

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

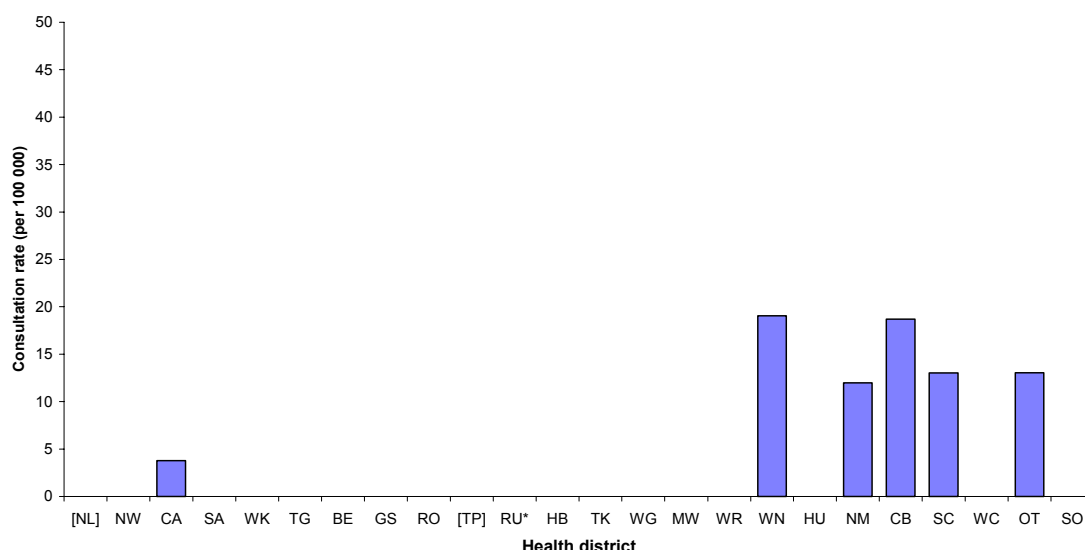
2004/44: 23 October - 29 October 2004

In the past week, a total of 17 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 81 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 5.0 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Wellington had the highest consultation rate (19.0 per 100 000), followed by Canterbury (18.7 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 29 October 2004*



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

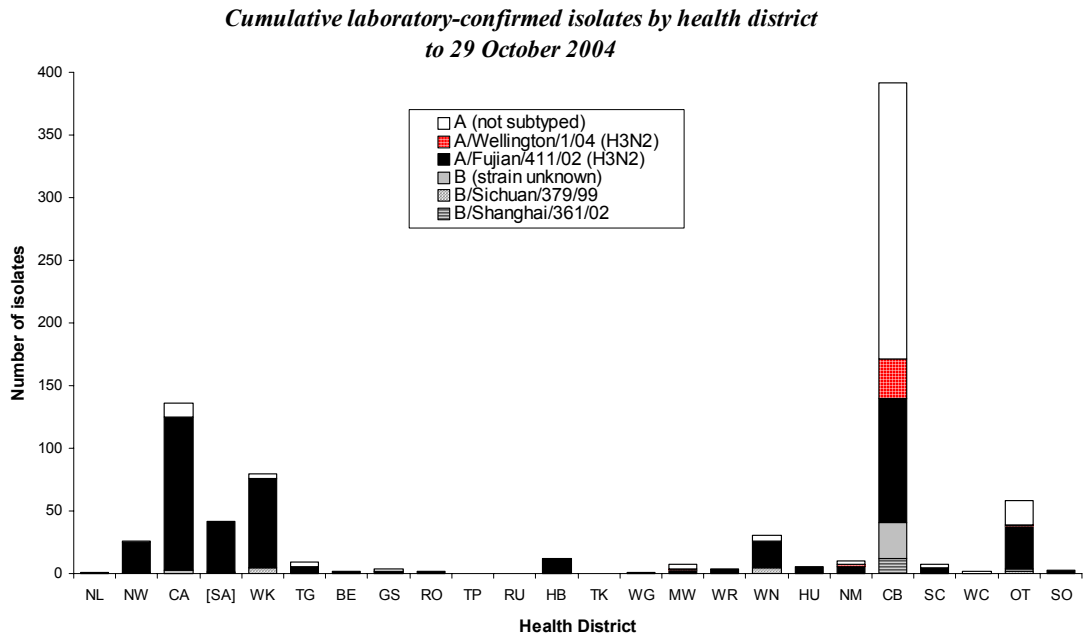
Eight swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Nine swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, four influenza viruses were identified. Three were from Otago, two as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2) and one as B/Sichuan/379/99. One influenza A virus (yet to be subtyped) was reported from Canterbury.

In addition, four influenza isolates were reported this week for the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Three were from Canterbury, two as influenza B (yet to be typed) and one as influenza A (yet to be subtyped). One influenza B (yet to be typed) was reported from Central Auckland.

