

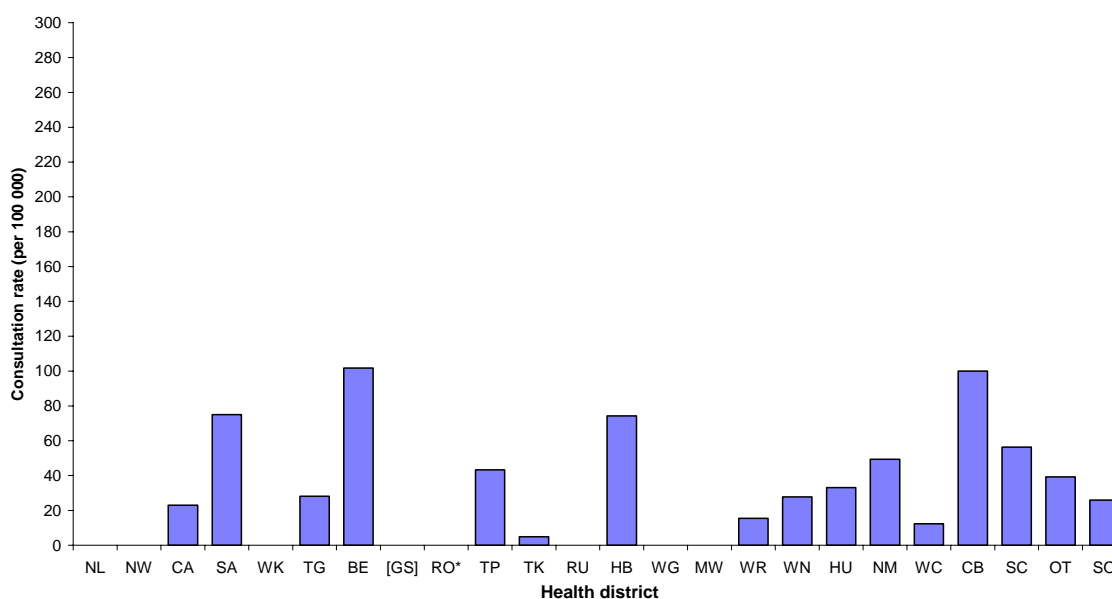
INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

2007/37: 08-14 September 2007

In the past week, a total of 98 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 75 general practices in 22 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 31.0 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure one 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 (101.7 per 100 000), followed by Canterbury (100.0 per 100 000).

Figure 1. Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 14 September 2007



[] Health district not participating in the influenza surveillance
* Health district did not participate for the week

Thirty-nine swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Thirty-six were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 22 influenza viruses were isolated, seven as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), three as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like, one as A/California/7/2004 (H3N2) – like, one as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) - like, eight as B (not antigenically typed), and two as B/Shanghai/361/2002 – like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

Antigenic Strain	BE	CA	CB	HB	NL	NW	OT	SA	SC	SO	Total
A		1	4	1				1			7
A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) - like	1			1	1						3
A/California/7/2004 (H3N2) - like						1					1
A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) - like		1									1
B	1		4				1		1	1	8
B/Shanghai/361/2002 - like							1			1	2
Total	2	2	8	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	22

In addition, 25 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance. Nineteen were identified as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed and six as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

Antigenic Strain	CA	CB	SA	WK	Total
A	1	16	1	1	19
B		6			6
Total	1	22	1	1	25

Figure 2 shows the cumulative total of influenza isolates confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 37, 14 September 2007. A total of 640 influenza viruses were identified, 369 as influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 130 as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like, two as A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1) – like, one as A(H1N1) not antigenically sub-typed, 29 as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2) – like, two as A/California/7/2004 (H3N2) – like, two as A(H3N2) not antigenically sub-typed, 58 as influenza B (yet to be antigenically typed), 44 as B/Shanghai/361/2002 – like, and three as B/Malaysia/2506/2004 – like.

