



WEEK ENDING 3RD AUGUST 2014

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: There are early indications that influenza activity may have peaked, but detections remain high. Non-influenza respiratory virus activity is declining.

- Indicators of influenza activity, including ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs), notifications, proportion of positive laboratory tests for influenza and influenza-associated hospitalisations were similar to or showed small declines relative to the previous reporting week.
- The majority of influenza viruses subtyped were influenza A/H1N1, but there was a relative increase in A/H3 detections and influenza B continues to circulate at a low level.
- Overall detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses decreased this week, primarily associated with a marked reduction in respiratory syncytial virus activity.

GASTROENTERITIS

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

VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

- Shingles presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs remain at or just above expected levels.
- One case of measles was confirmed in a traveller returning from the Philippines.
- No confirmed cases of rubella or mumps were reported.

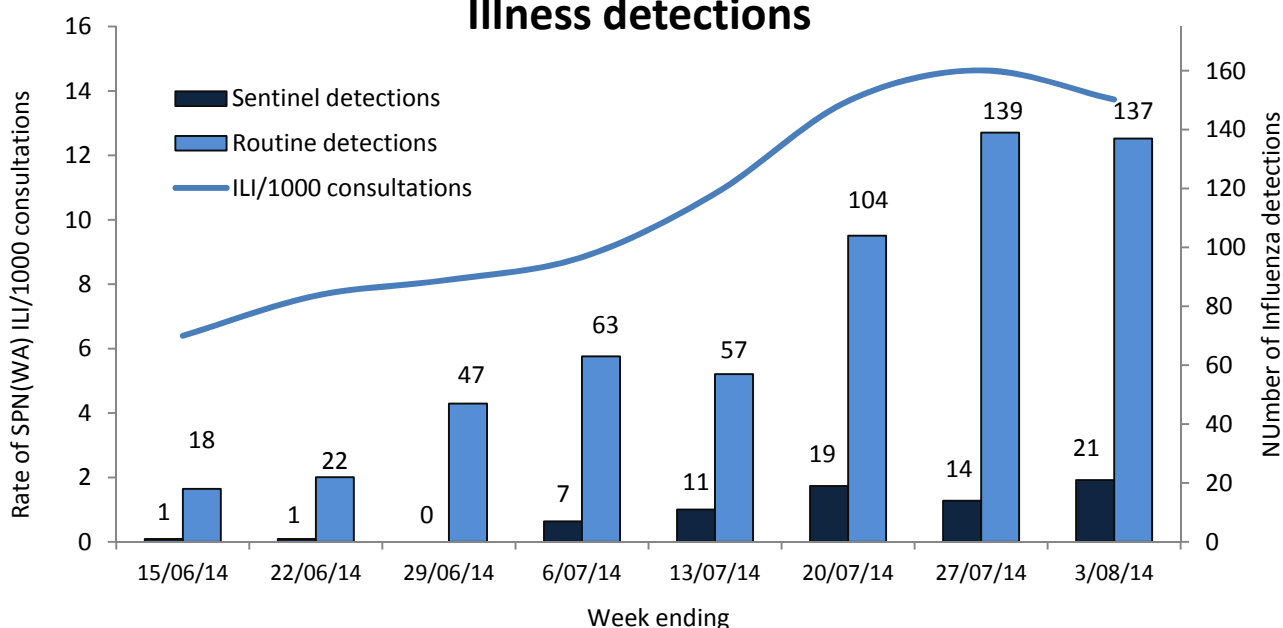
Current and archived issues of Virus Watch http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus_watch.pm

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.



