

INFLUENZA WEEKLY UPDATE

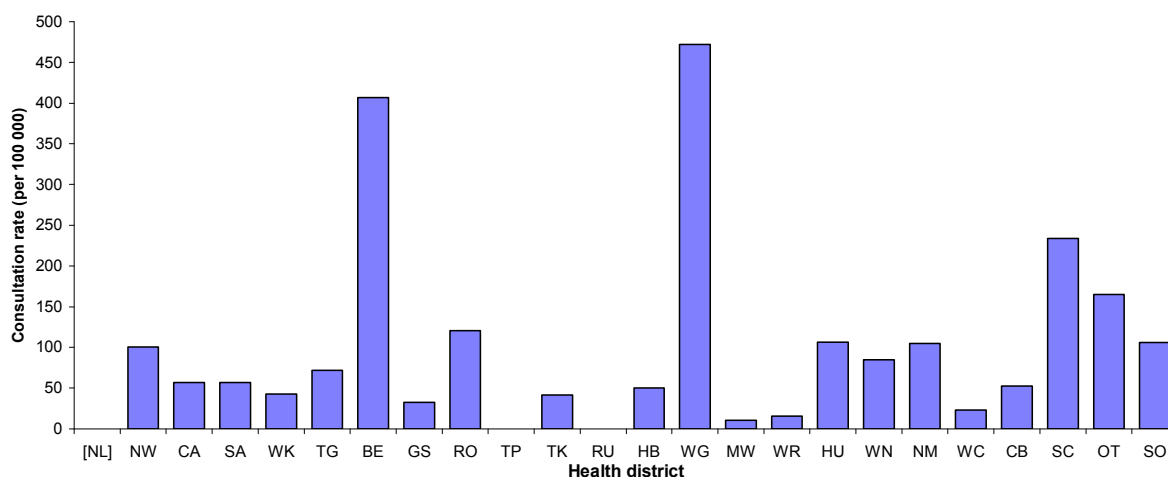
2008/32: 4-8 August 2008

In the past week, a total of 293 consultations for influenza-like illness were reported from 80 general practices in 23 of the 24 health districts. This gives a weekly consultation rate of 84.1 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 1 compares the consultation rates for influenza-like illness for each health district over the past week. Wanganui had the highest consultation rate (472.0 per 100 000), followed by Eastern Bay of Plenty (406.9 per 100 000).

Figure 1

Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness by health district week ending 8 August 2008



[] Health district did not participate for the week.

Fifty-eight swabs were sent from the sentinel surveillance in the past week. Seventy-four swabs were received by virology laboratories. Of these, 38 influenza viruses were identified, 21 B (not antigenically typed), nine influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), four A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), two A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, and two B/Florida/4/2006 – like. The distribution by health district is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Antigenic Strain	NL	NW	CA	SA	TG	GS	RO	WN	NM	CB	SC	OT	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	9
A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed)	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) - like	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
B (not antigenically typed)	2	4	5	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	3	21
B/Florida/4/2006 - like	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Total	3	6	6	1	6	1	2	2	4	3	1	3	38

In addition, 52 influenza viruses were reported this week from the laboratory-based (non-sentinel) surveillance, 28 B (not antigenically typed), and 24 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed). The distribution by health district is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Antigenic Strain	CA	SA	WK	HB	CB	Total
A (yet to be sub-typed)	6	5	3	0	10	24
B (not antigenically typed)	3	3	4	4	14	28
Total	9	8	7	4	24	52

Figure 2 show the cumulative total of influenza viruses confirmed (sentinel and laboratory-based surveillance) to the end of week 32, 8 August 2008. A total of 519 influenza viruses were identified, 155 influenza A (yet to be sub-typed), 123 A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) – like, 45 A H3N2 (not antigenically sub-typed), one A H1N1 (not antigenically sub-typed), 161 influenza B (not antigenically typed), and 34 B/Florida/4/2006 – lineage.

