



WEEK ENDING 20TH JULY 2014

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Influenza activity continued to increase this week, with A/H1N1 virus predominant.

- Indicators of influenza activity, including ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs), influenza notifications, proportion testing positive and hospitalisations associated with influenza continued to increase this week.
- ILI activity at sentinel emergency departments (ED) stabilised this week.
- The majority of influenza viruses subtyped in recent weeks have been influenza A/H1N1, with a fall in the proportion of A/H3 and influenza B viruses detected.
- Respiratory syncytial virus continues to predominate among detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses.

GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs are within expected levels.

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

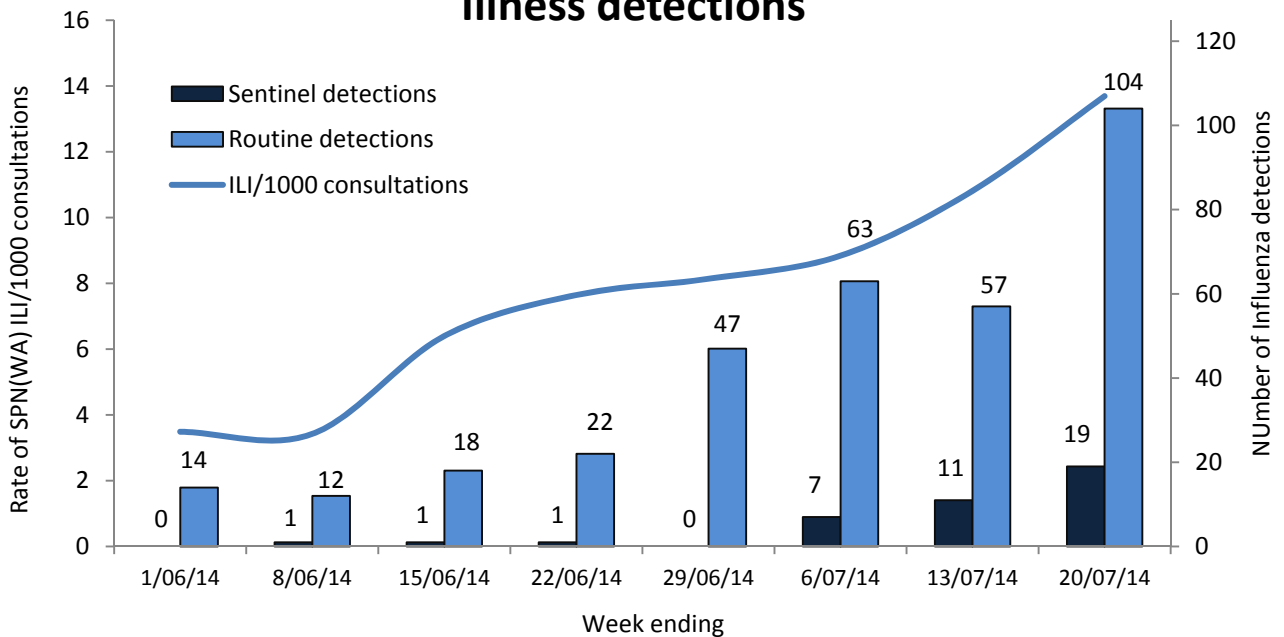
- Shingles presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs remain just above expected levels; chickenpox presentations remain low.
- No confirmed cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported.

Current and archived issues of Virus Watch http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus_watch.pm

Virus Watch is a weekly electronic publication by the Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) and key collaborators. It provides a brief summary of General Practice and Hospital Emergency Department sentinel surveillance data on influenza-like illness, gastroenteritis and varicella-zoster disease, together with relevant laboratory information, to alert health care workers in WA to important circulating viruses. General Practice data are collected by members of the Sentinel Practitioners Network of Western Australia - SPN(WA). Emergency Department data are provided by the Emergency Department Information System (EDIS), which incorporates data from the following hospitals: Royal Perth Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Fremantle Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Bunbury Hospital, Armadale Hospital, Joondalup Health Campus, Swan District Hospital and Rockingham General Hospital. Viral laboratory data are obtained from PathWest laboratories at QEII Medical Centre and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, as well as via notification data sent by all WA laboratories to CDCD, WA Department of Health. All figures and data were accurate at time of publication, but subject to change.

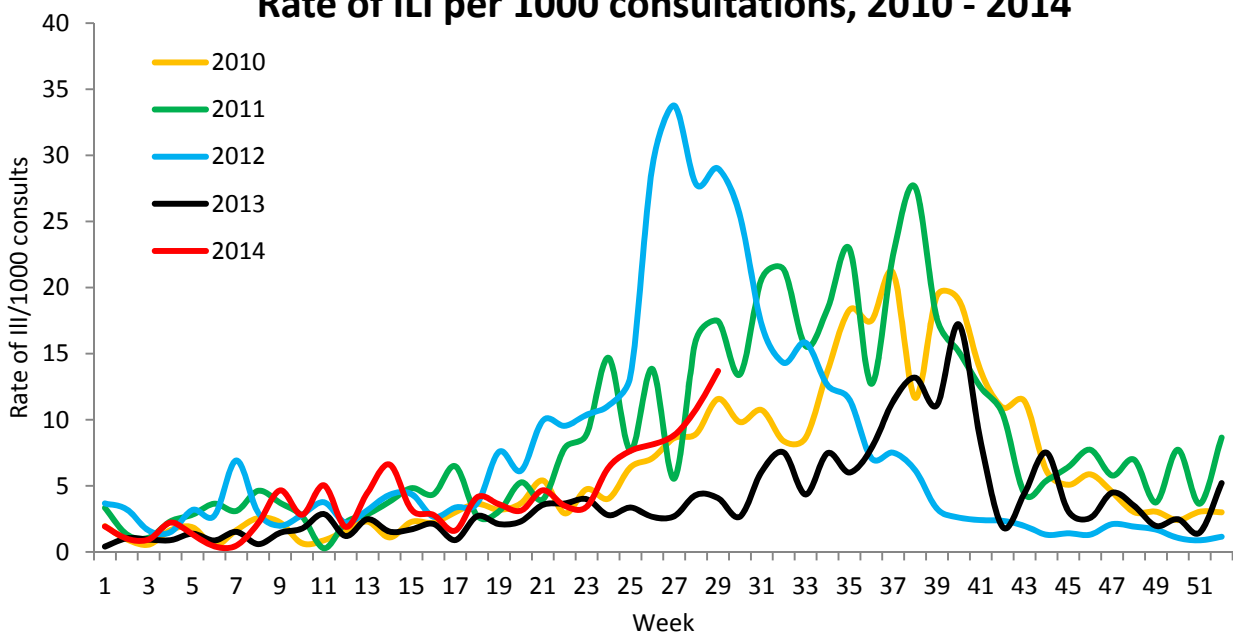
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