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 14 September 2007

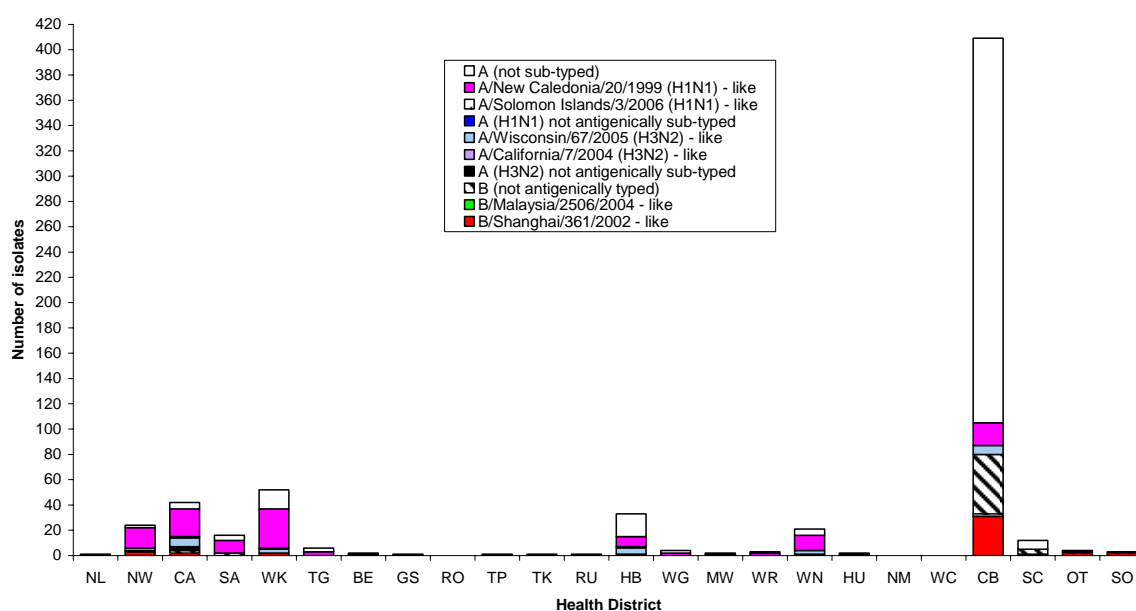


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2005 and 2006 seasons, and 2007 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2005, 2006 and 2007

