

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

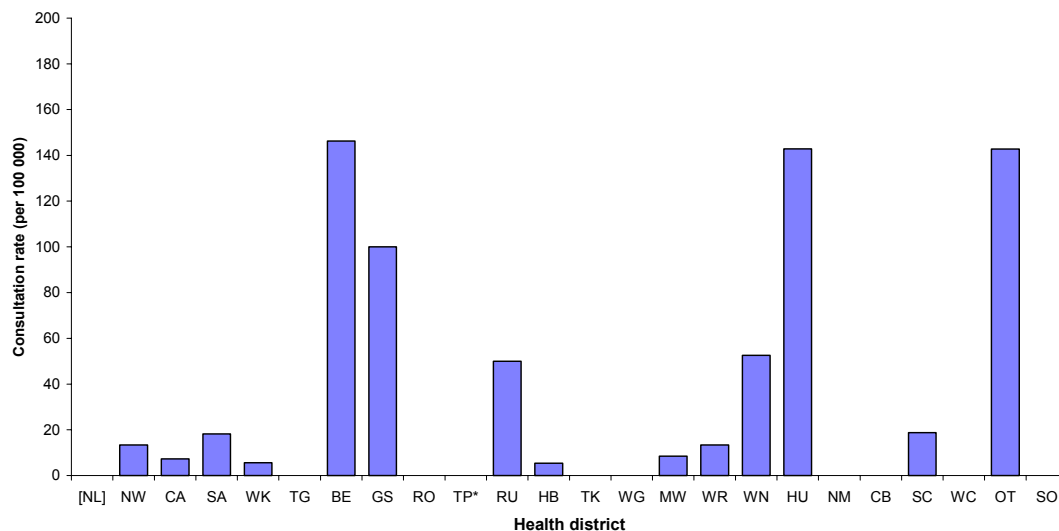
2004/21: 17 May – 23 May 2004

In the past week, a total of 70 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices in 22 out of 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 23.0 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 (146.3 per 100 000), followed by Hutt (142.9 per 100 000).

Figure 1

*Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district
week ending 23 May 2004*



* No sentinel practice to date

[] Health District not participating

Twenty-six swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Twenty-nine swabs were received by virology laboratories. The influenza virus is yet to be identified.

One influenza A isolate (yet to be sub-typed) from Central Auckland was reported from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance.

Figure 2 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2002 and 2003 seasons, and 2004 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 2