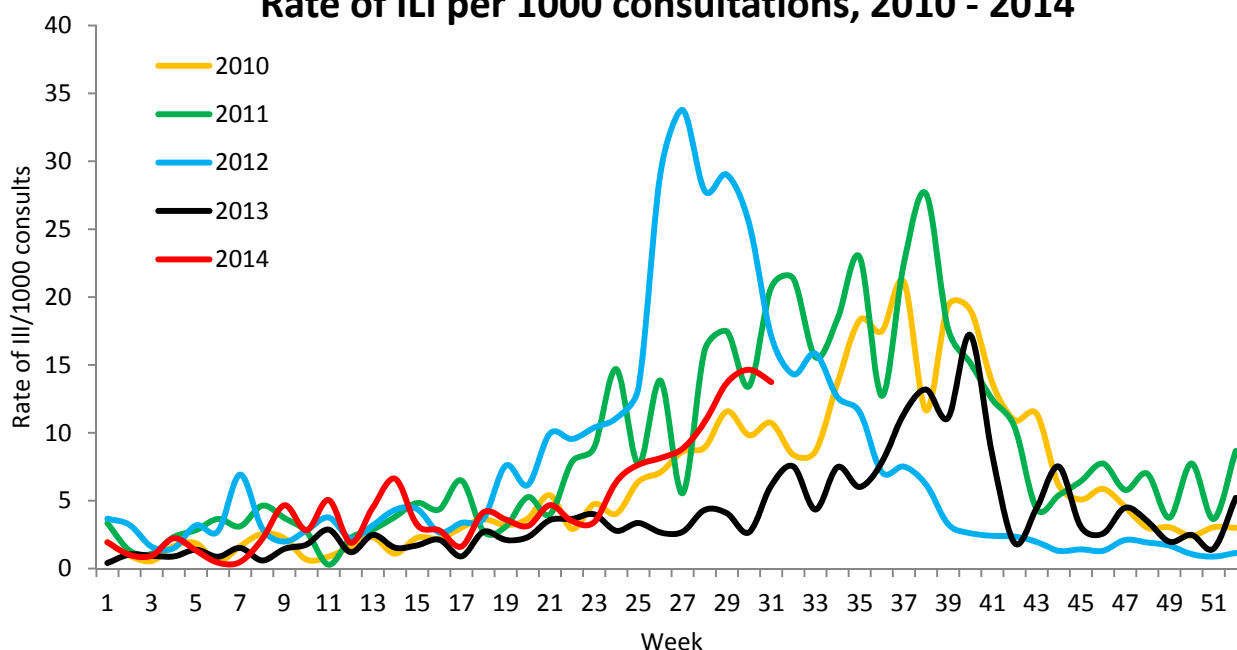
Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



ILI presentations to sentinel GPs and detections of influenza virus stabilised this week. Twenty one (40%) of 53 swabs collected at sentinel practices tested positive for influenza virus. Of 557 routinely collected specimens, 137 (25%) tested positive.

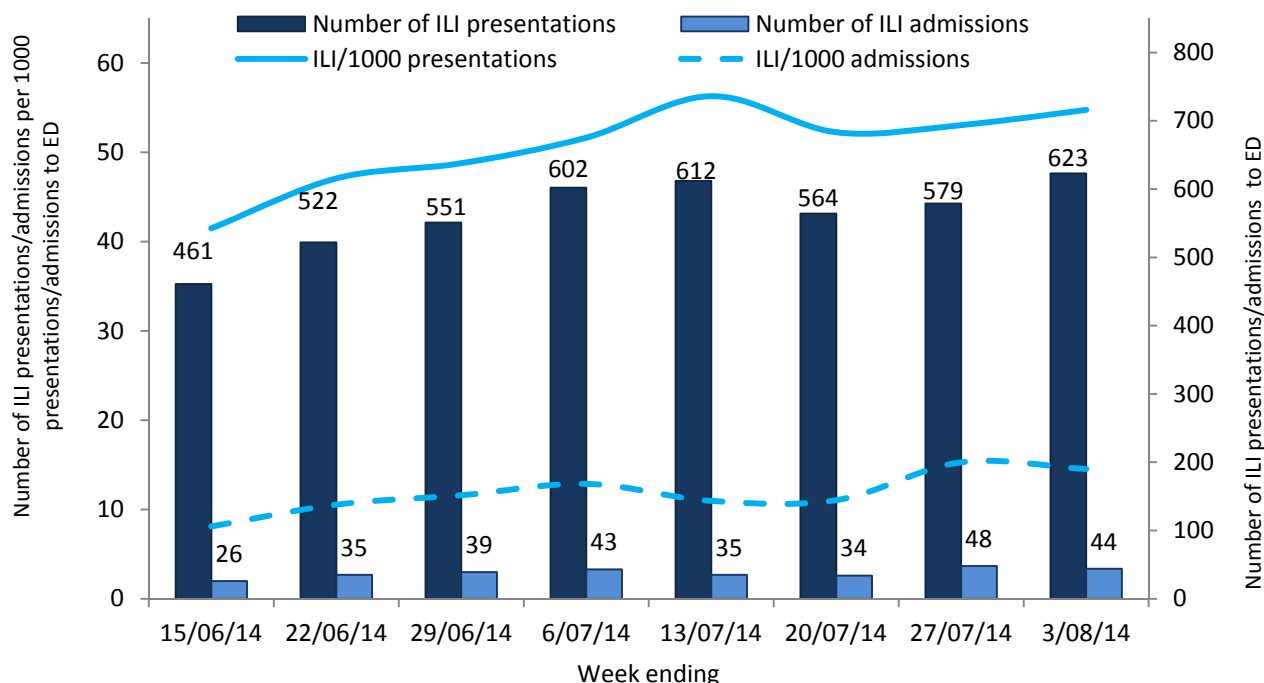
Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs remains at 14 cases per 1000 consultations and is in the mid-range of values for the same time period in recent years.

