

# INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

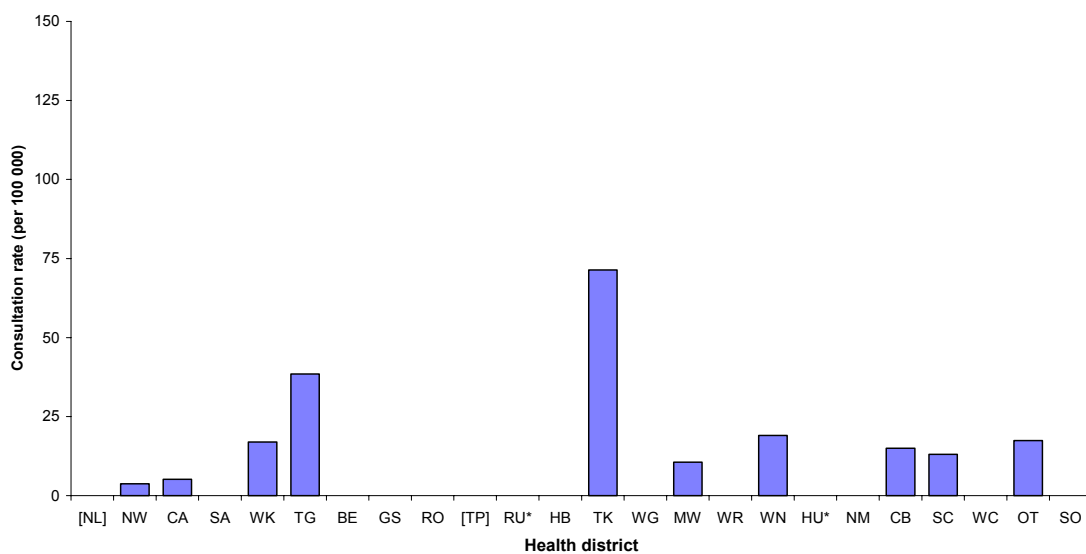
2004/43: 17 October - 22 October 2004

In the past week, a total of 35 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 10.3 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Taranaki had the highest consultation rate (71.3 per 100 000), followed by Tauranga (38.5 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district  
week ending 22 October 2004*



[ ] Health Districts not participating

\* Health District did not participate for the week

Twelve swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Ten swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, three influenza A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) viruses were identified from Otago.

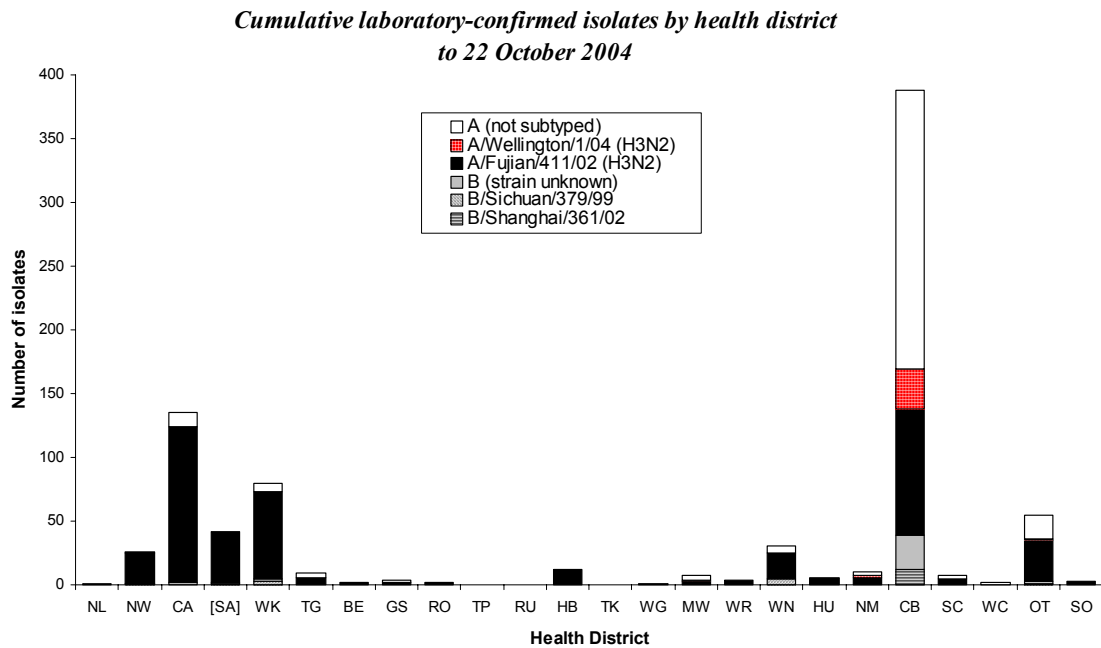
In addition, 26 influenza isolates were reported this week for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Of these, 13 were identified as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 13 as influenza B (not typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

	CA	WK	TG	WN	CB	OT	Total
A	1	3	1	1	5	2	13
B	1	2	0	0	8	2	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 43, 22 October 2004. A total of 828 isolates were identified. Of these, 457 subtyped as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), 279 as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 34 as A/Wellington/1/2004-like, 34 as influenza B (not typed), 12 as B/Shanghai/361/02, 11 as B/Sichuan/379/99, and one as influenza A/New Caledonia/20/99 H1N1.

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.

