



WEEK ENDING 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014

## KEY POINTS

### INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

**Summary:** Influenza activity increased this week, with A/H1N1 virus remaining the predominant subtype.

- Indicators of influenza activity, including ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs) and sentinel emergency departments (EDs), proportion of positive laboratory tests for influenza and influenza-associated hospitalisations continued to increase this week.
- Notifications of influenza cases increased by 28% this week.
- The majority of influenza viruses subtyped remains influenza A/H1N1, but A/H3 and influenza B viruses continue to co-circulate.
- Detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses stabilised or decreased this week, with respiratory syncytial virus continuing to be the predominant virus circulating.

### GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs increased slightly this week, but presentations to sentinel EDs remain within expected levels.

### VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

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

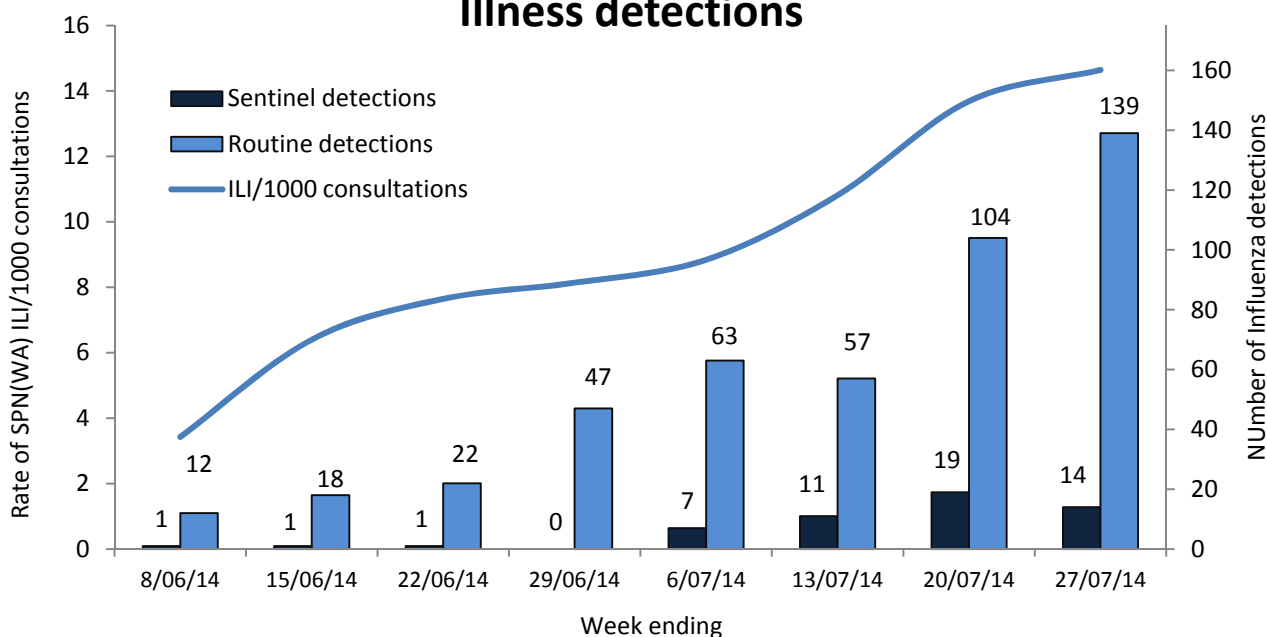
Current and archived issues of Virus Watch [http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus\\_watch.pm](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus_watch.pm)

*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.*



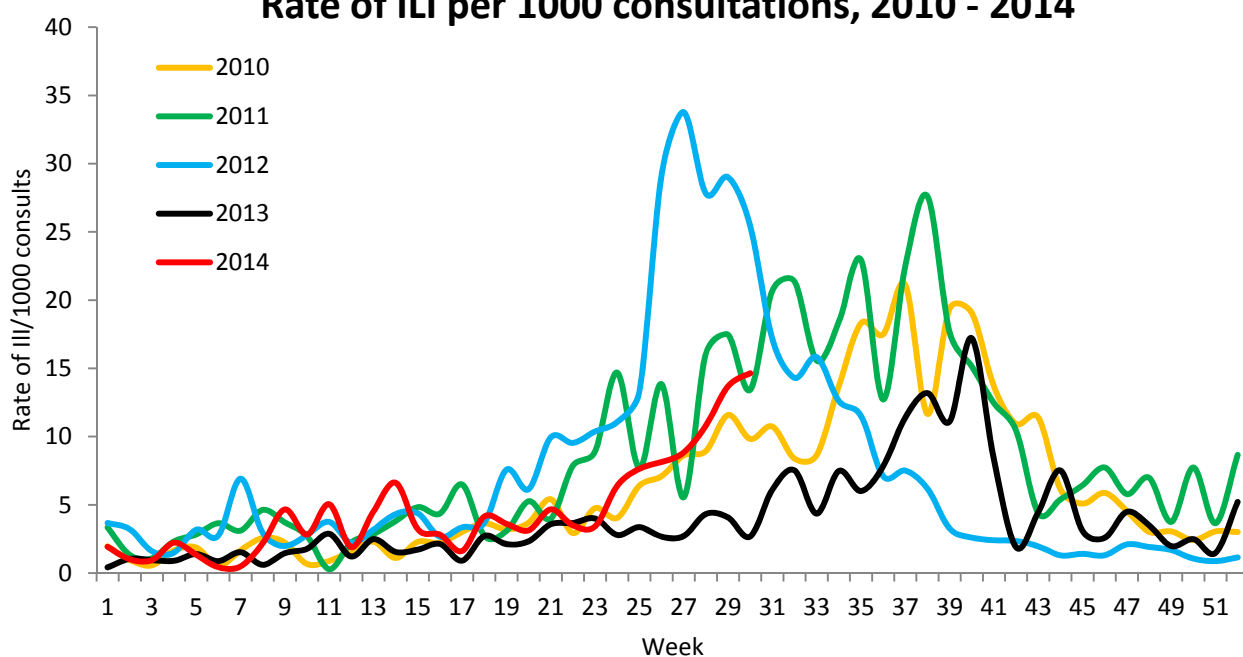
# Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

## Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



ILI presentations to sentinel GPs and detections of influenza virus continued to increase this week. Fourteen (23%) of 60 swabs collected at sentinel practices tested positive for influenza virus. Of 552 routinely collected specimens, 139 (25%) tested positive.

