

# INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

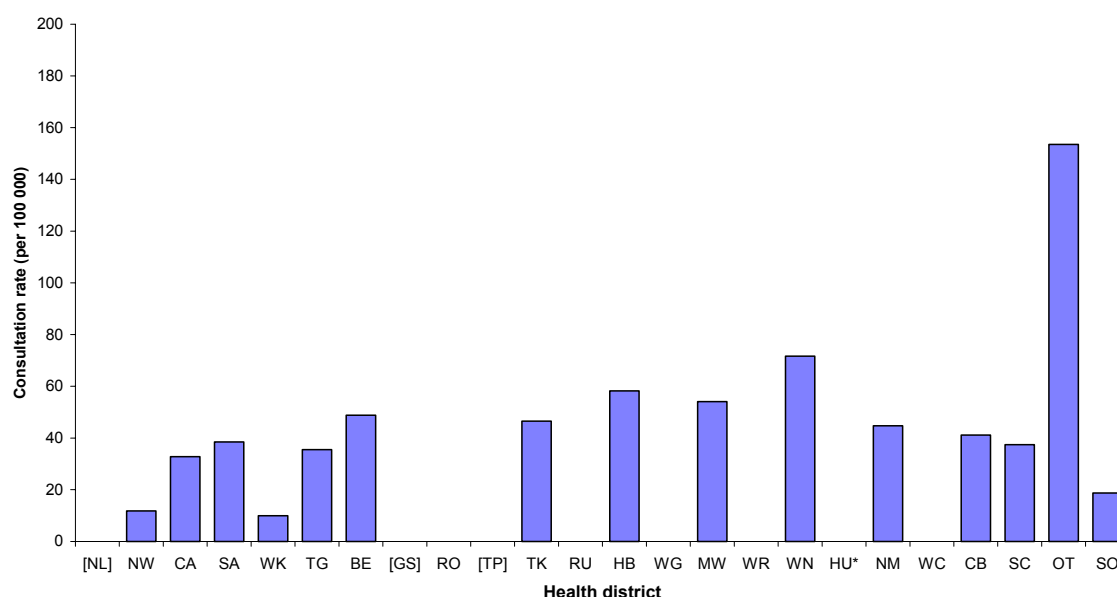
2005/30: 23 July – 29 July 2005

In the past week, a total of 126 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 77 general practices in 20 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 42.1 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 (153.5 per 100 000), followed by Wellington (71.6 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district  
week ending 29 July 2005*



[ ] Health districts not participating

\* Health district did not participate for the week

Forty swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Forty-three swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, six influenza viruses were identified, four as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), and two as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

	WN	WC	CB	OT	Total
B	0	1	2	1	4
B/Hong Kong/330/2001 - like	1	0	0	1	2
Total	1	1	2	2	6

In addition, 18 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Seven were identified as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), six as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), and five as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

	CA	SA	WK	MW	WN	NM	CB	SC	OT	Total
A	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	6
B	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	1	7
B/Hong Kong/330/2001 - like	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	5
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	1	1	18

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 30, 29 July 2005. A total of 741 influenza viruses were identified, 479 as B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like, 113 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), 85 as B/Shanghai/361/2002-like, 20 as B/Sichuan/379/1999-like (belonging to B/Shanghai lineage), 19 as A/California/7/2004-like, 18 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), four as A/Wellington/1/2004-like, and three as A/Fujian/411/2002-like.