Figure 3

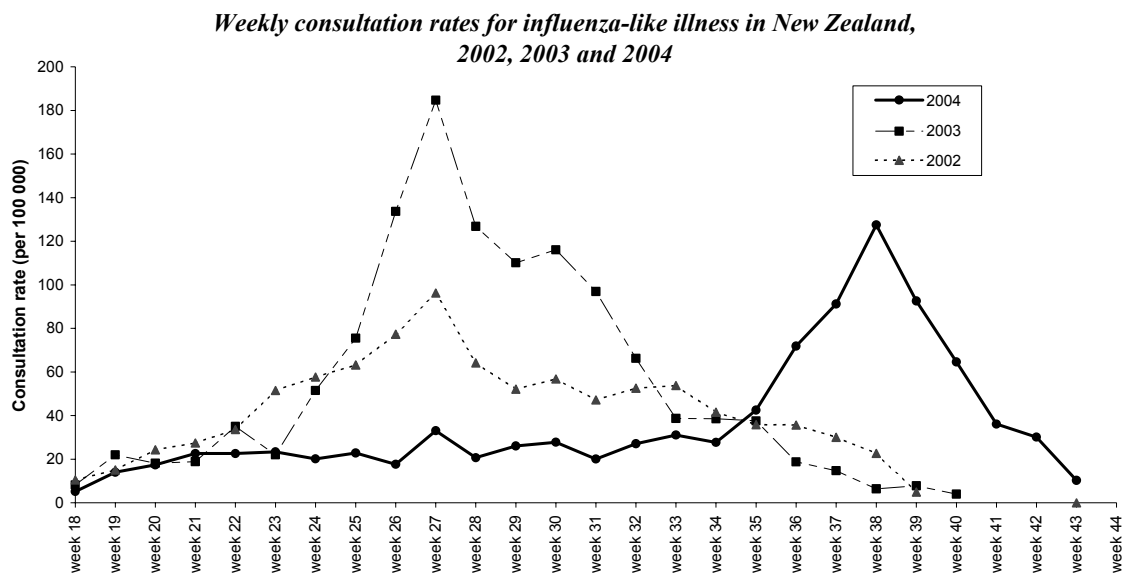
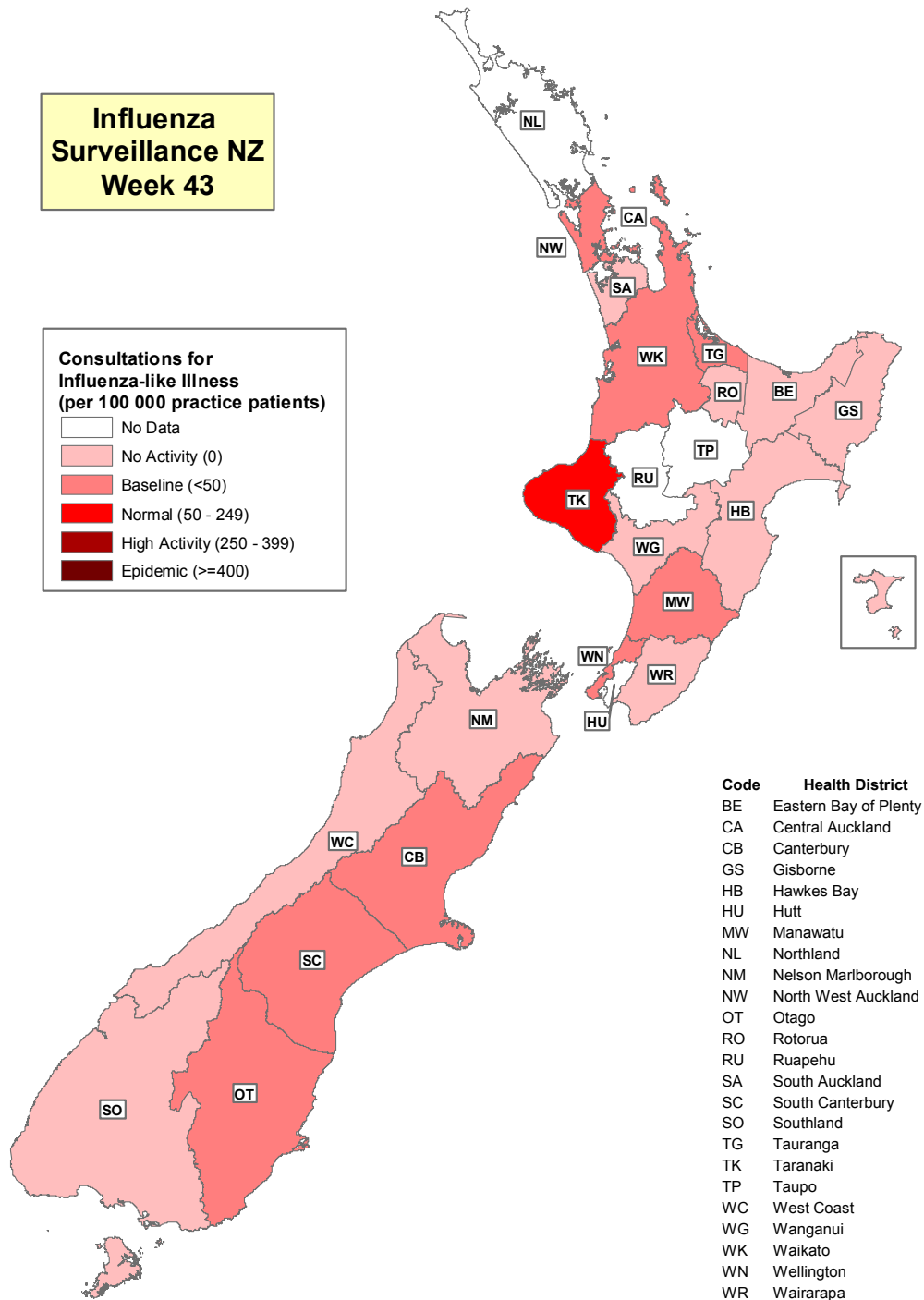


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 43, 2004.

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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