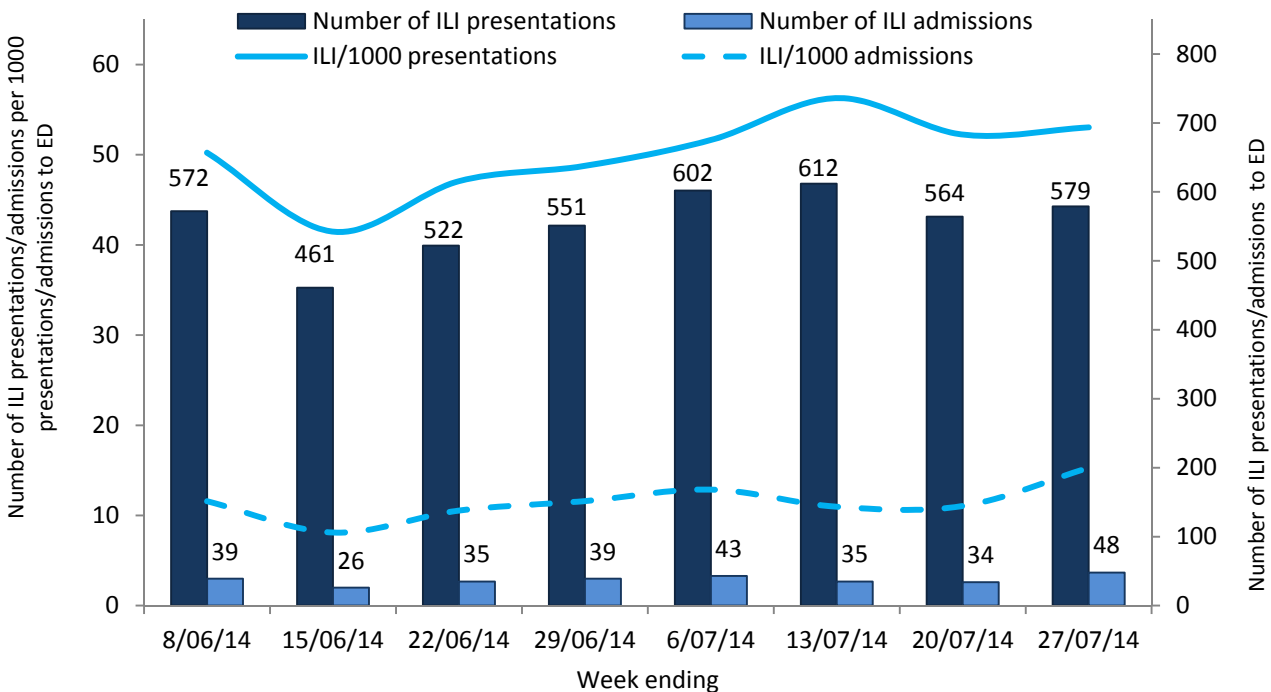
## Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased this week to 14.6 cases per 1000 consultations and is in the mid-range of values for the same time period in recent years.

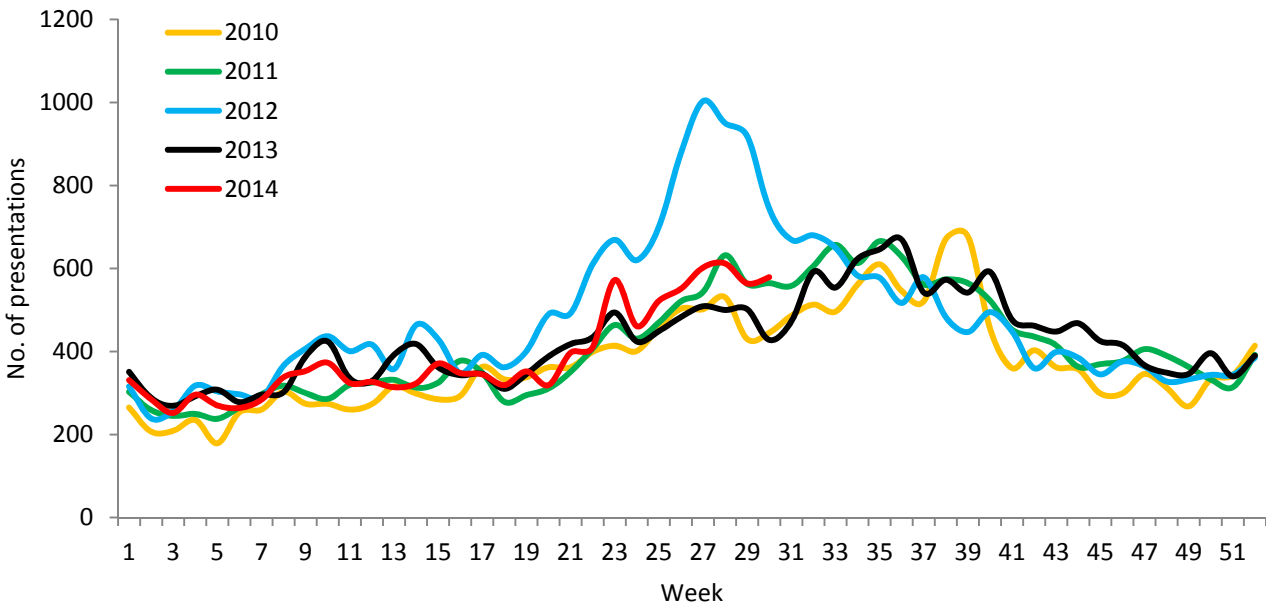
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

### Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



ED presentations and admissions for viral respiratory illness increased this week.