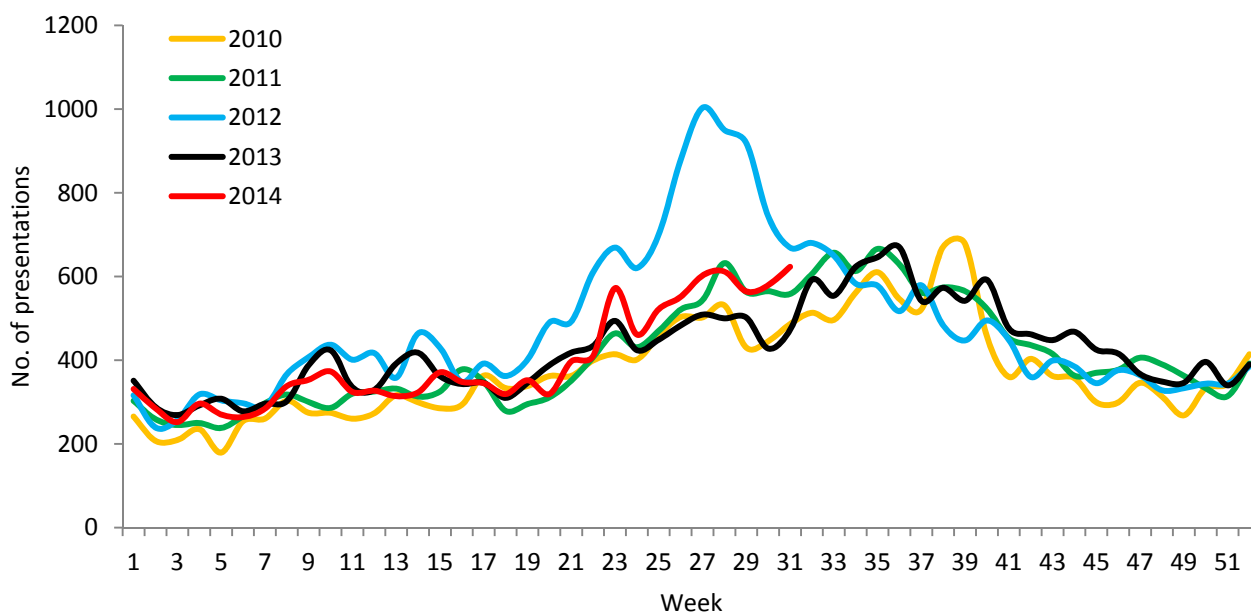
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



