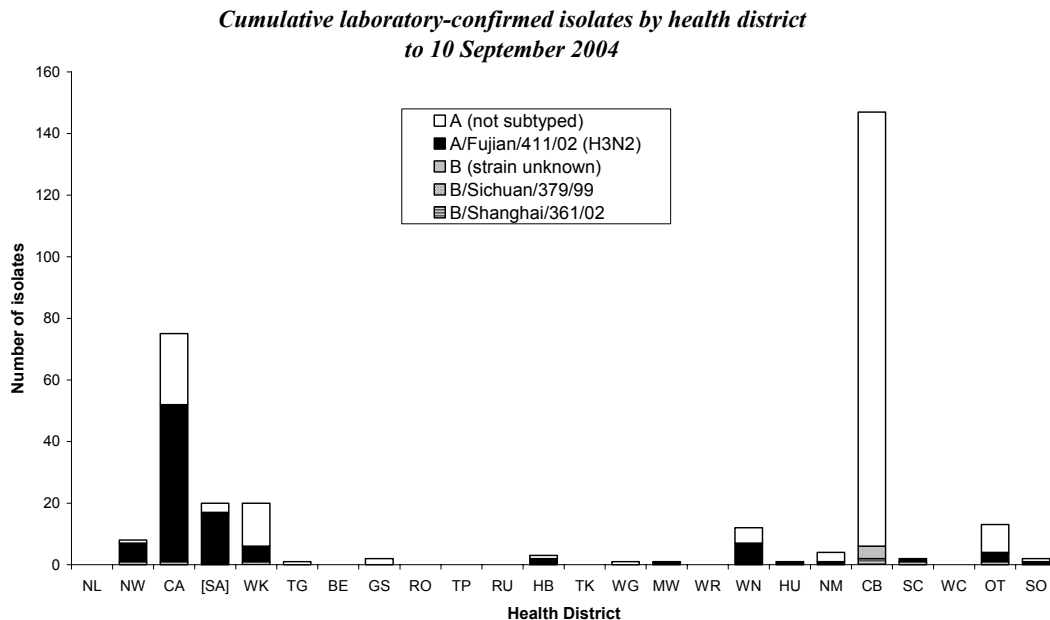
In addition, 130 influenza isolates were reported this week for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Of these, 106 were identified as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 23 as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), and one as influenza B. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

	CA	SA	WK	HB	GS	WG	WN	NM	CB	OT	SO	Total
A (not subtyped)	17	1	9	1	2	1	1	3	67	3	1	106
A/Fujian/411/02	19	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
B (not typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	36	5	9	1	2	1	1	3	68	3	1	130

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 37, September 2004. A total of 312 isolates were identified. Of these, 205 were influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 96 were subtyped as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), eight 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