ILI presentations to sentinel GPs and detections of influenza virus continued to increase this week. Nineteen (32%) of 59 swabs collected at sentinel practices tested positive for influenza virus. Of 459 routinely collected specimens, 104 (23%) tested positive.

Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014

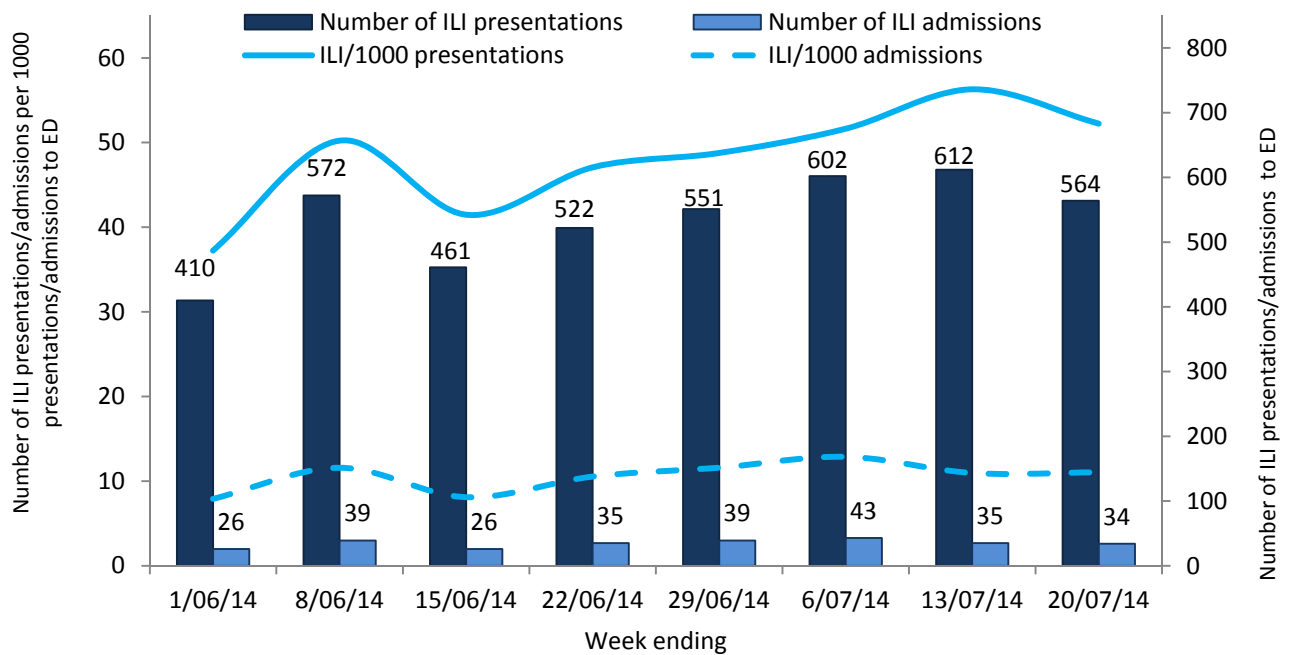


The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased this week to 13.7 cases per 1000 consultations and is in the mid-range of values for the same time period in recent years.



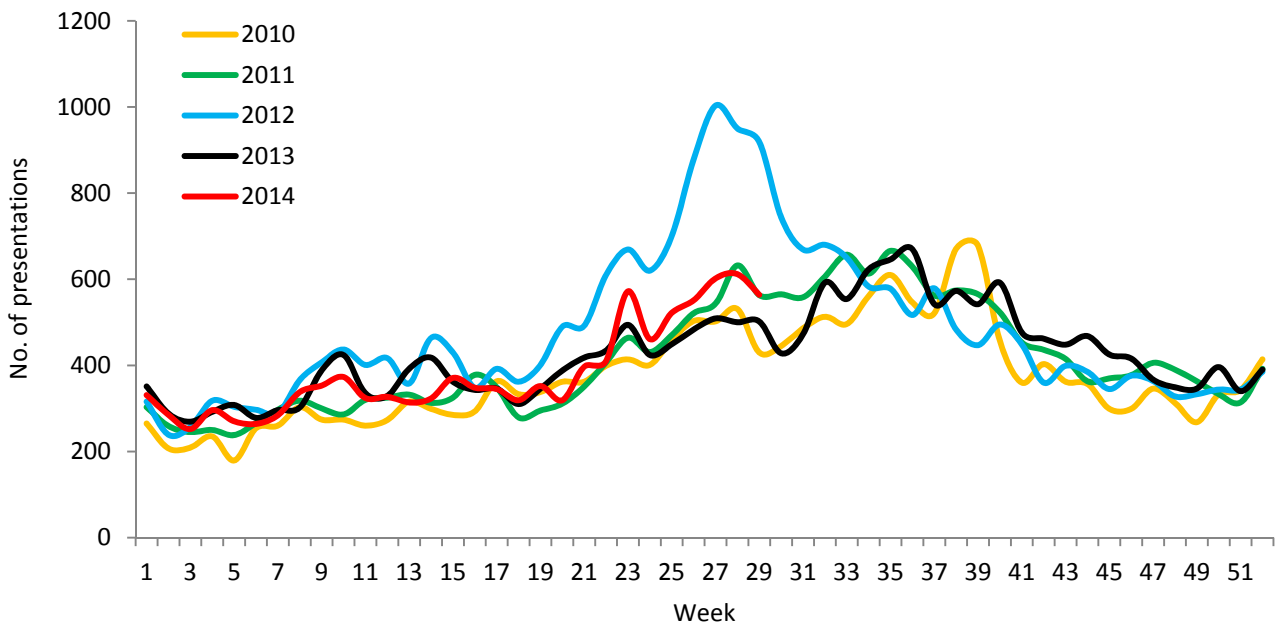
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



