

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

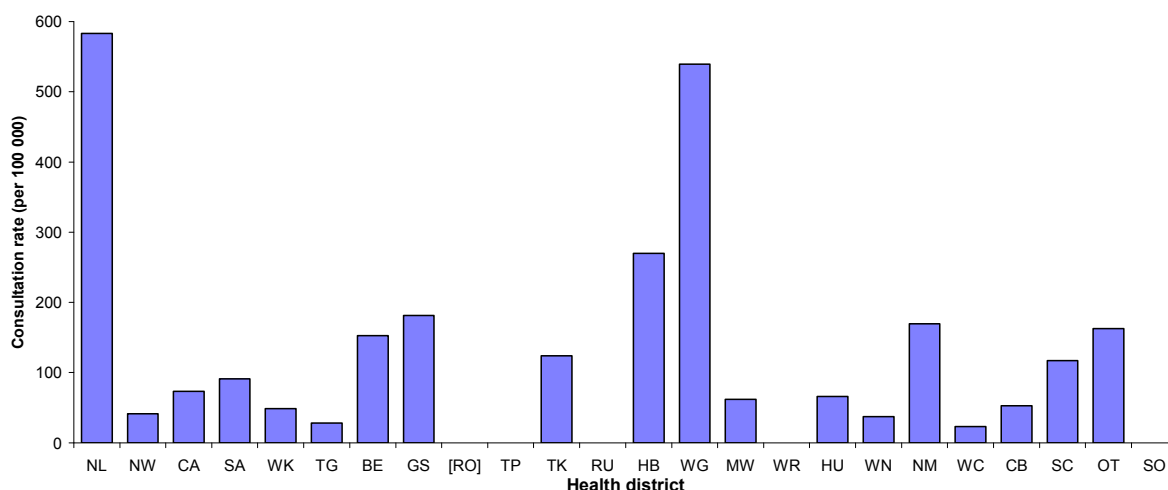
2008/29: 14 – 18 July 2008

In the past week, a total of 292 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 75 general practices in 23 of the 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 93.3 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Northland had the highest consultation rate (583.1 per 100 000), followed by Wanganui (539.5 per 100 000).

Figure 1

Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 18 July 2008



[] Health district did not participate for the week.

Note: Some health districts have only one sentinel GP with a small patient denominator so the consultation rates could be high (e.g. Northland).

Forty-two swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Forty-seven were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 20 influenza viruses were identified, nine A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), seven B (not antigenically typed), and four influenza A (yet to be sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Antigenic Strain	NW	CA	SA	WK	GS	MW	WN	SC	OT	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed)	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	1	1	9
B (not antigenically typed)	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	7
Total	2	5	1	2	3	1	3	2	1	20

In addition, 54 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, 29 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed) and 25 B (not antigenically typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Antigenic Strain	NL	NW	CA	SA	WK	HB	CB	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	1	3	6	11	2	3	3	29
B (not antigenically typed)	0	0	11	9	4	0	1	25
Total	1	3	17	20	6	3	4	54

Figure 2 show the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 29, 18 July 2008. A total of 312 influenza viruses were identified, 143 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 53 A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, 31 A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), one A H1N1 (not antigenically sub-typed), 68 influenza B (not antigenically typed), and 16 B/Florida/4/2006 – lineage.

Figure 2

Figure 2: Cumulative laboratory-confirmed isolates by health district to 18 July 2008