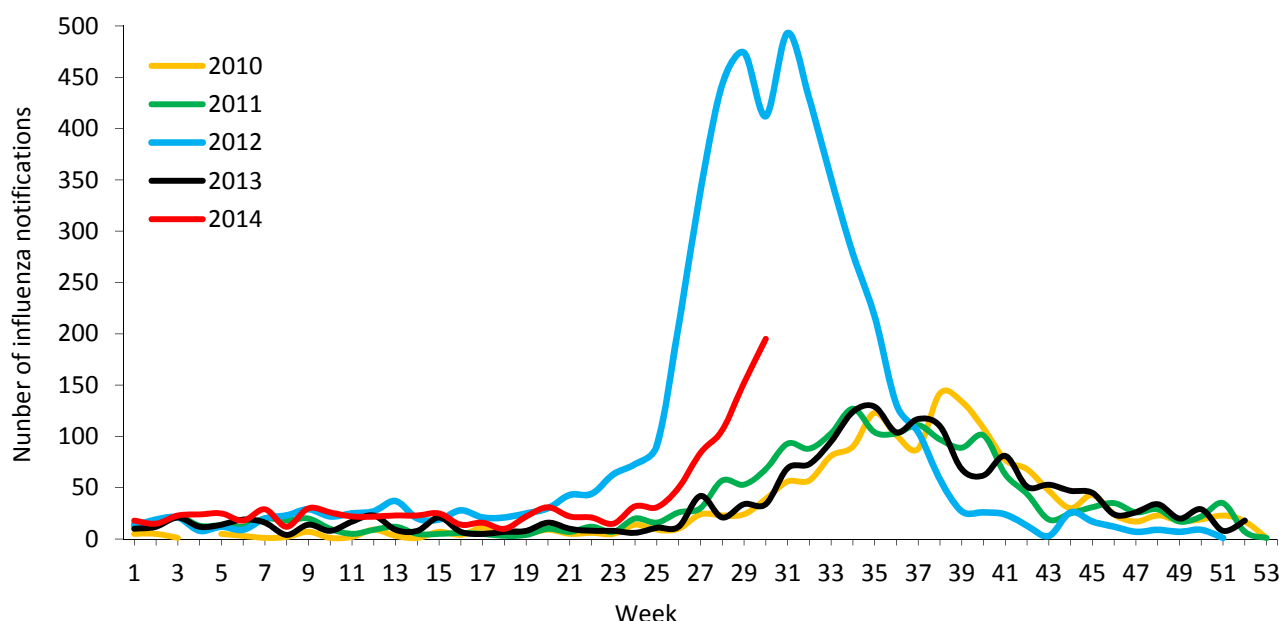
### ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2010 - 2014



The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs increased this week and is in the mid-range of values this time period in previous years.



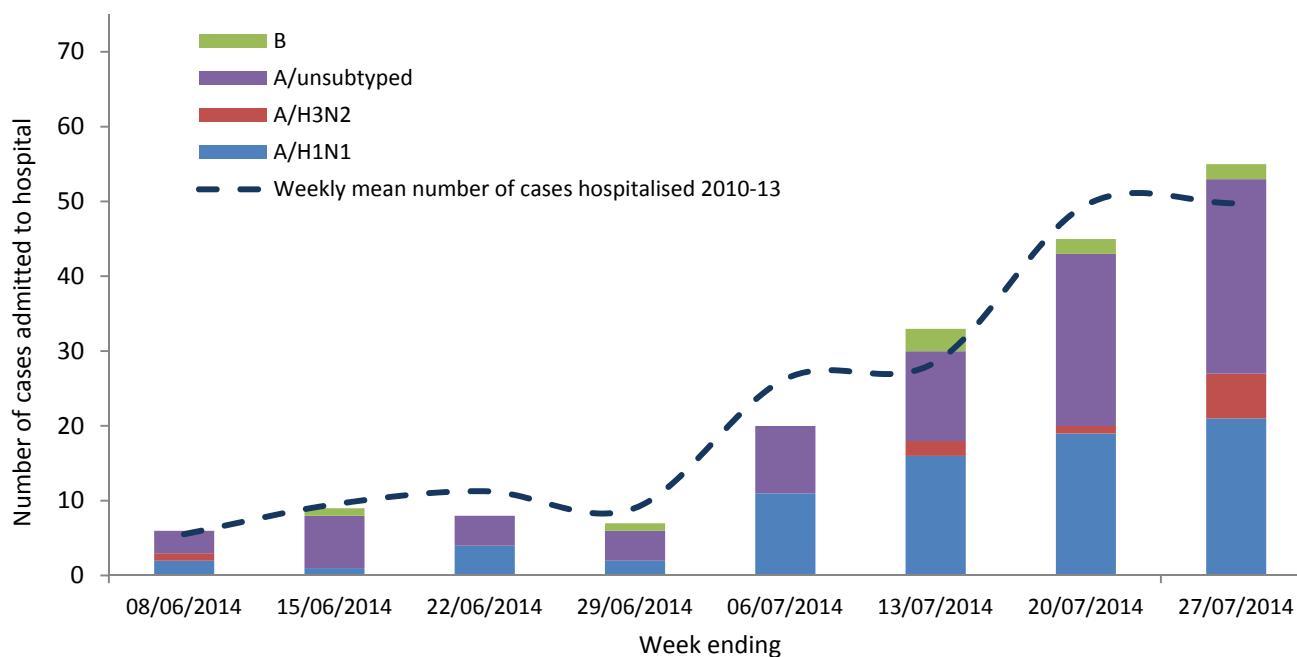
## Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014



Notifications of confirmed influenza to the Department of Health increased to 195 cases this week, and are currently higher than levels at this time in recent mild seasons, but well below the level reported in 2012.