Figure 2

*Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 29 July 2005*

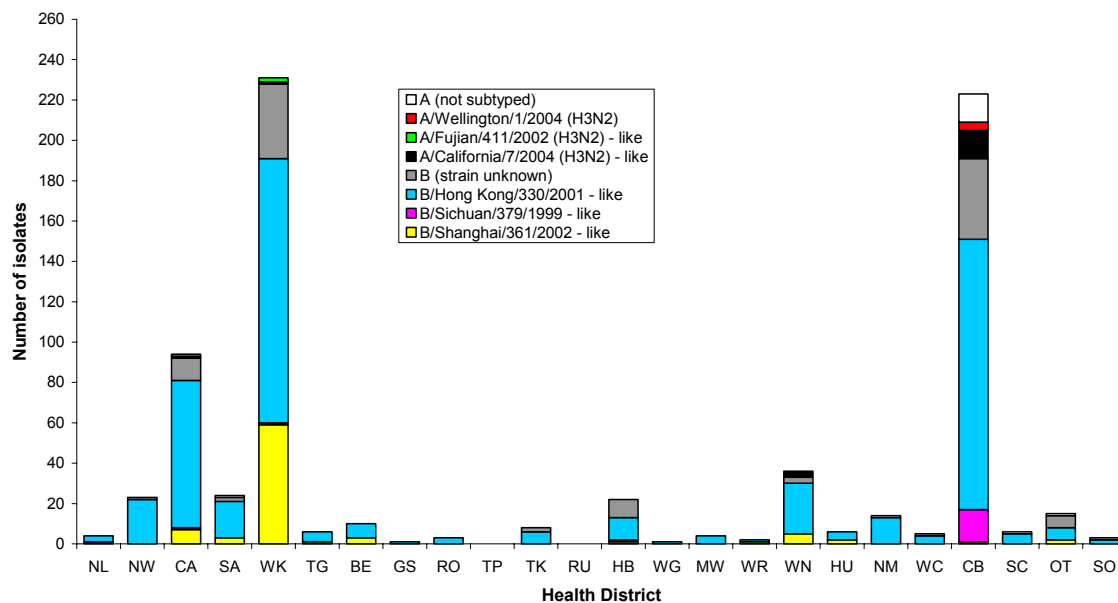


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2003 and 2004 seasons, and 2005 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