Figure 2

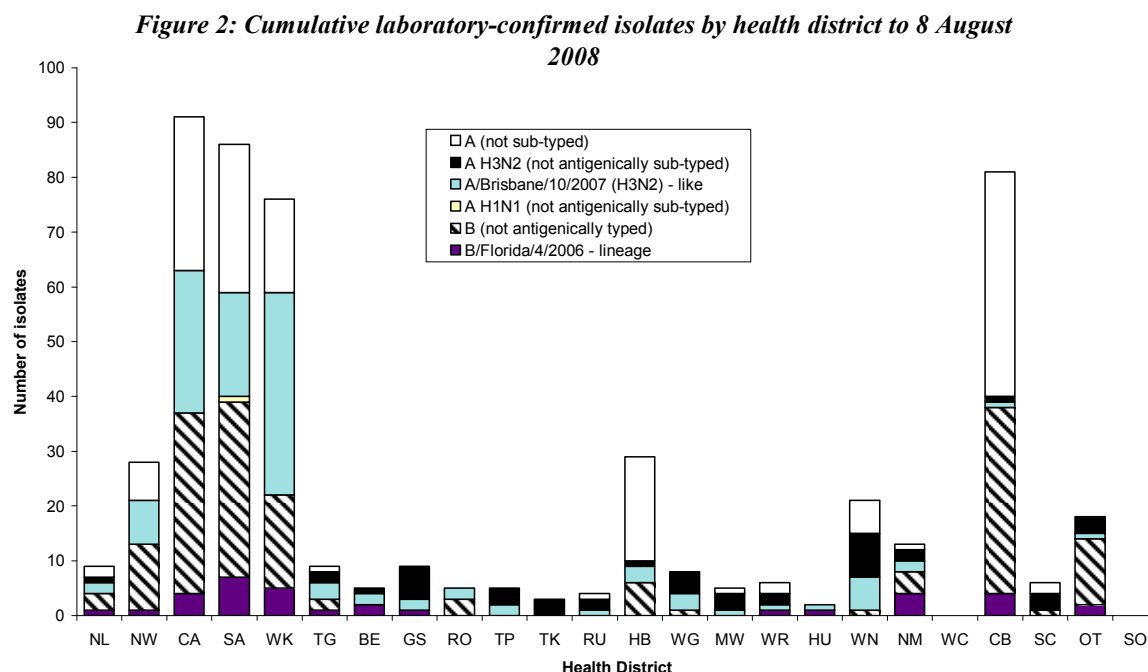


Figure 3 shows the weekly national consultation rates for 2006 and 2007 seasons, and 2008 so far. The current rate of influenza is higher than at the same time last year.