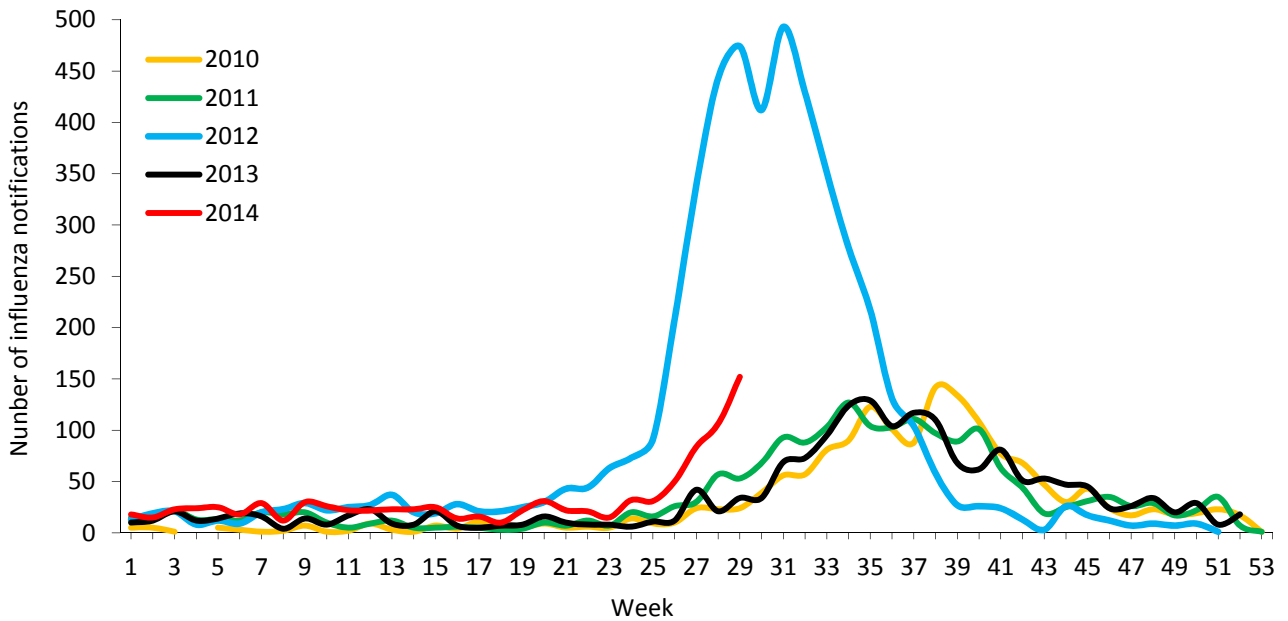
ED presentations for viral respiratory illness decreased this week. The number of ED admissions was similar to the previous week.

ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2010 - 2014



The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs decreased this week and is similar to the number of presentations reported at this time in recent mild seasons.

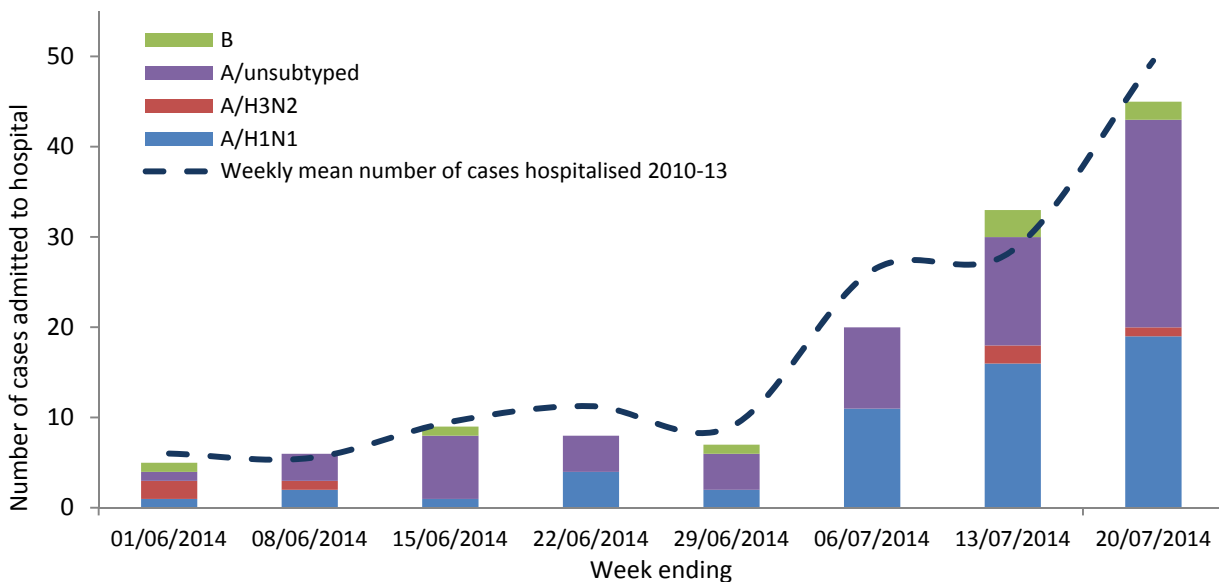
Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014



Notifications of confirmed influenza to the Department of Health continued to increase this week, and are currently higher than levels at this time in recent mild seasons, but well below the level reported in 2012.

