

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

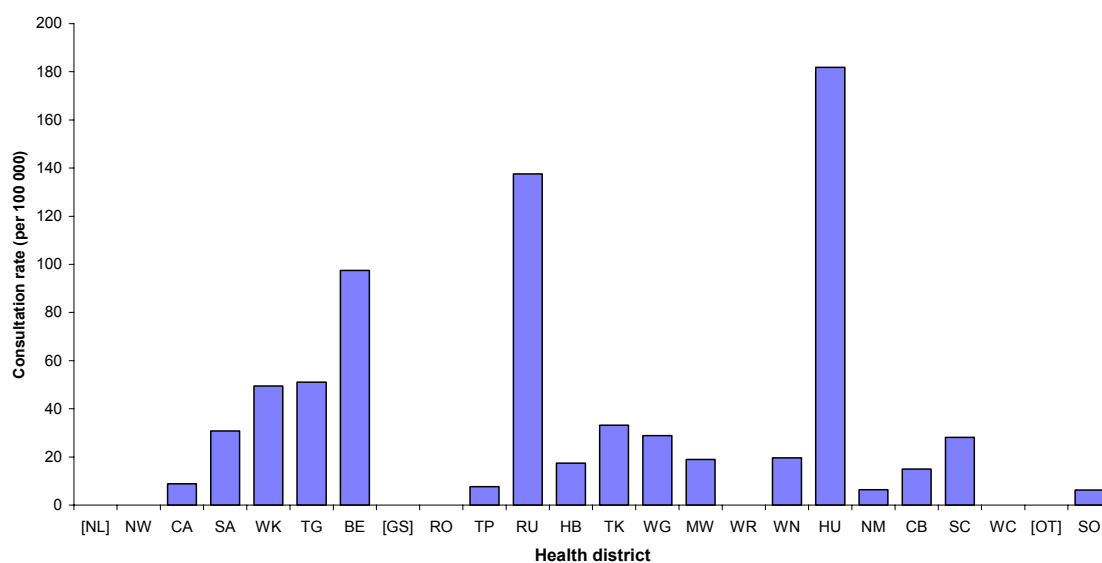
2005/18: 30 April – 06 May 2005

In the past week, a total of 59 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 78 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 19.0 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Hutt had the highest consultation rate (181.8 per 100 000), followed by Ruapehu (137.6 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 06 May 2005*



[] Health District not participating

Twenty-eight swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Twenty-nine swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, two influenza B viruses were identified, one as B/Hong Kong/330/2001- like from Wellington and one B (yet to be antigenically typed) from Canterbury reported from the sentinel surveillance.

In addition, four influenza isolates were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Three were identified as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed) one each from Central Auckland, Waikato and Canterbury, and one influenza A (yet to be subtyped) from Nelson-Marlborough.

Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2003 and 2004 seasons, and 2005 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 2