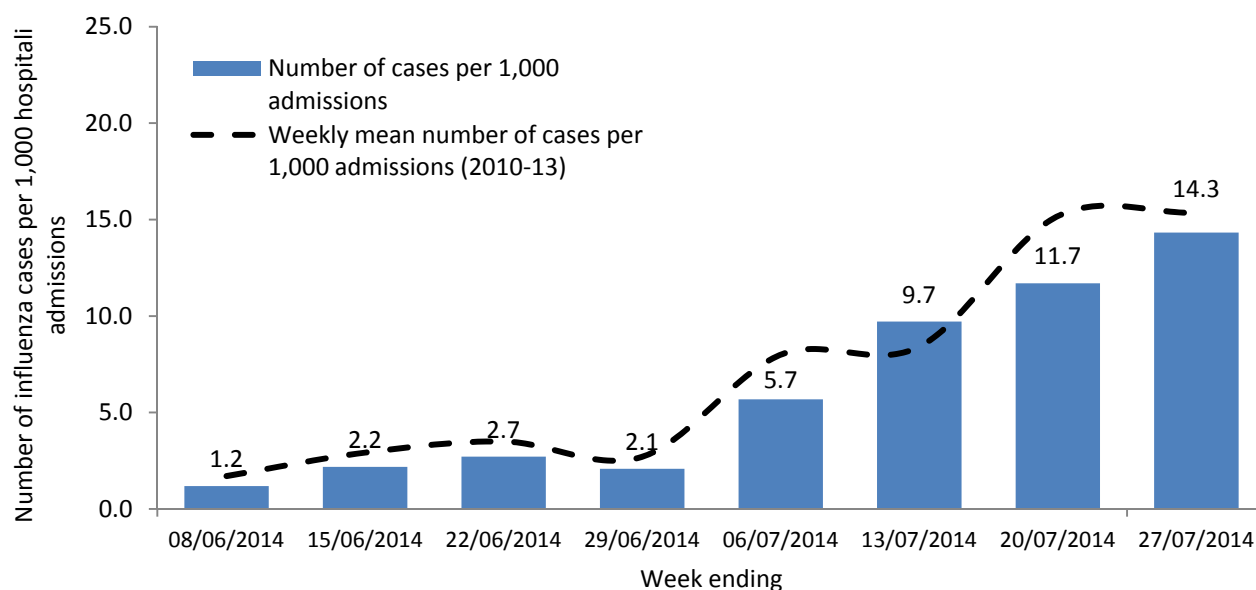
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 21/07/2014 and 27/07/2014.

## Number of influenza cases hospitalised



The number of notified influenza cases who were hospitalised increased this week to 55 cases: 26 (47%) were influenza A/unsubtyped, 21 (38%) were influenza A/H1N1, 6 (11%) were influenza A/H3N2, and 2 (4%) were influenza B.

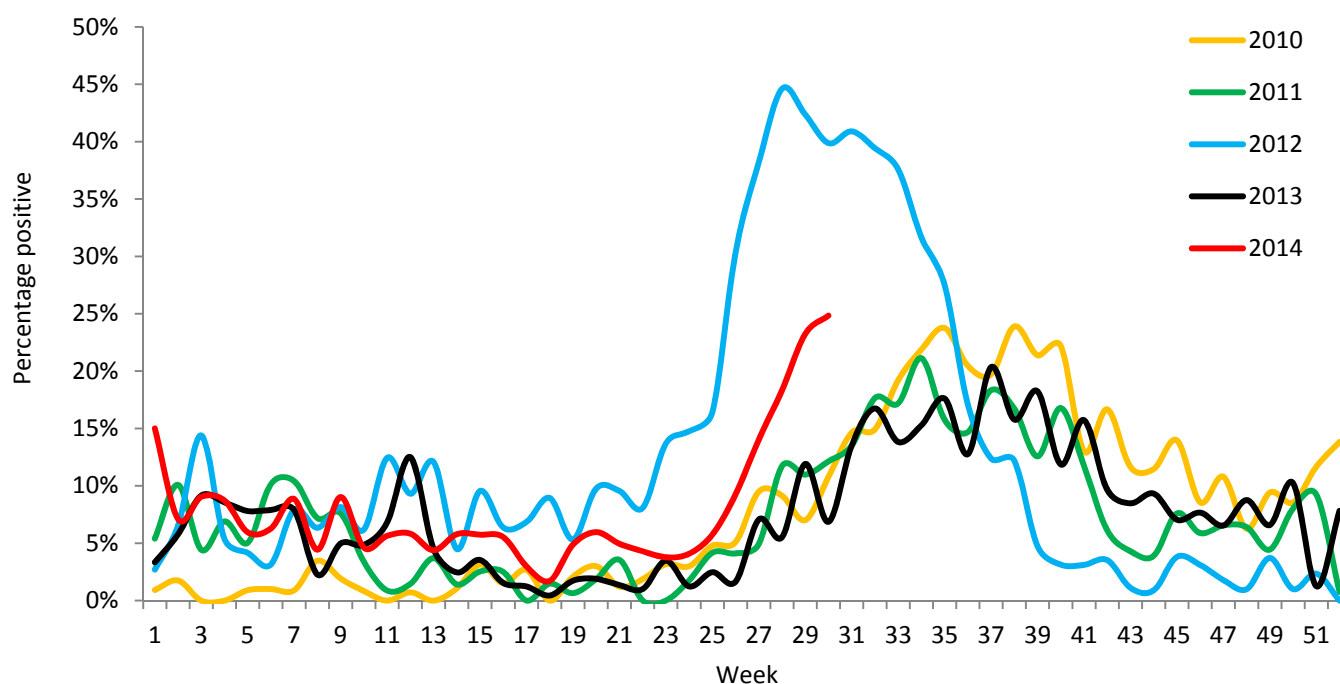
## Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