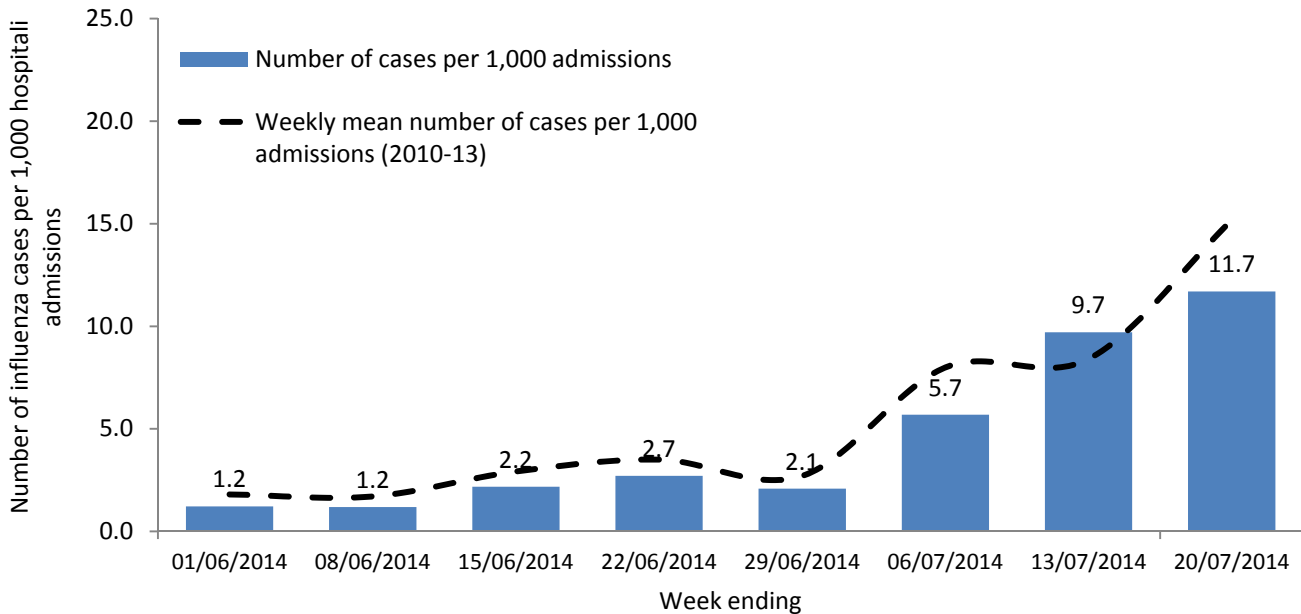
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 14/07/2014 and 20/07/2014.

Number of influenza cases hospitalised



The number of notified influenza cases who were hospitalised increased this week to 45 cases: 23 (51%) were influenza A/unsubtyped, 19 (42%) were influenza A/H1N1, 2 (4%) were influenza B, and 1 (2%) were influenza A/H3N2.

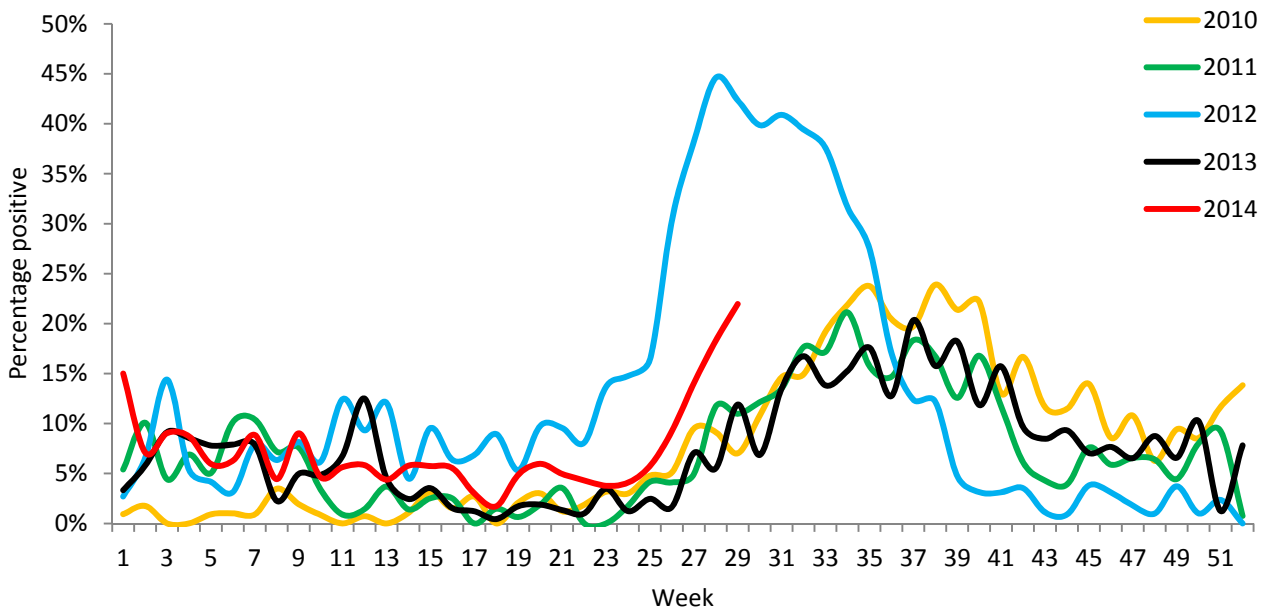
Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza increased to 11.7 per 1,000 admissions this week which is consistent with the average from recent years.

