

# INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

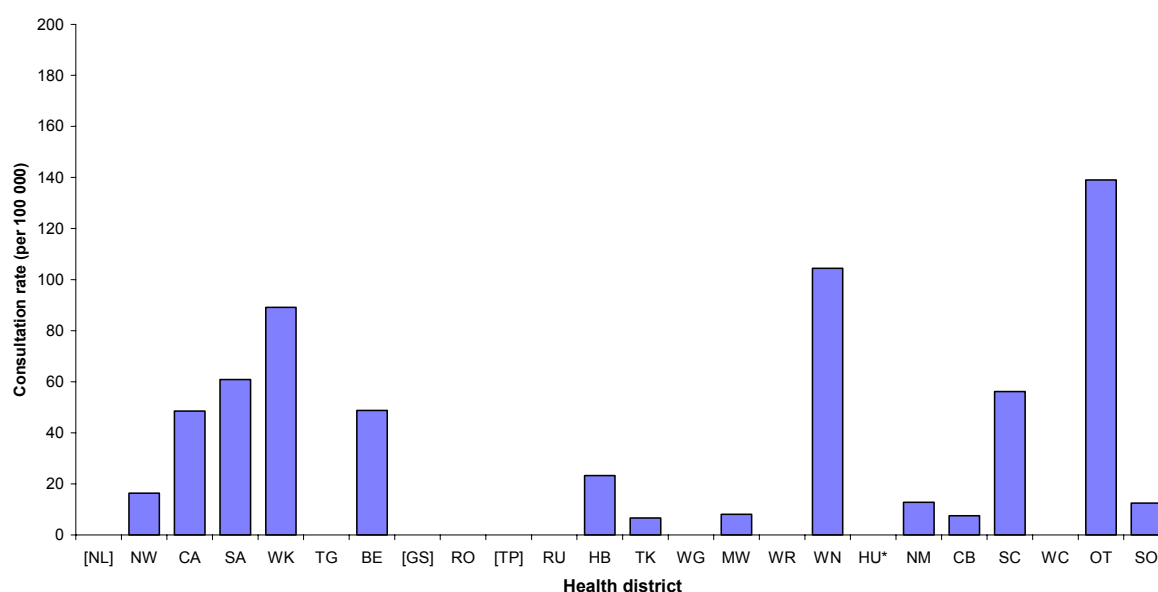
2005/20: 14 May – 20 May 2005

In the past week, a total of 107 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 75 general practices in 20 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 37.0 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 (139.0 per 100 000), followed by Wellington (104.4 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district  
week ending 20 May 2005*



[ ] Health Districts not participating

\* Health District did not participate for the week

Thirty-three swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Forty-three swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, three influenza B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like viruses were reported from the sentinel surveillance, two from Wellington and one from Eastern Bay of Plenty.

In addition, five influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Four were identified as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed) two each from Central Auckland and Canterbury. One influenza A (yet to be sub-typed) was reported from Canterbury.

