

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

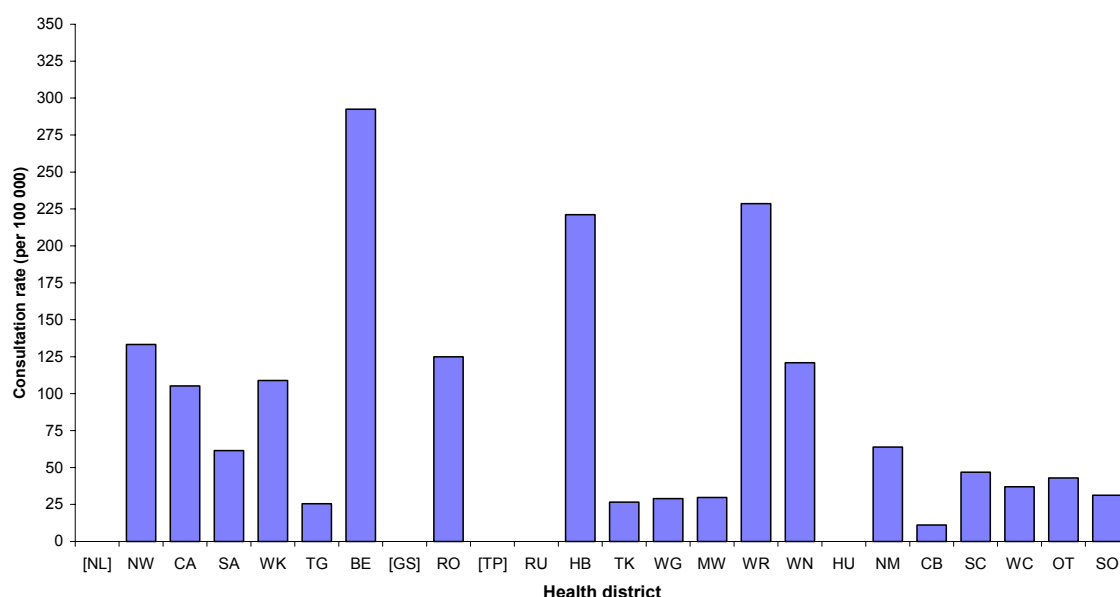
2005/23: 4 June – 10 June 2005

In the past week, a total of 245 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 79 general practices in 21 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 81.4 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Eastern Bay of Plenty had the highest consultation rate (292.5 per 100 000), followed by Wairarapa (228.6 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 10 June 2005*



[] Health Districts not participating

Fifty-four swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Fifty-one swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 20 influenza viruses were identified, 12 as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like, seven as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), and one as B/Shanghai/361/2002-like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

	NW	CA	SA	WK	RO	WN	Total
B	0	1	2	4	0	0	7
B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like	3	6	0	0	1	2	12
B/Shanghai/361/2002-like	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	3	7	3	4	1	2	20