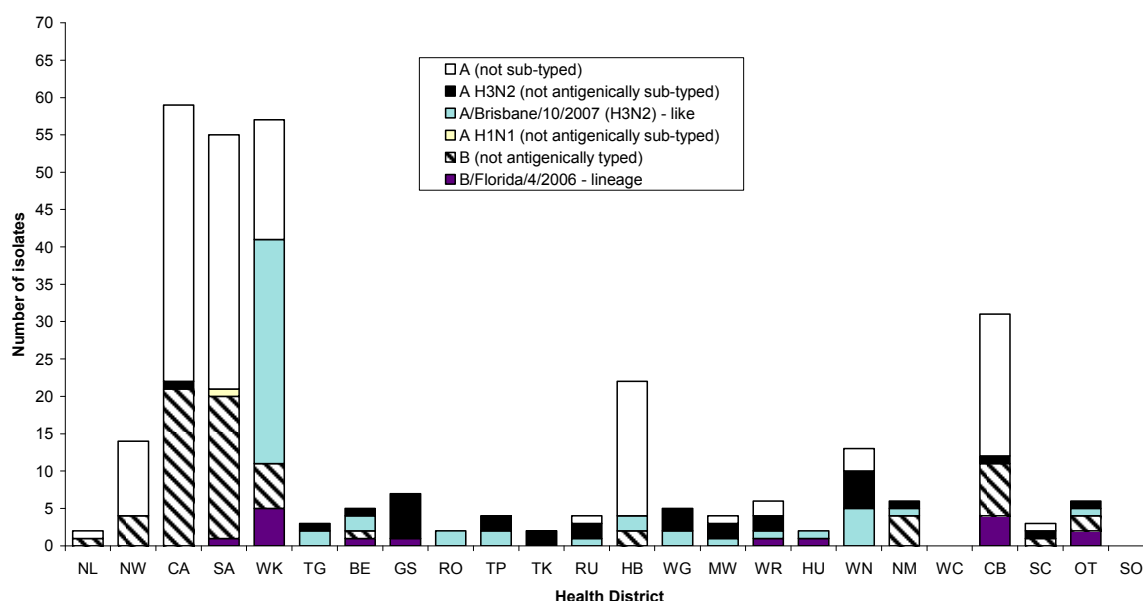


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2006 and 2007 seasons, and 2008 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