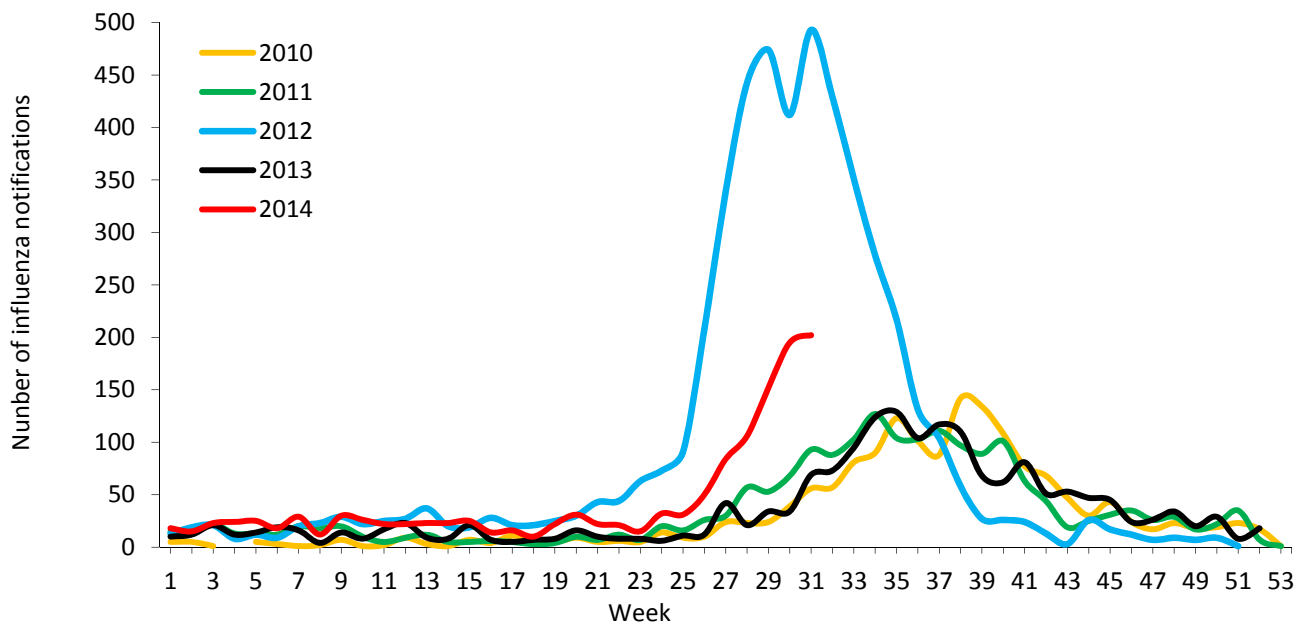
ED presentations for viral respiratory illness increased by 8% this week.

ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2010 - 2014



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

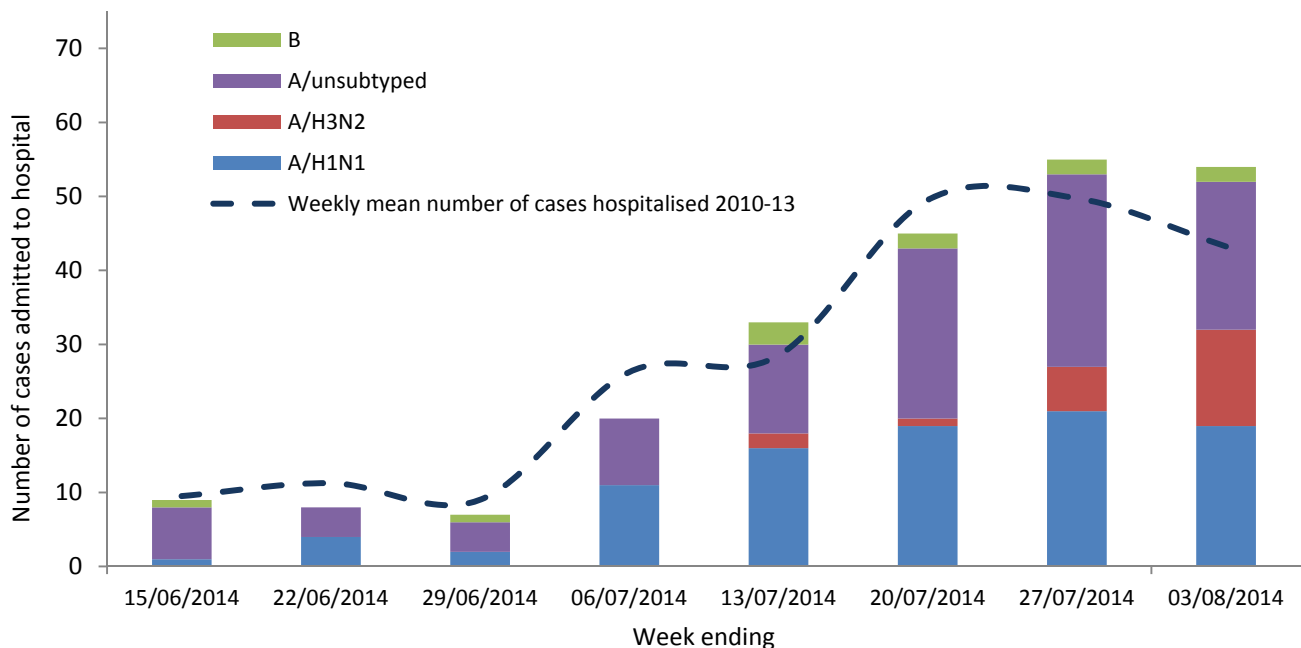
Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014