The graph is a summary of influenza notifications received by the DoH who were recorded as having a hospital admission, expressed per 1,000 admissions.

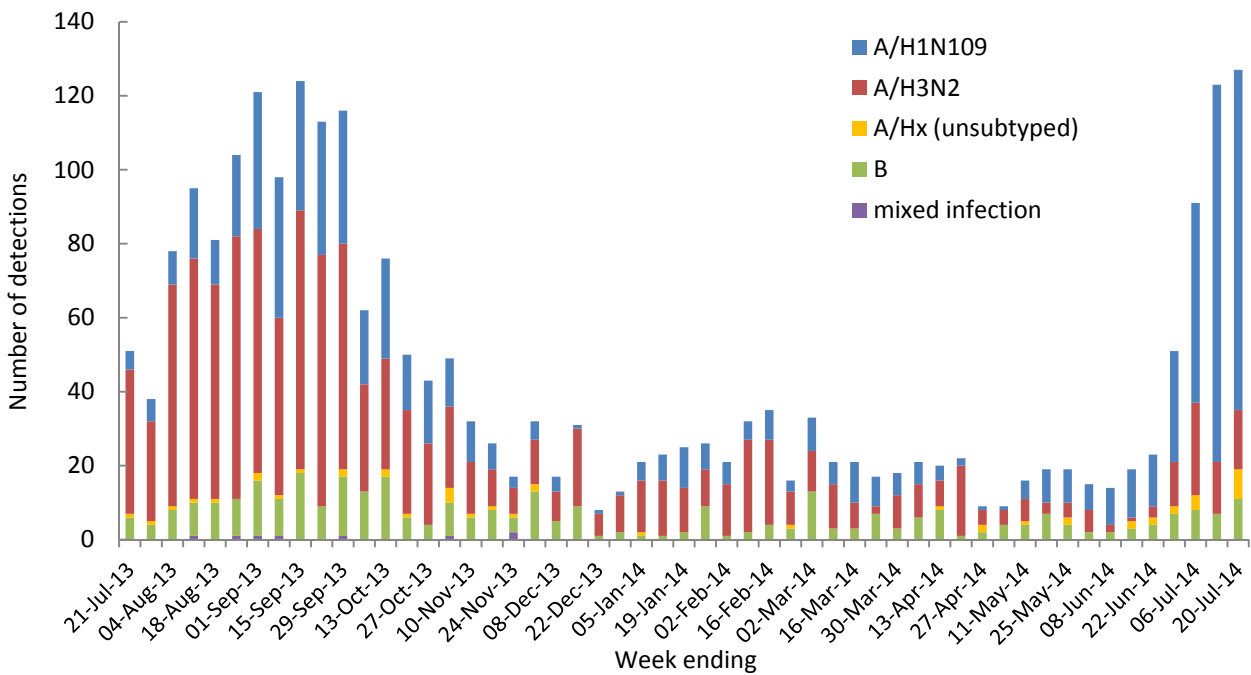
PathWest-QEII-PMH influenza percentage positive 2010 - 2014



Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 22% tested positive for influenza virus, which is higher than levels reported at this time during recent mild influenza seasons.



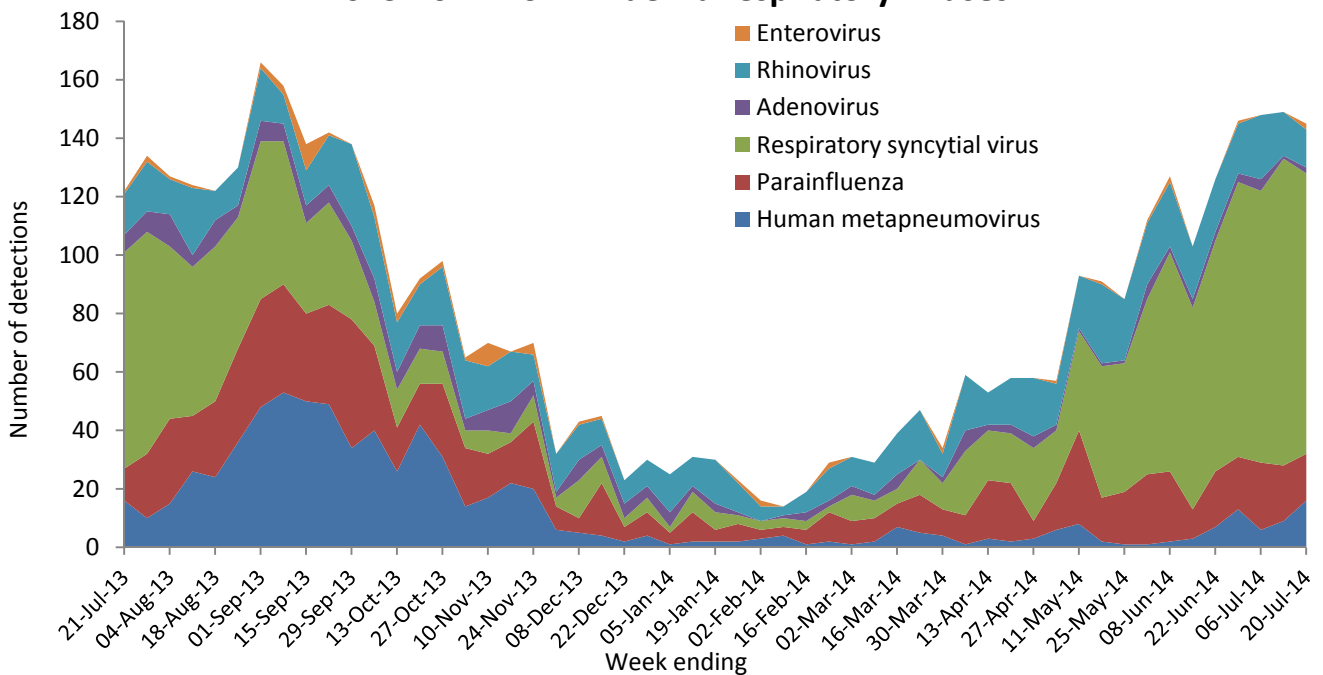
PathWest-QEII-OMH 2013-2014 Influenza subtypes



One hundred and twenty seven influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 92 (72%) influenza A/H1N1, 16 (13%) influenza A/H3N2, 11 (9%) influenza B, and 8 (6%) influenza A/unsubtyped.