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

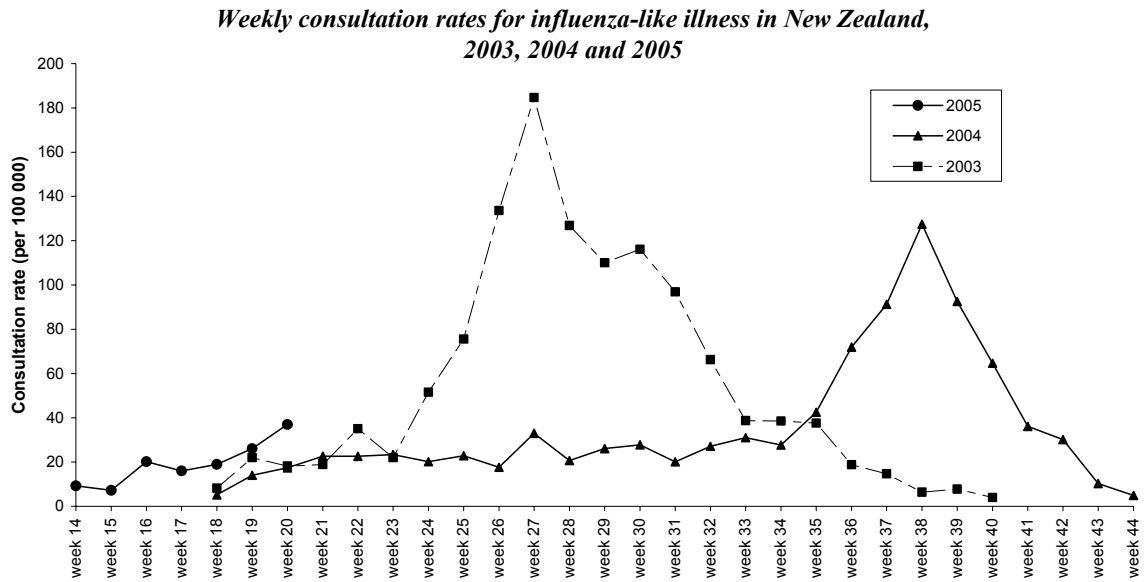
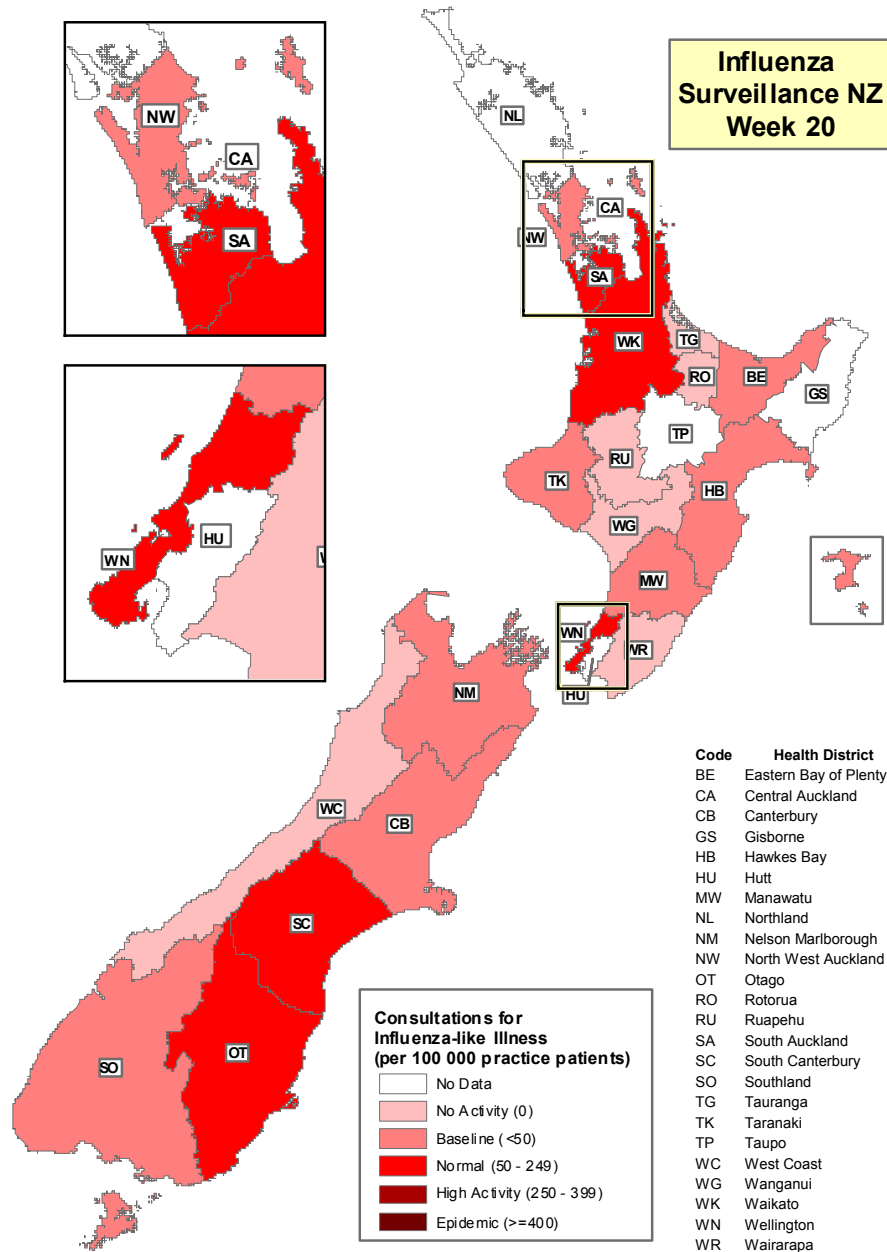


Figure 3 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 20, 2005.

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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