**The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza increased to 14.3 per 1,000 admissions this week which is consistent with the average from recent years.**

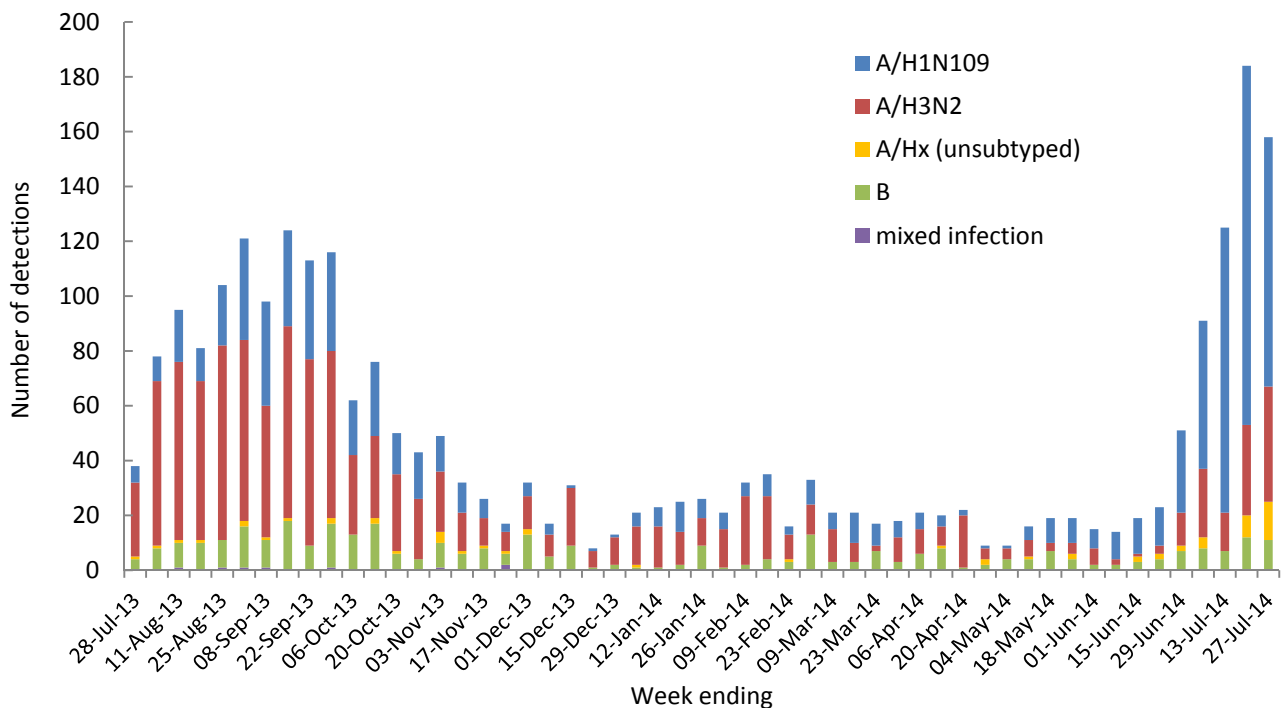
The graph is a summary of influenza notifications received by the DoH who were recorded as having a hospital admission, expressed per 1,000 admissions.

## PathWest-QEII-PMH influenza percentage positive 2010 - 2014



**Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 25% tested positive for influenza virus, which is higher than levels reported at this time during recent mild influenza seasons.**

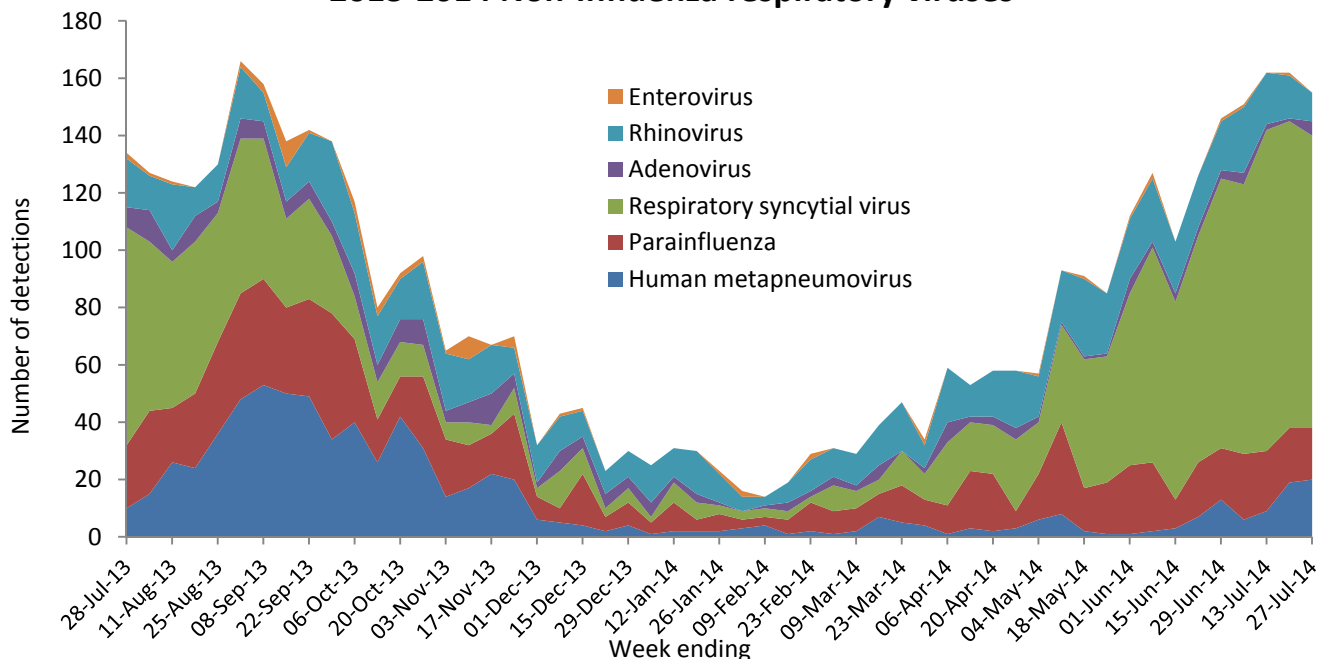
## PathWest-QEII-PMH 2013-2014 Influenza subtypes



**One hundred and fifty eight influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 91 (58%) influenza A/H1N1, 42 (27%) influenza A/H3N2, 14 (9%) influenza A/unsubtyped, and 11 (7%) influenza B.**

The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 30<sup>TH</sup> July 2014.