The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 23rd July 2014.

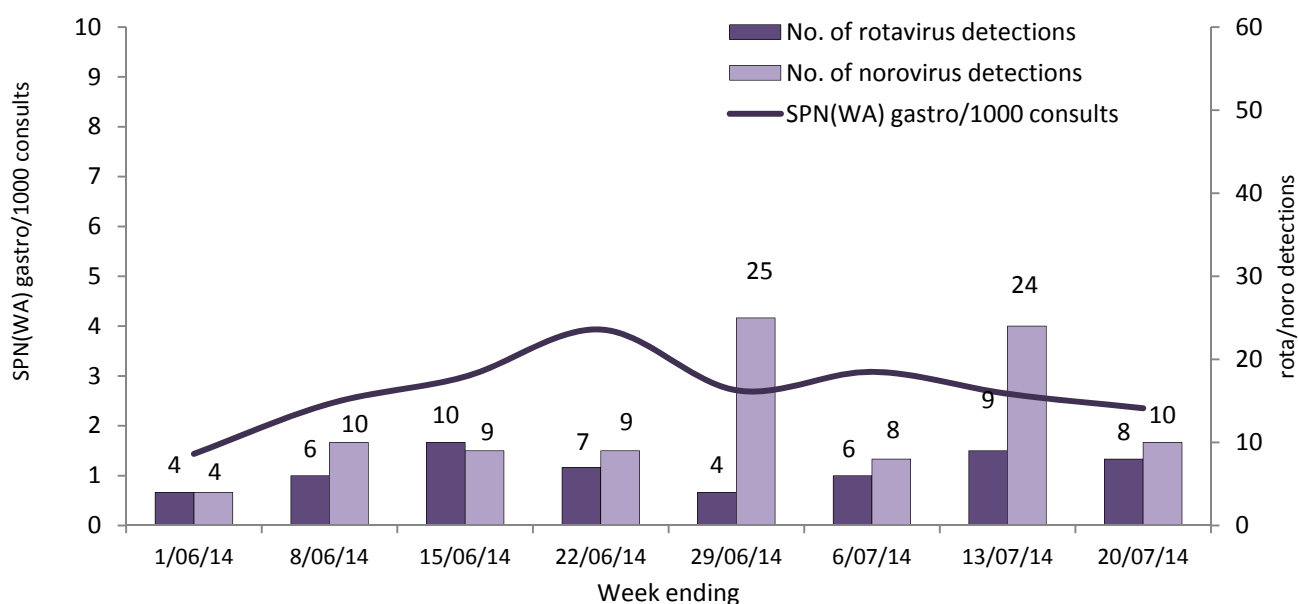
2013-2014 Non-Influenza respiratory viruses



Parainfluenza virus and human metapneumovirus increased this week, but respiratory syncytial virus continues to predominate among detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses.

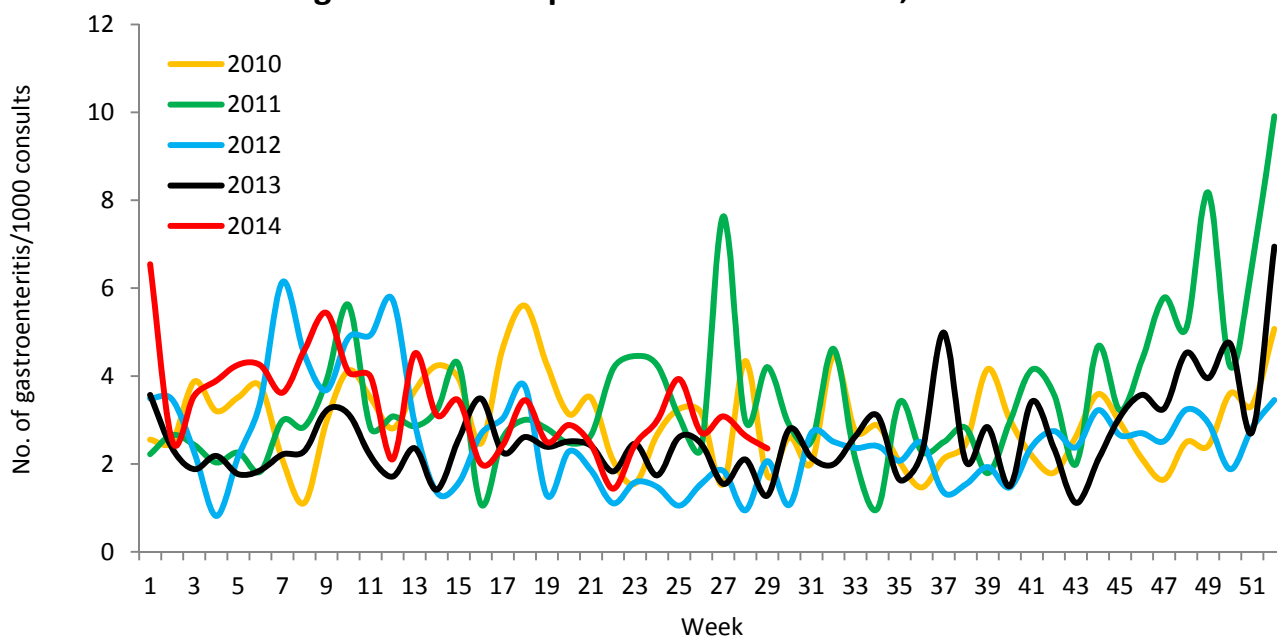
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs remain stable. Norovirus detections halved this week and rotavirus detections remain constant.