Figure 3 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 3

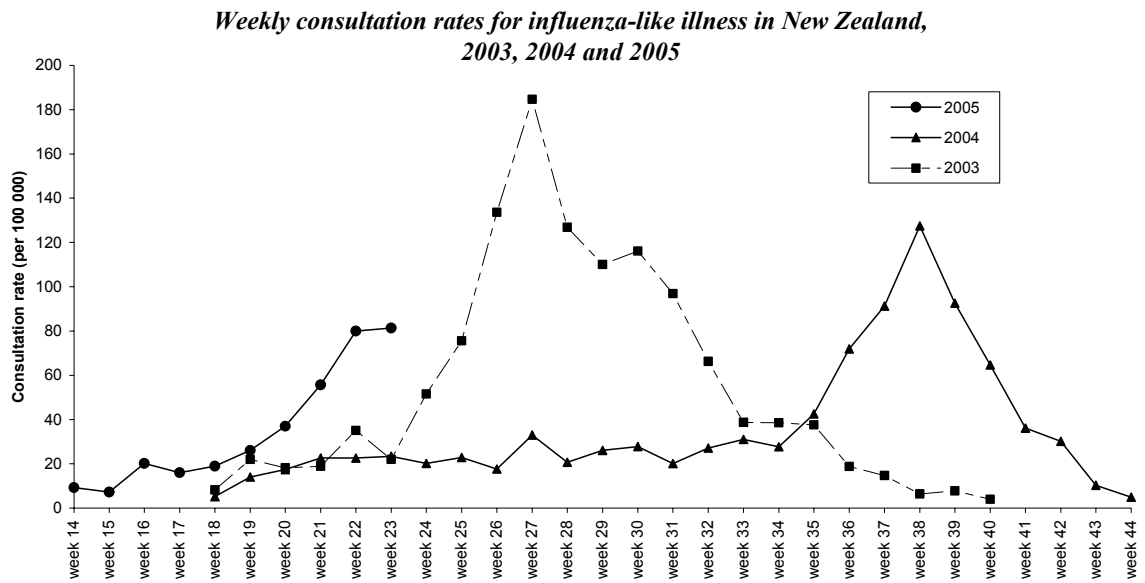
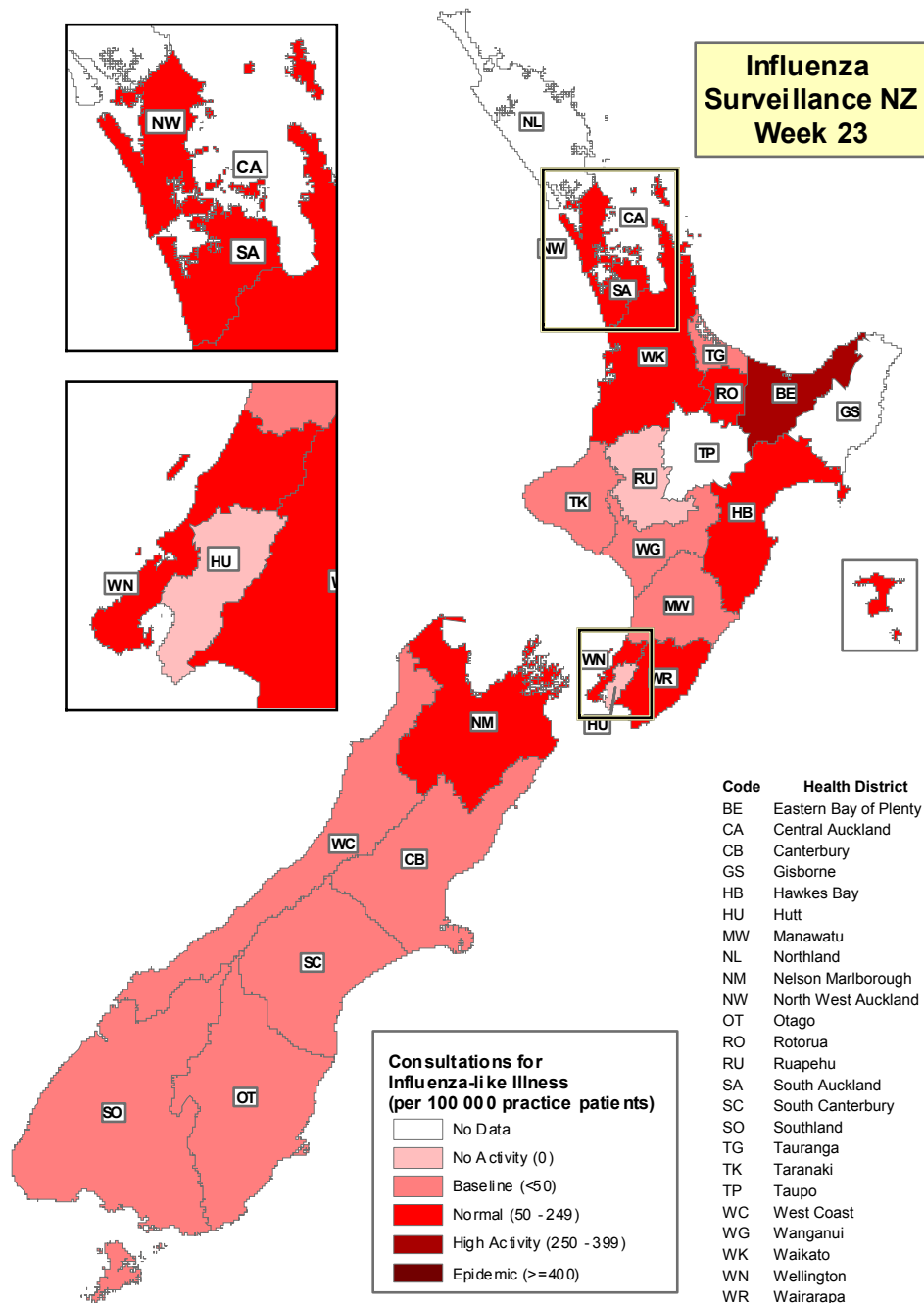


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 23, 2005.

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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