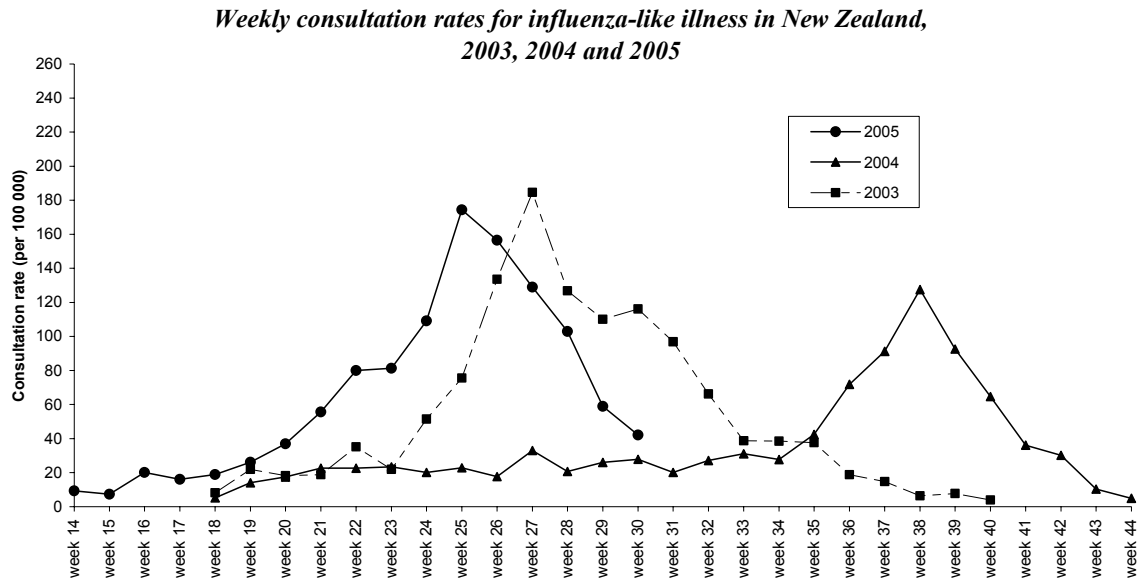
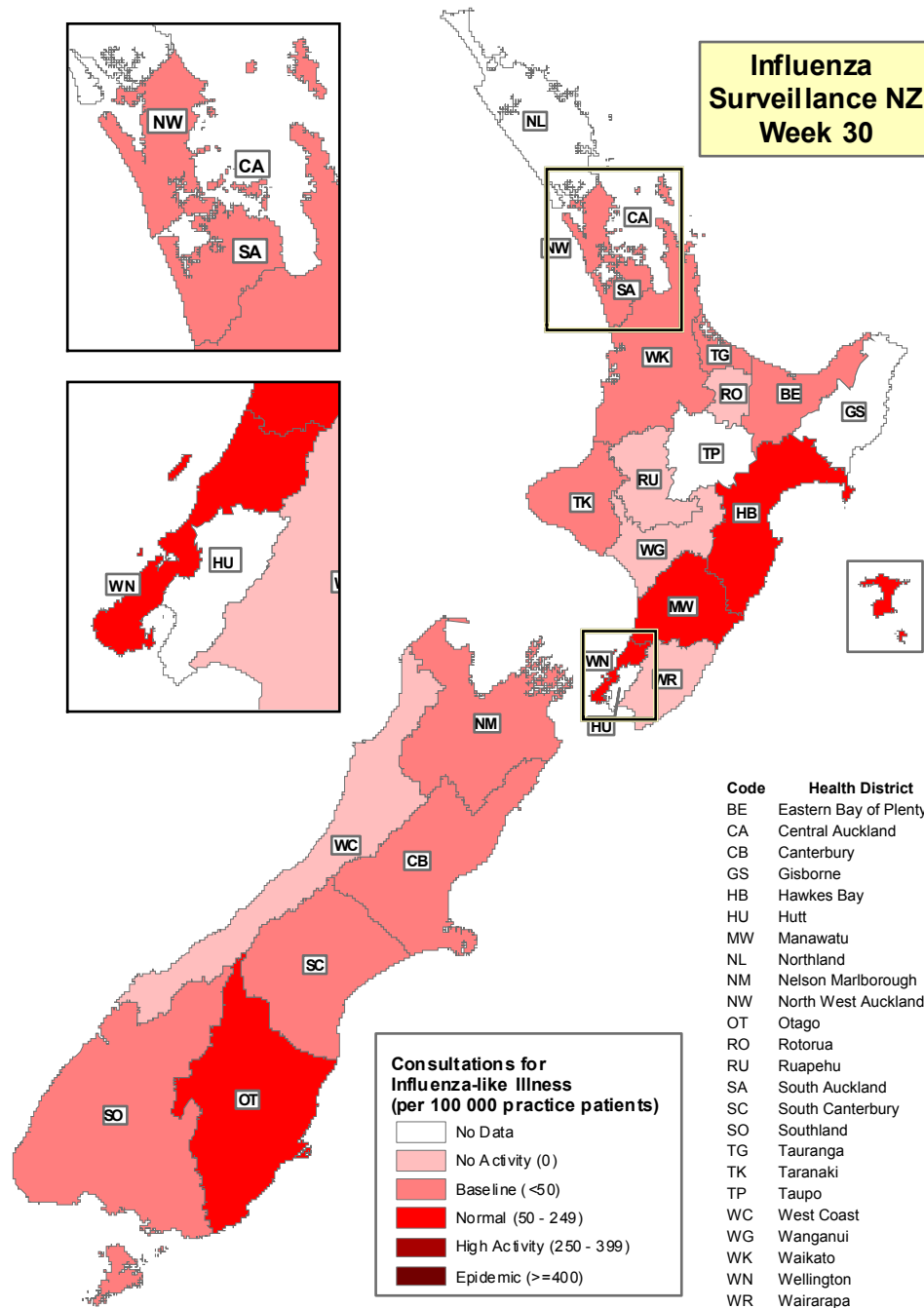


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 30, 2005.

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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