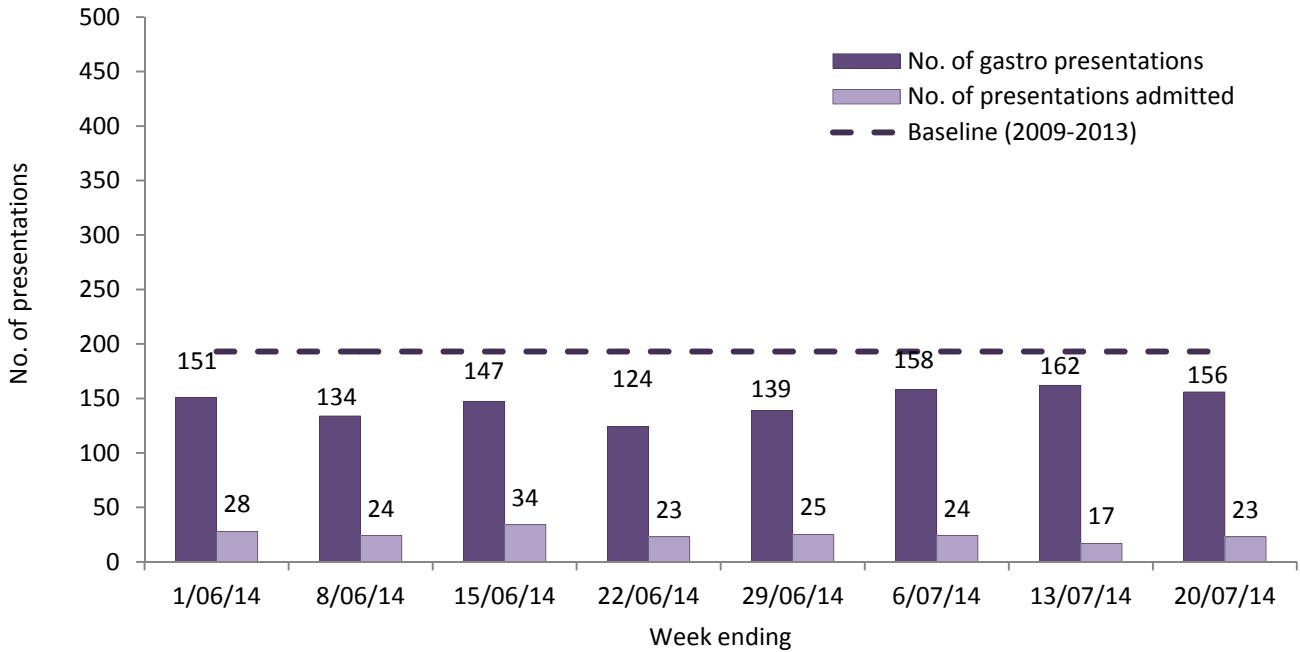
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs remains in the mid-range of rates seen in the same time period in recent years.

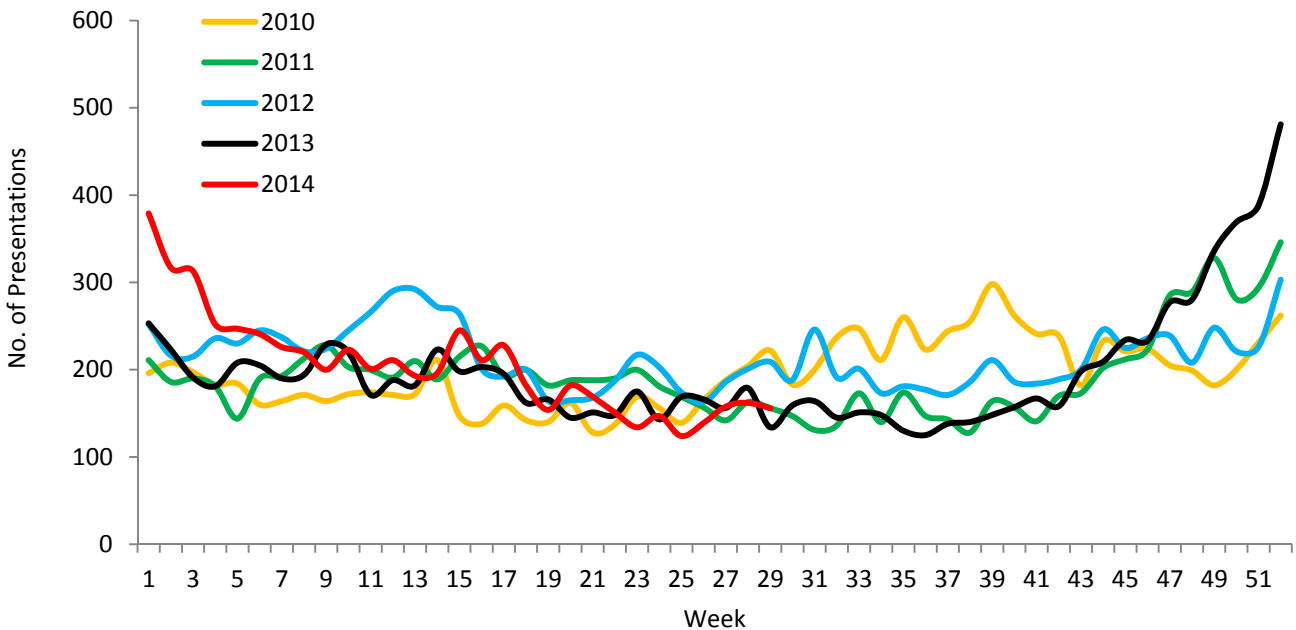
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remain below baseline this week.