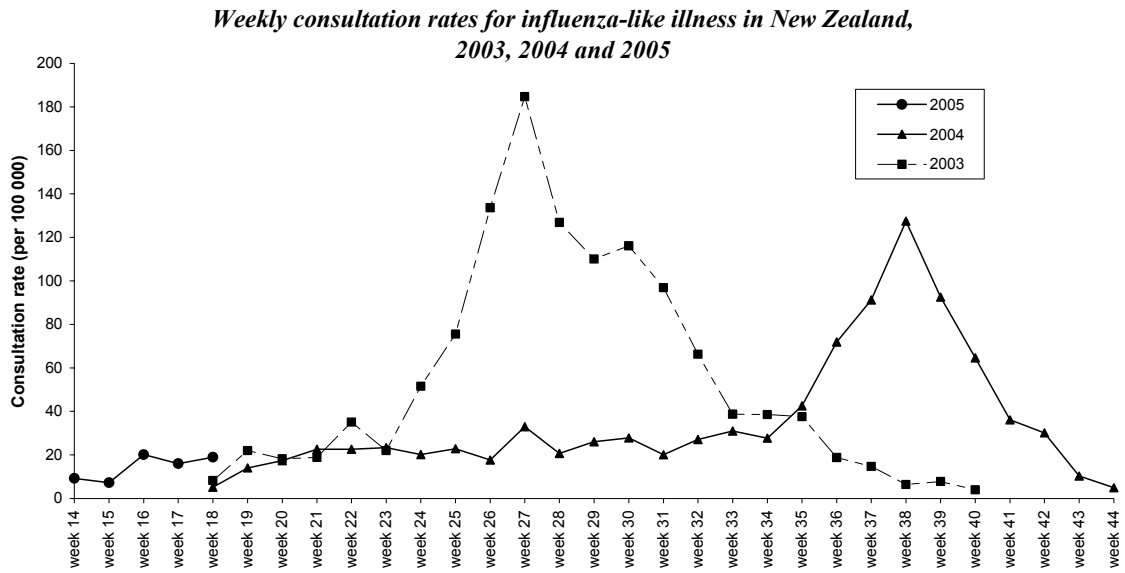
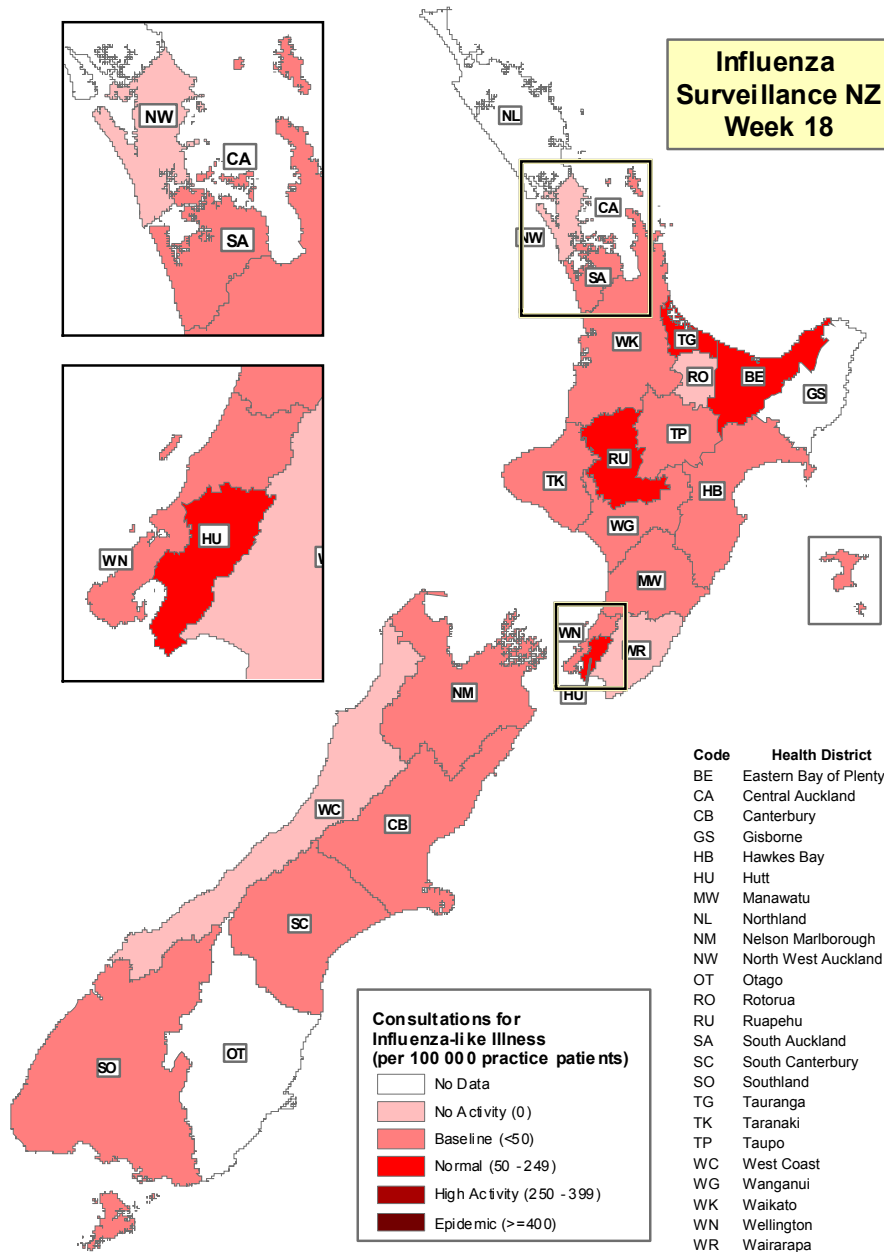


Figure 3 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 18, 2005.

Figure 3



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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