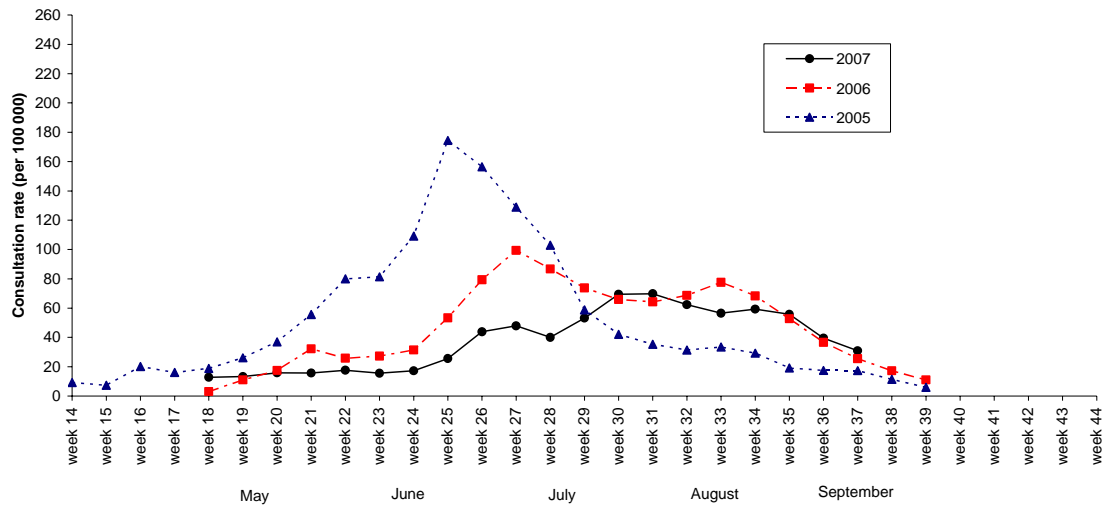
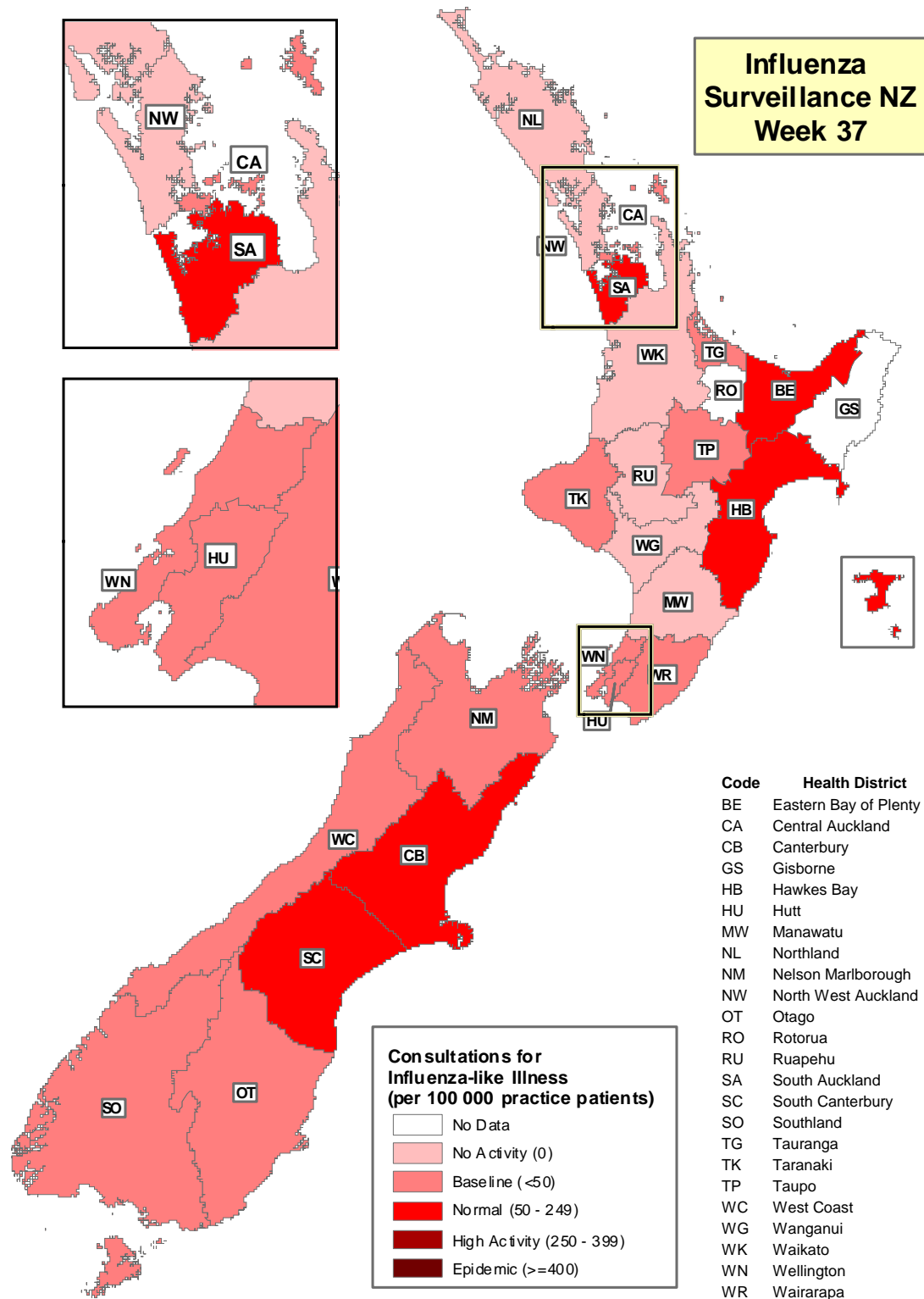


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 37, 2007.

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"

Compiled by: Lisa McCallum
 Population and Environmental Health
 ESR Kenepuru Science Centre
 PO Box 50 348
 PORIRUA

phone: 04 914-0700
 fax: 04 914-0770
 email: lisa.mccallum@esr.cri.nz