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 44, 29 October 2004. A total of 836 isolates were identified. Of these, 463 subtyped as A/Fujian/411/02 (H3N2), 277 as influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 35 as influenza B (not typed), 34 as

A/Wellington/1/04-like, 14 as B/Sichuan/379/99, 12 as B/Shanghai/361/02, 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

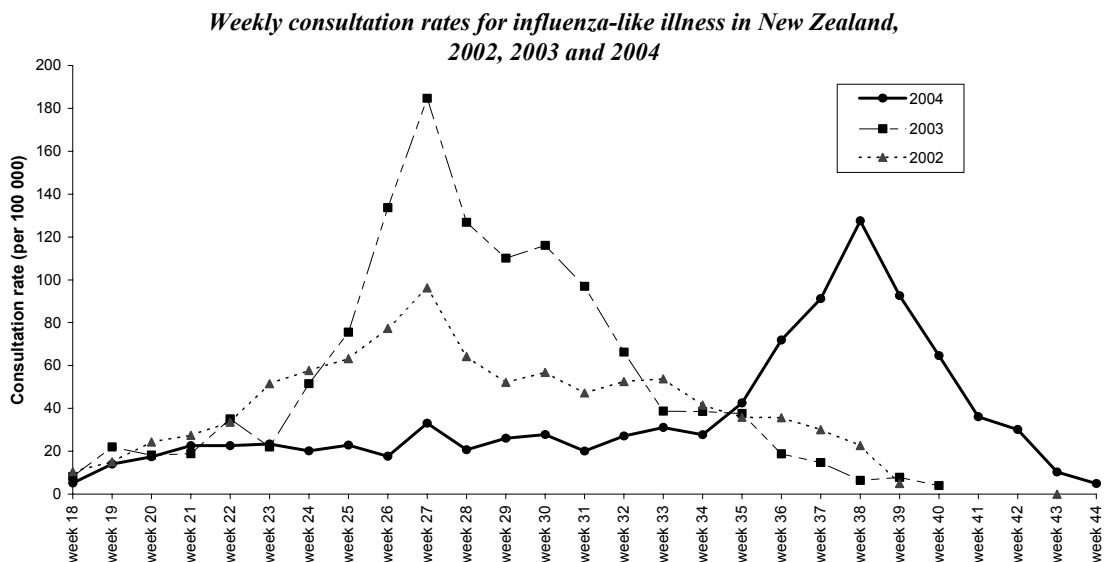
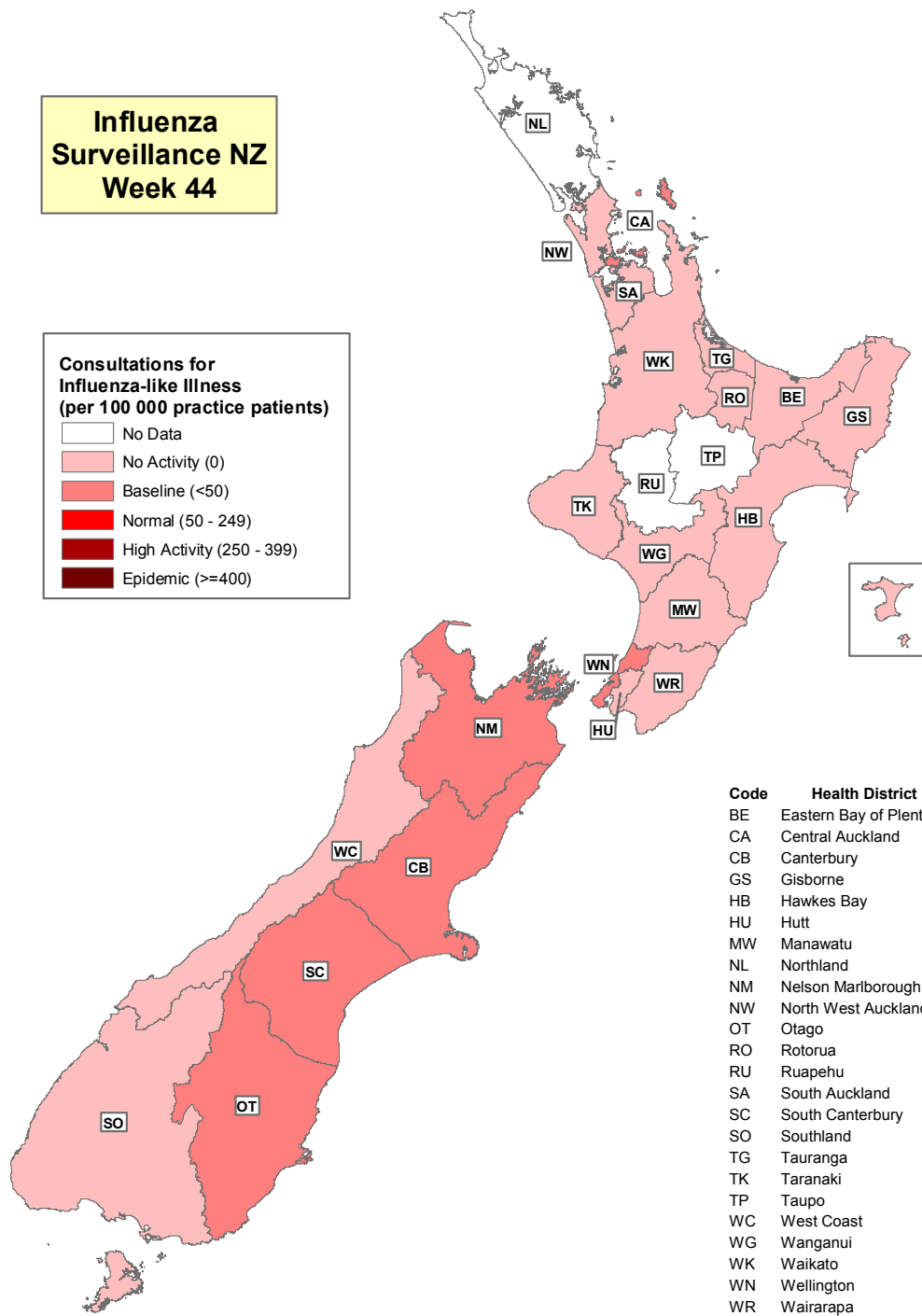


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 44, 2004.

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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