Figure 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2006, 2007 and 2008

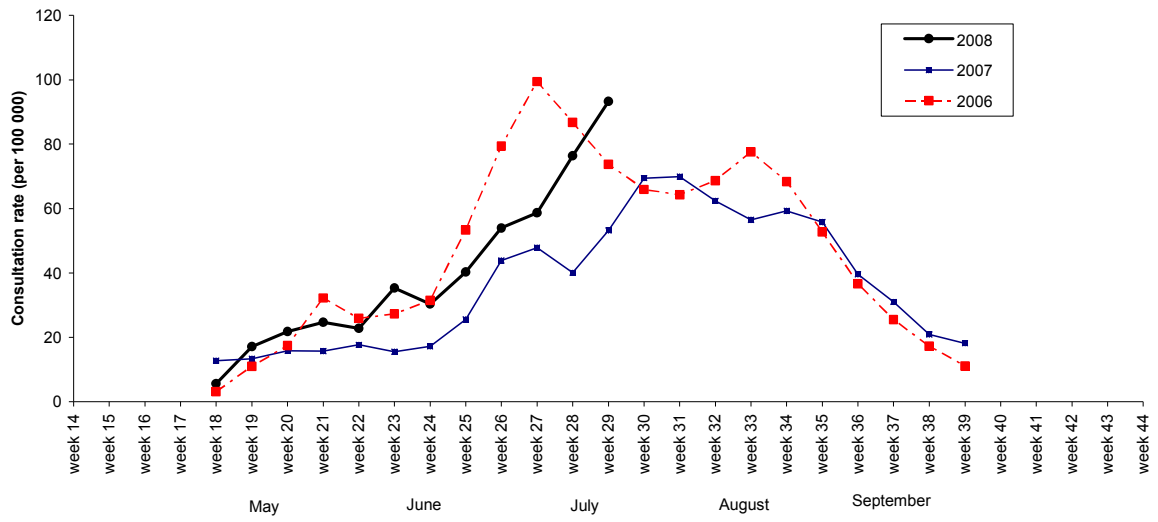
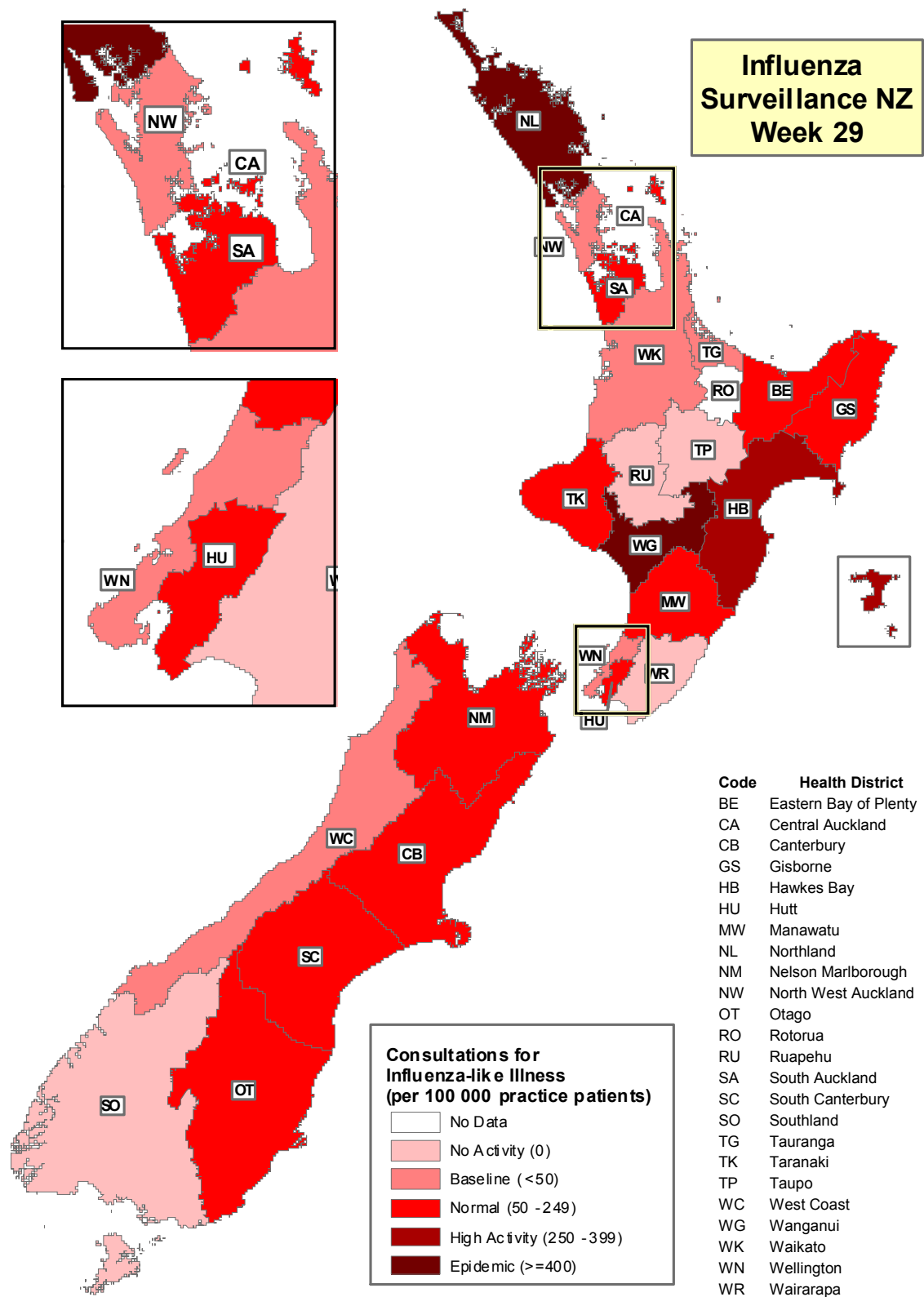


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 29, 2008.

Figure 4



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