Figure 3

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

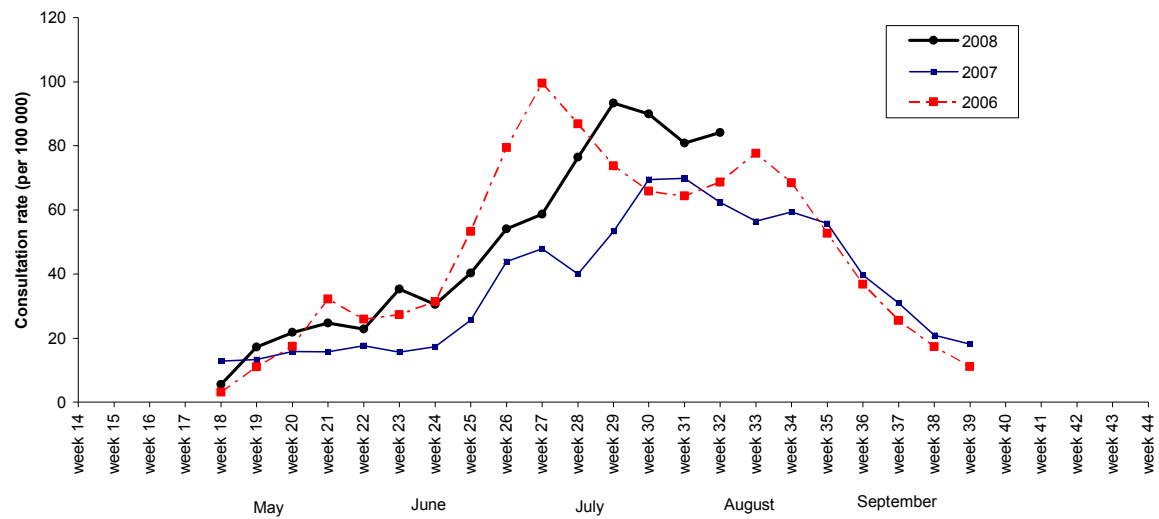
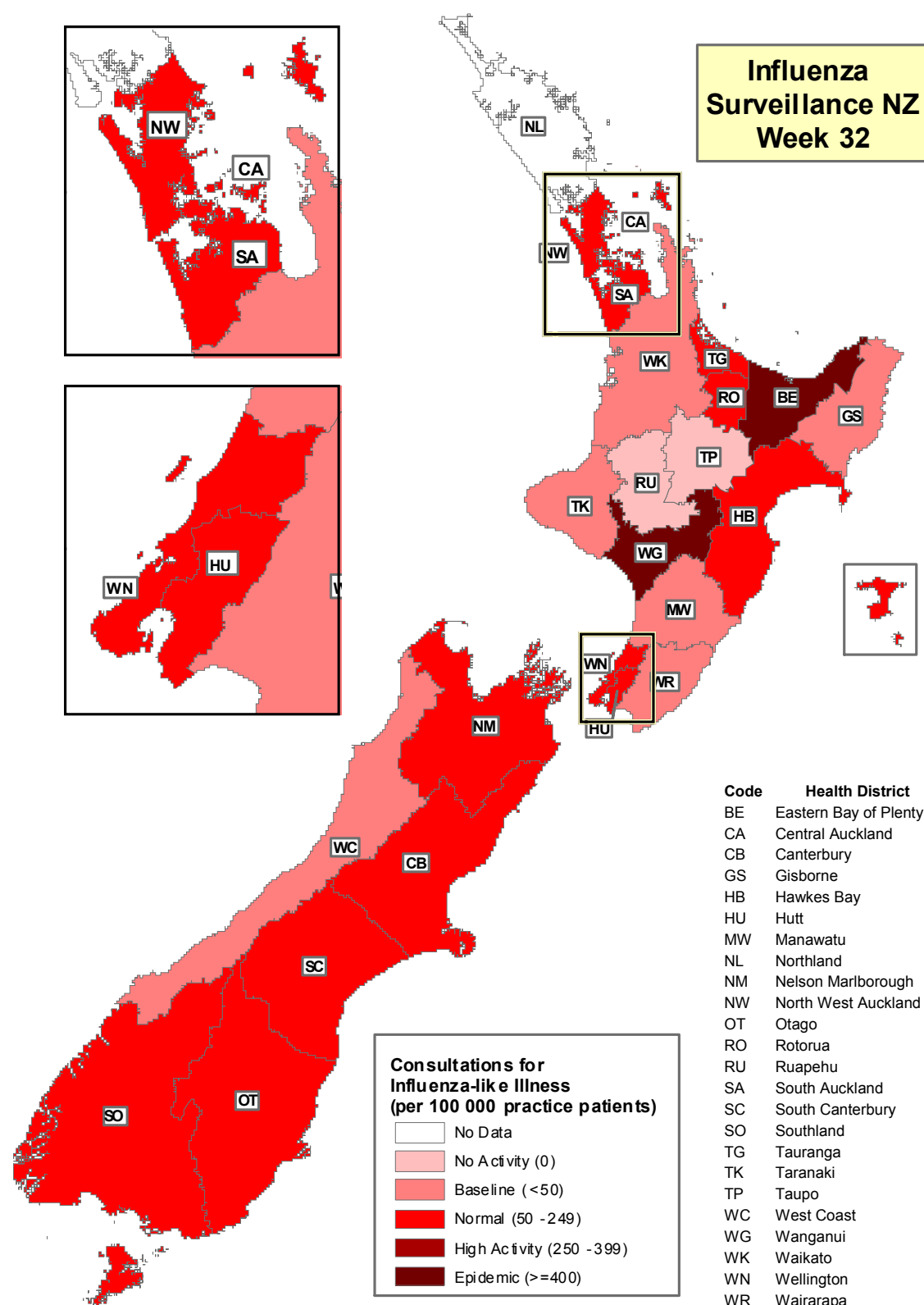


Figure 4 illustrates consultation rates for influenza-like illness mapped by health district for week 32, 2008.

Figure 4



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