

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

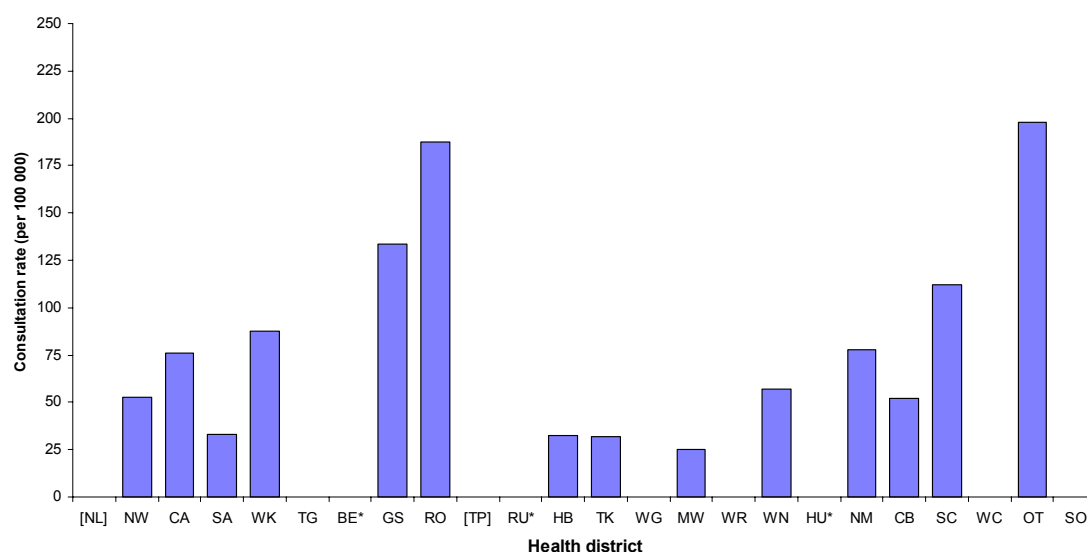
2004/40: 27 September - 01 October 2004

In the past week, a total of 199 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 78 general practices in 19 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 64.7 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Otago had the highest consultation rate (197.8 per 100 000), followed by Rotorua (187.5 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 01 October 2004*



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

Forty-four swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Fifty-nine swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 35 influenza viruses were identified, 21 as influenza A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) viruses and 14 as influenza A (yet to be subtyped). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

	NW	CA	SA	TG	BE	HB	WR	WN	CB	OT	Total
A (not subtyped)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	14
A/Fujian/411/02	1	4	5	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	21
Total	1	4	5	3	1	1	1	2	13	4	35

In addition, 125 influenza isolates were reported this week for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Of these, 81 were identified as influenza A (yet to be

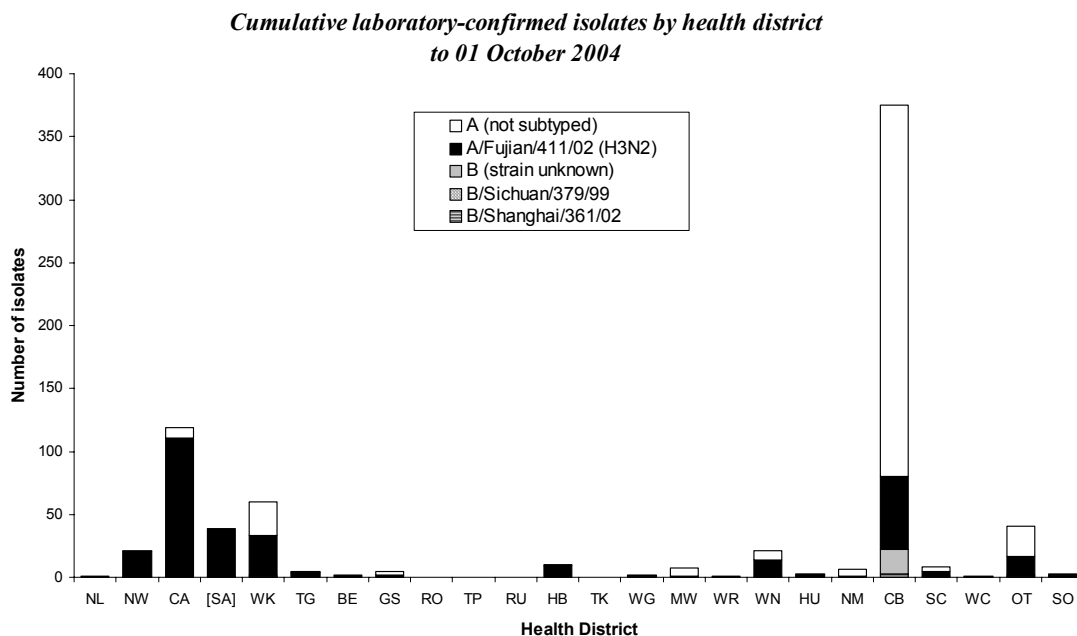
subtyped), 39 influenza A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) viruses, and five as influenza B. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