## 2013-2014 Non-Influenza respiratory viruses

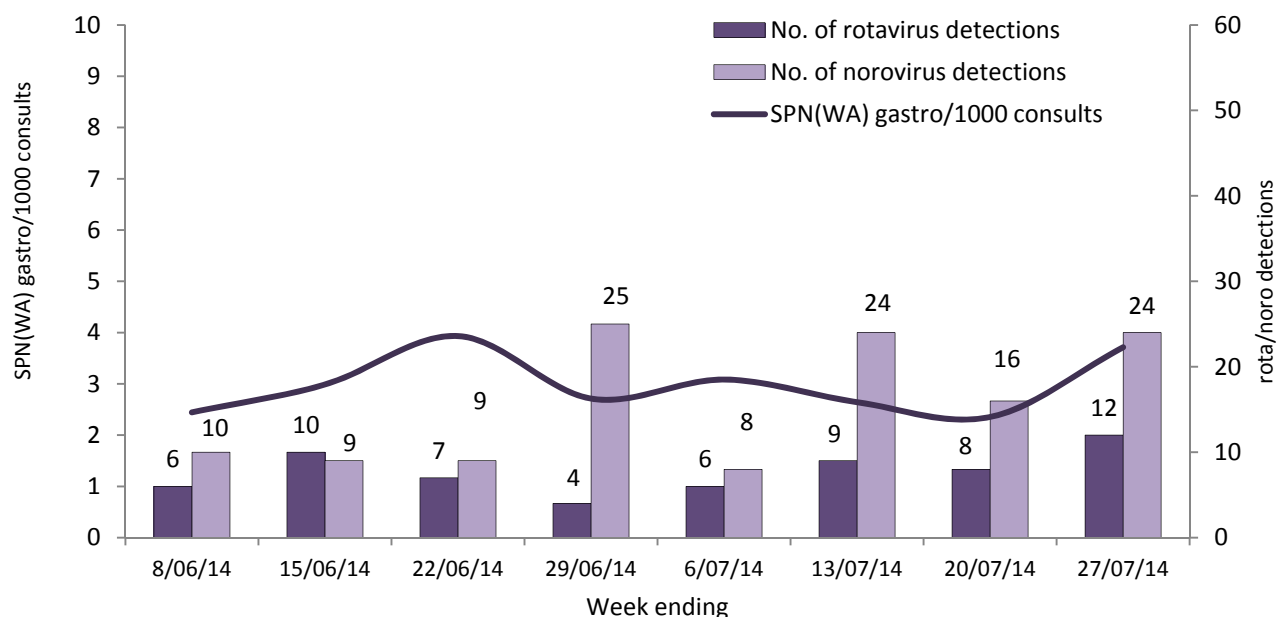


**All non-influenza respiratory viruses decreased or remained stable this week. Respiratory syncytial virus remains the dominant circulating non-influenza respiratory virus.**



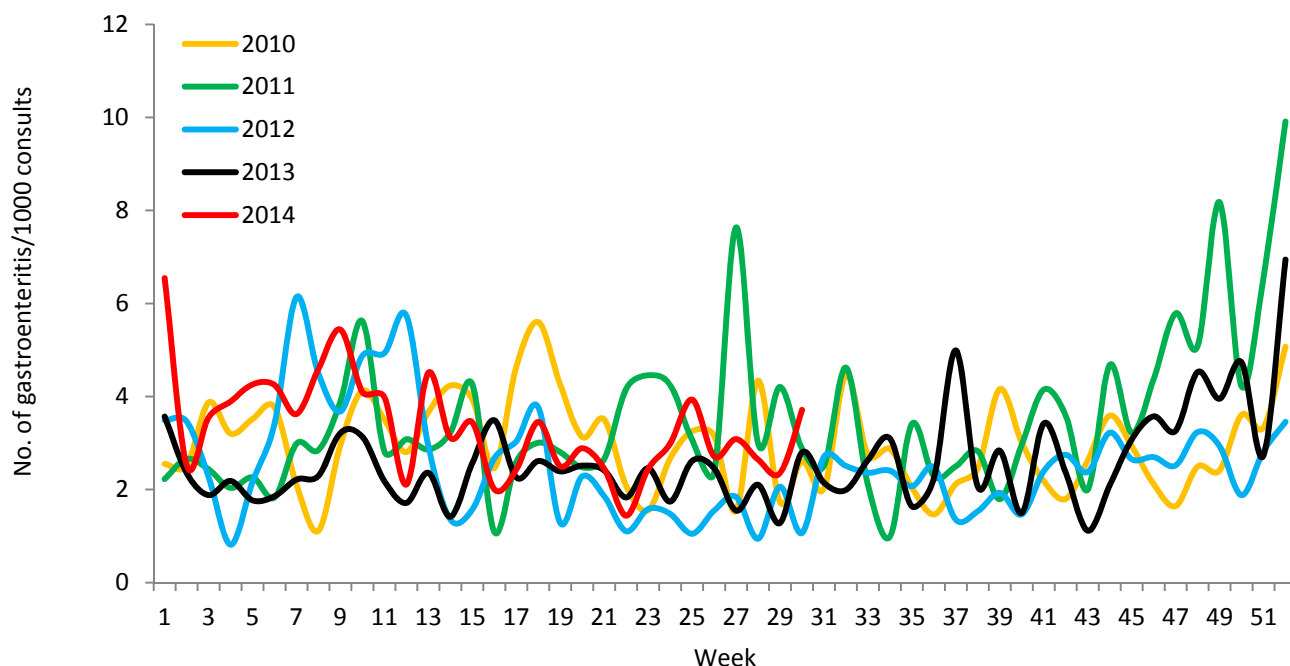
# Gastroenteritis

## Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



**Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased to 3.7 per 1,000 consultations this week. Norovirus and rotavirus detections increased this week.**