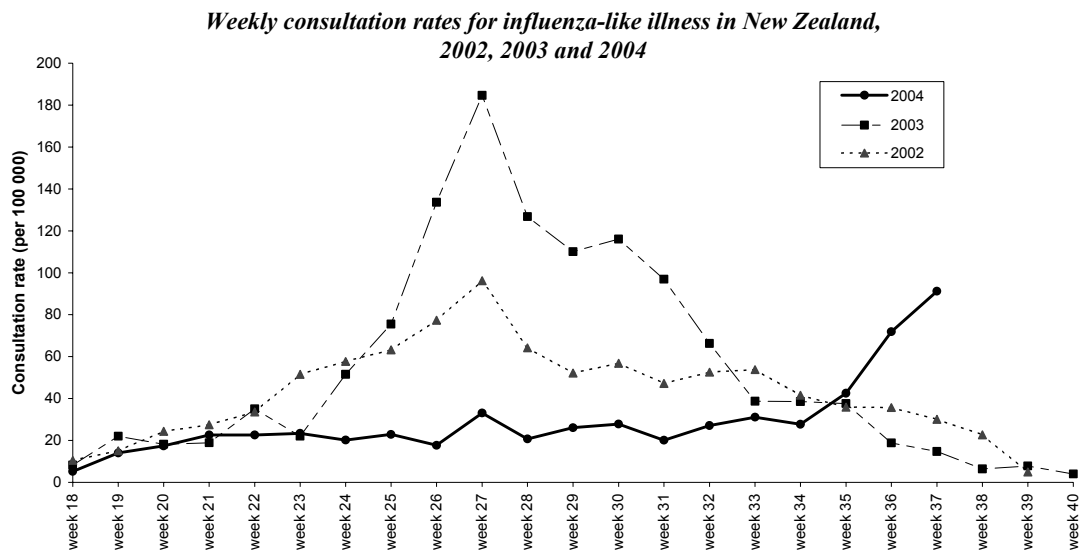
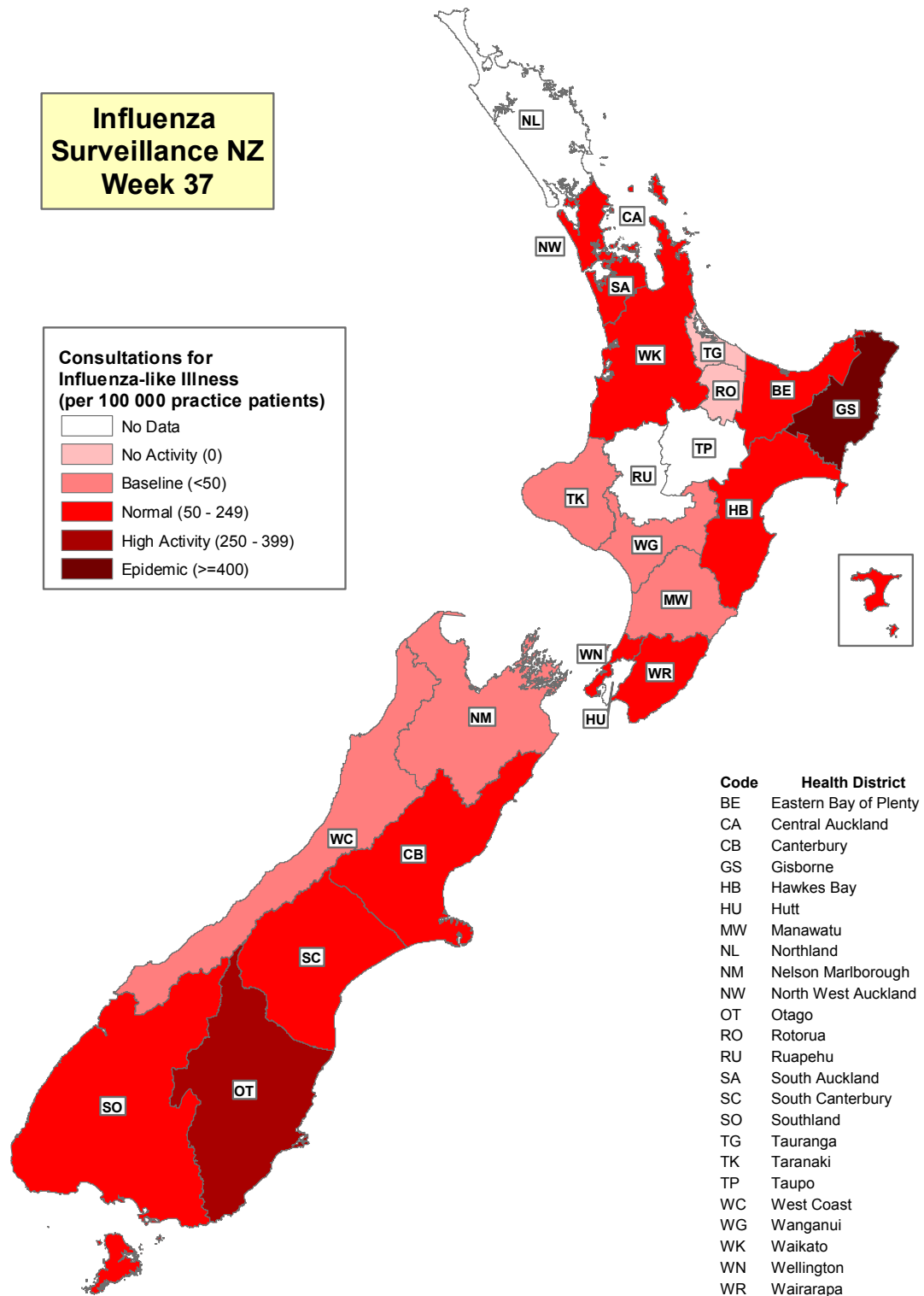


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 37, 2004.

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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