	NW	CA	SA	WK	GS	HB	WG	WN	CB	SC	OT	Total
A (not subtyped)	0	3	0	18	0	0	0	1	52	1	6	81
A/Fujian/411/02	2	5	2	0	1	1	1	0	27	0	0	39
B (not typed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Total	2	8	2	18	1	1	1	1	84	1	6	125

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 40, 1 October 2004. A total of 730 isolates were identified. Of these, 385 were influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 314 were subtyped as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), 23 as influenza B (not typed), five as B/Sichuan/379/99, and three as B/Shanghai/361/02.

Figure 2



[] 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

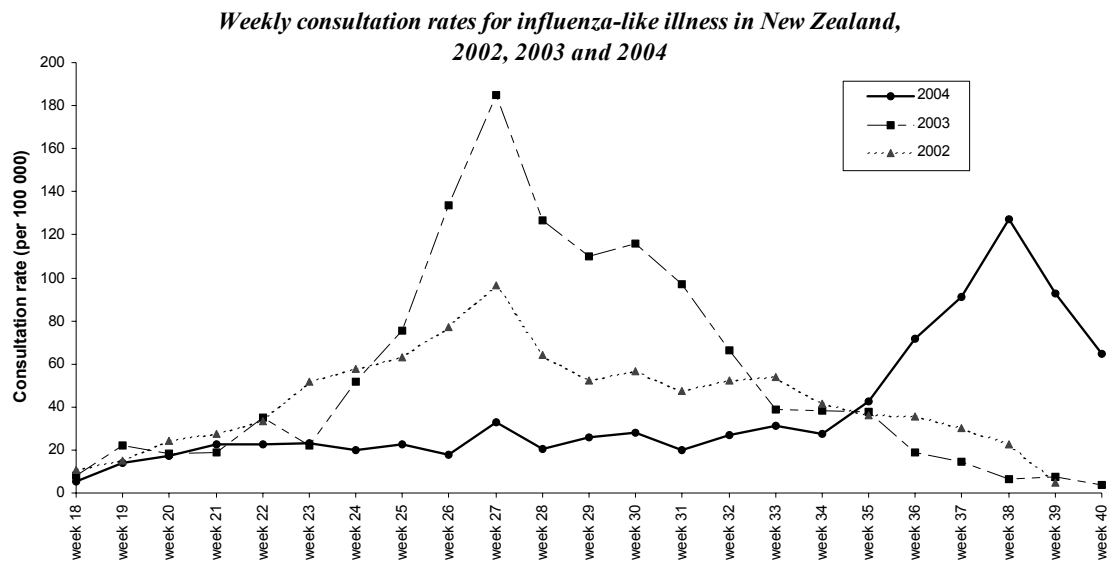
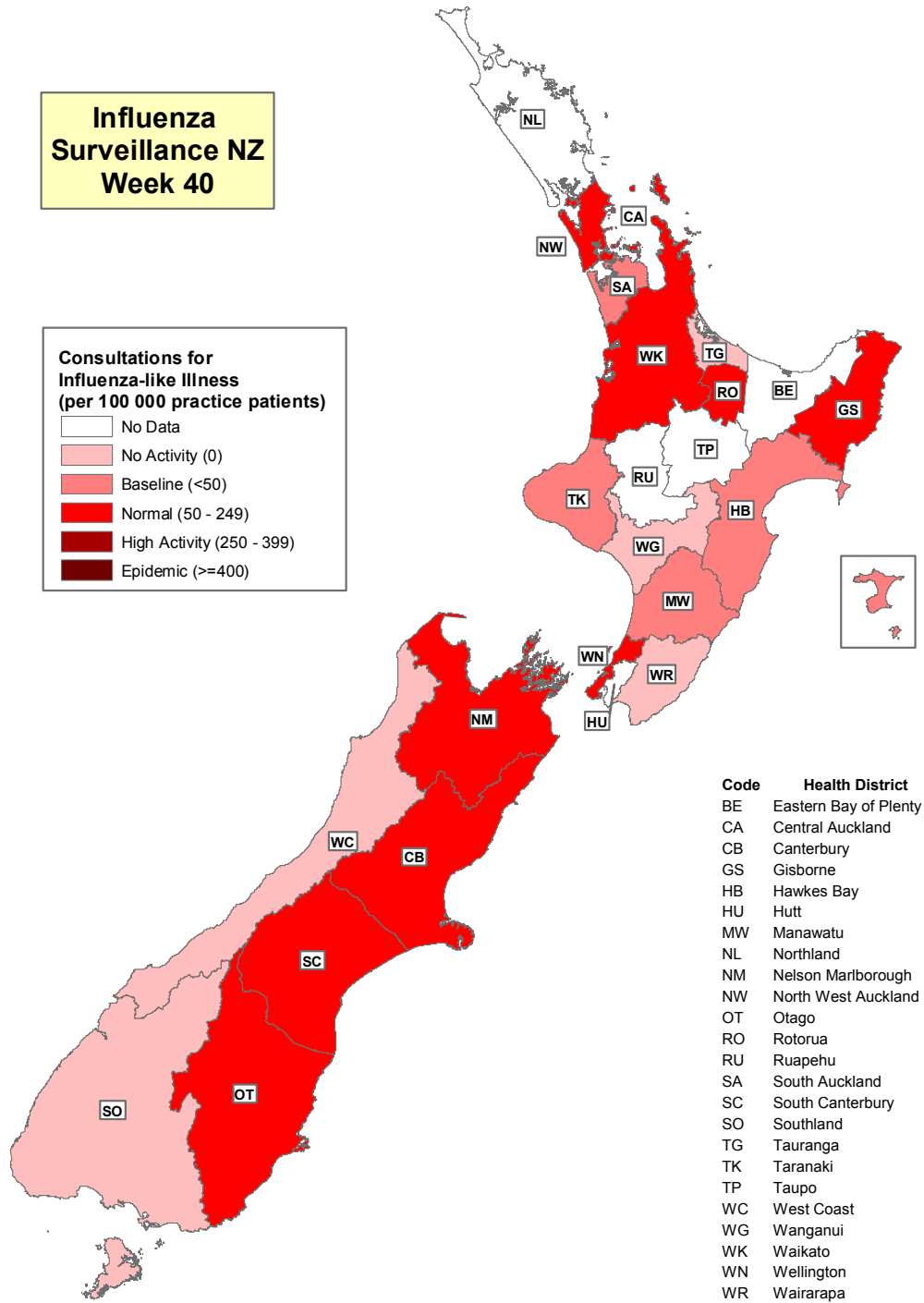


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 40, 2004.

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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