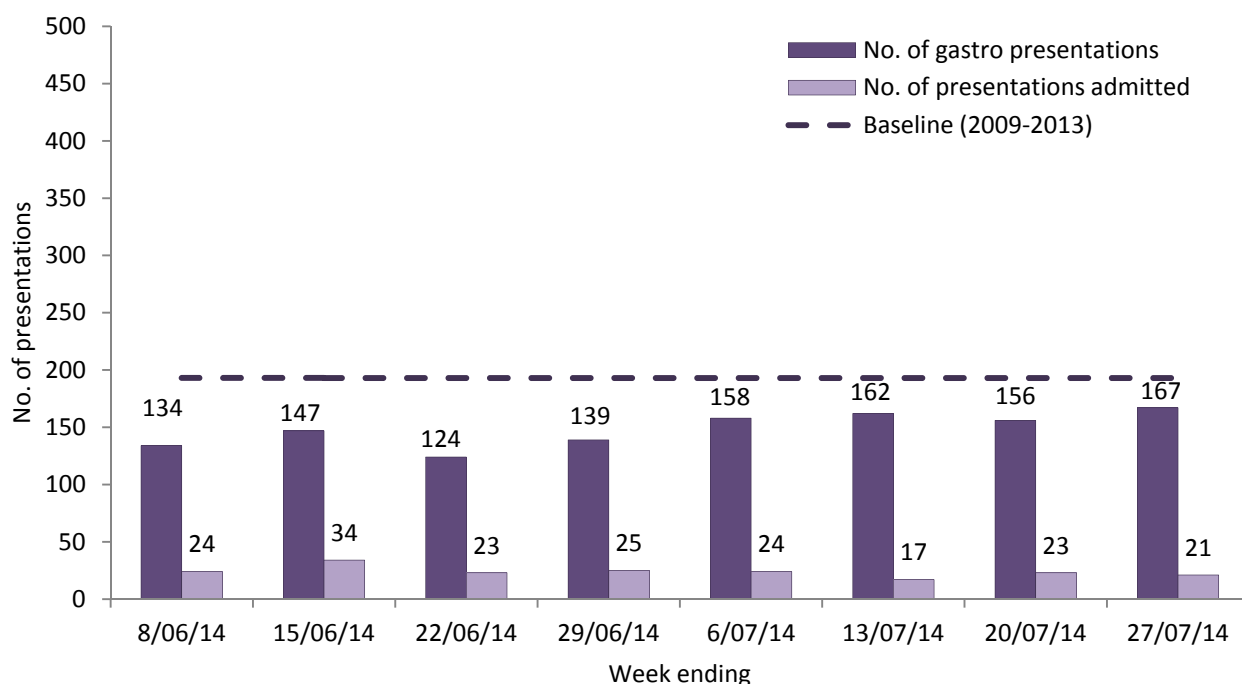
## Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



**The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs increased and is slightly higher than rates seen in the same time period in recent years.**

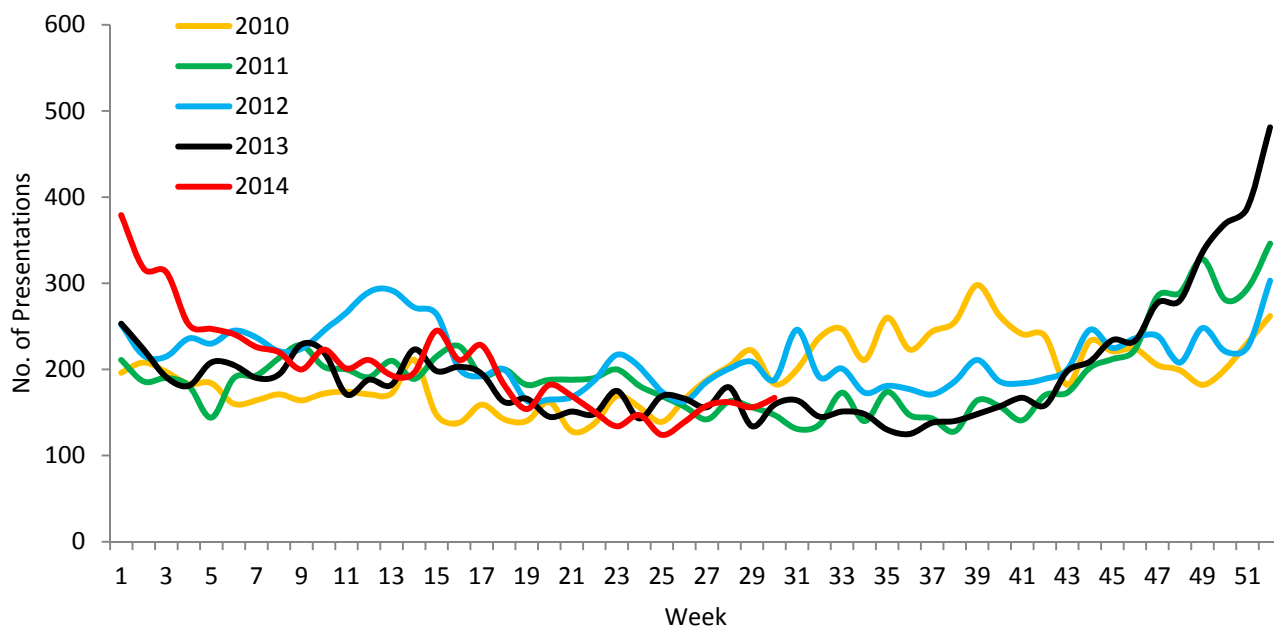
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

## Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remain below baseline this week.

## ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014

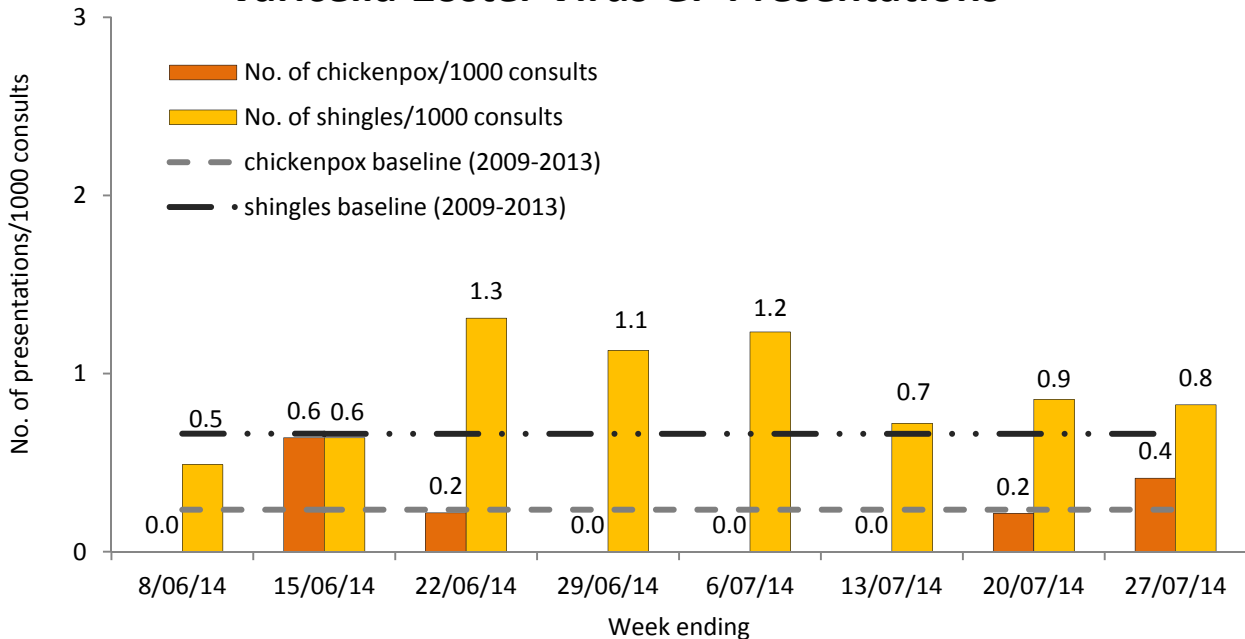


The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs is in the mid-range of values compared to the same time period in recent years.



# Viral Rashes

## Varicella-Zoster Virus GP Presentations

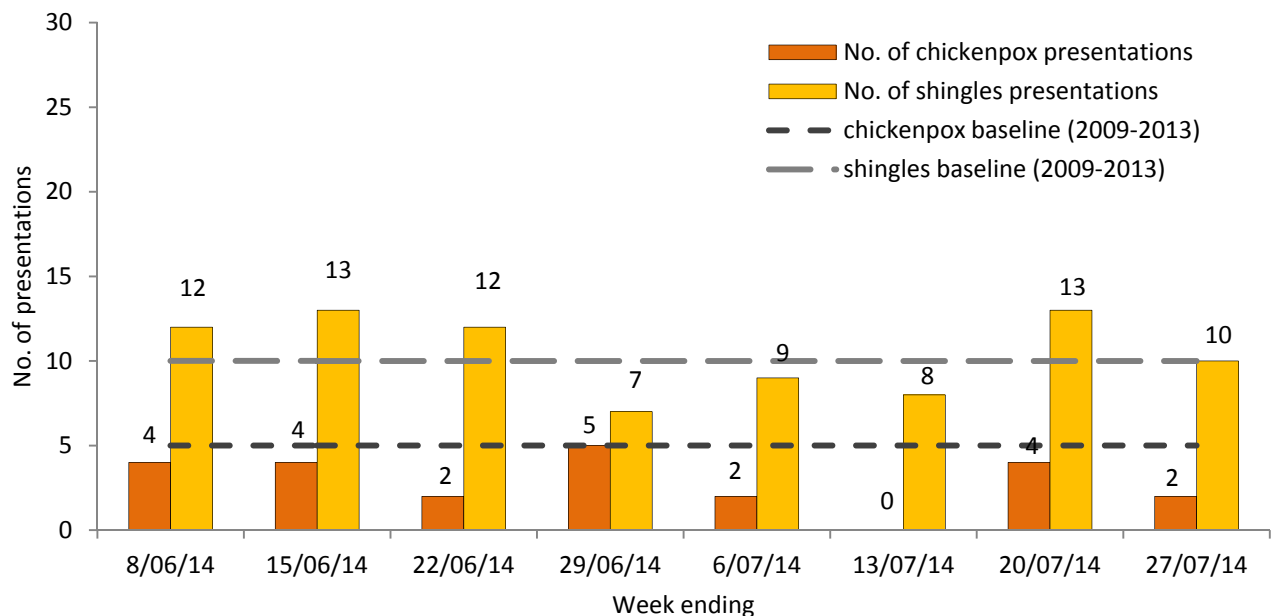


**The rate of shingles and chickenpox presentations at sentinel GPs are slightly above baseline. No confirmed cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported.**

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 are at baseline levels. Chickenpox presentations remain below baseline.**