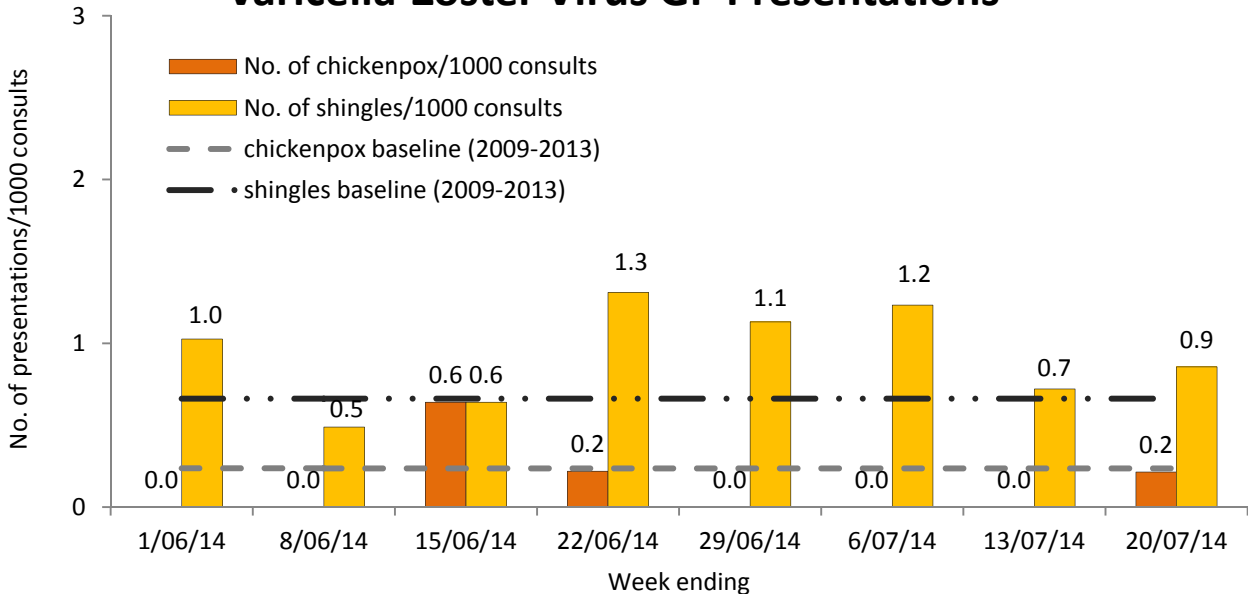
ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014



The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs is in the mid-range of values compared to the same time period in recent years.

Viral Rashes

Varicella-Zoster Virus GP Presentations

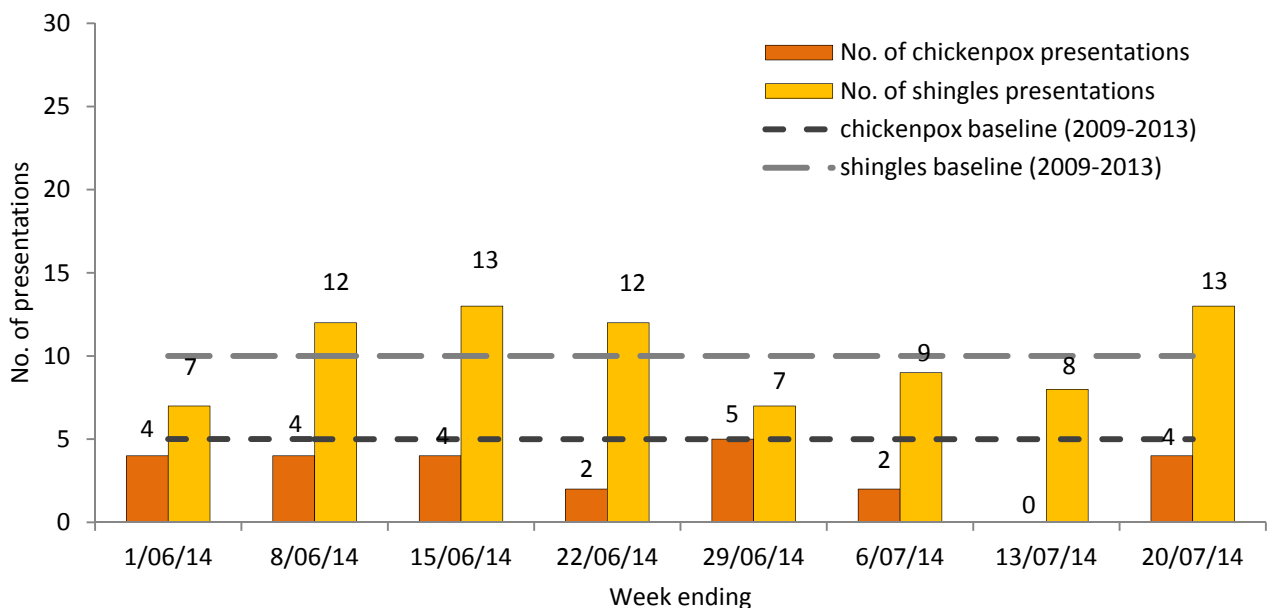


The rate of shingles presentations at sentinel GPs remains slightly above baseline, and chickenpox presentations are near baseline level. No confirmed cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported.

Baseline levels for chickenpox and shingles presentations to SPN(WA) GPs per thousand consultations were calculated using the mean of weekly WA ASPREN data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for varicella-zoster virus presentations. Baseline levels for varicella-zoster virus presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Varicella-Zoster virus ED Presentations



Shingles presentations to sentinel EDs remain increased above baseline level. Chickenpox presentations remain below baseline.