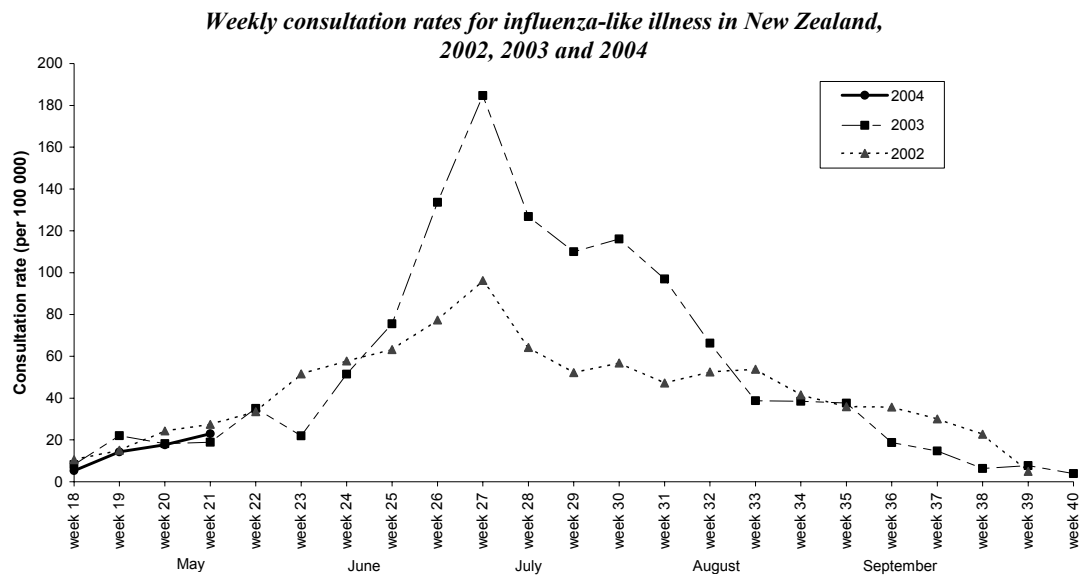
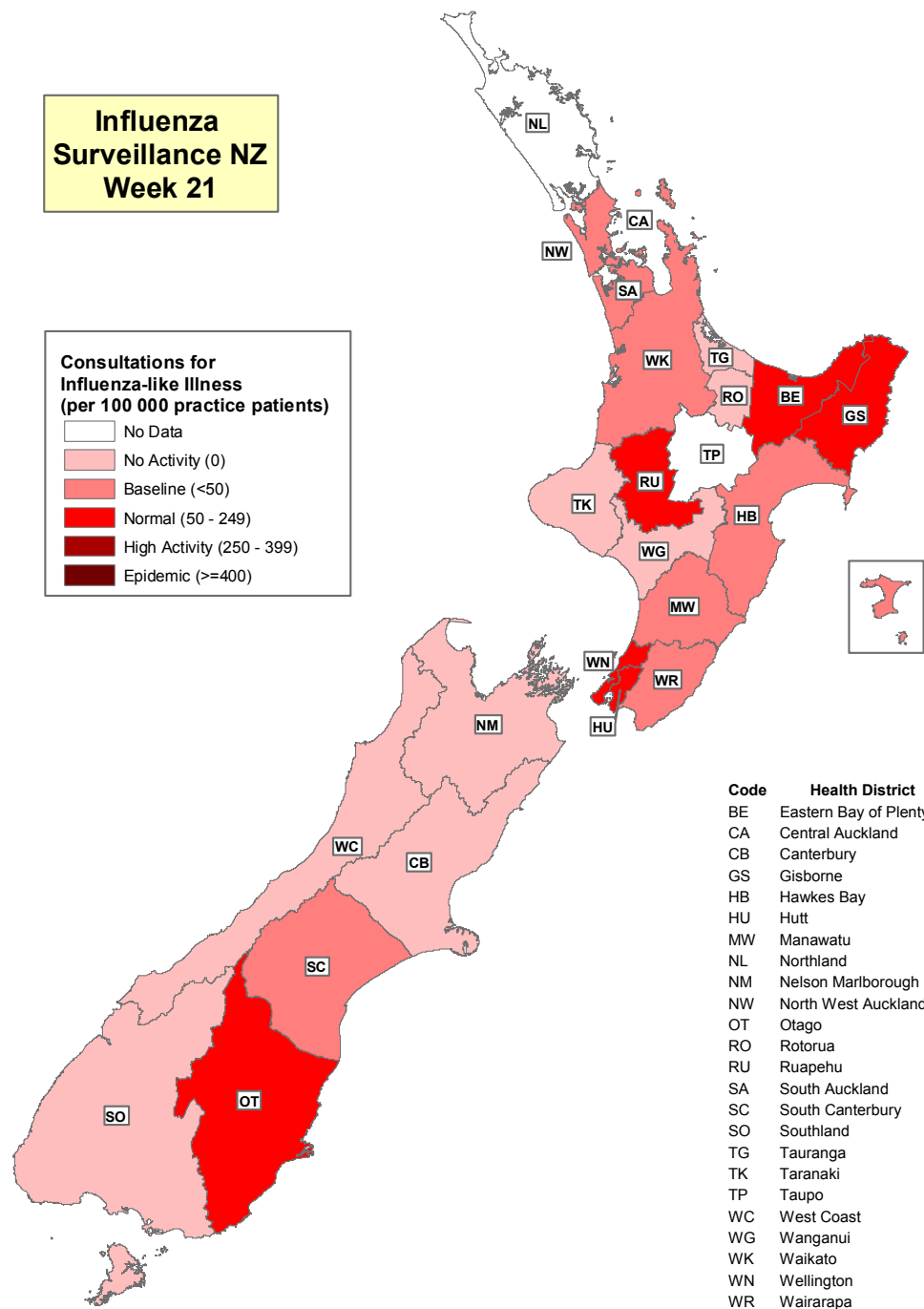


Figure 3 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 21, 2004.

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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