Notifications of confirmed influenza to the Department of Health appeared to stabilise this week, albeit at higher levels than at this time in recent mild seasons, but well below the level reported in 2012.

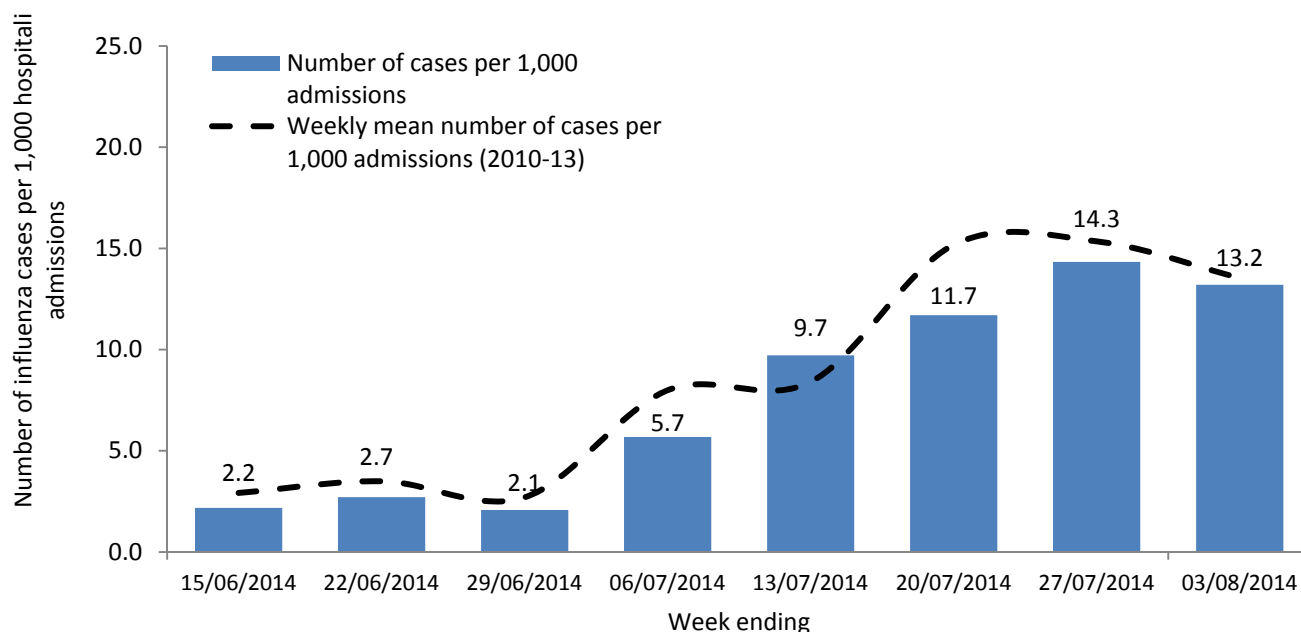
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 28/07/2014 and 03/08/2014.

Number of influenza cases hospitalised



54 notified influenza cases were hospitalised, similar to the previous week; 20 (37%) were influenza A/unsubtyped, 19 (35%) were influenza A/H1N1, 13 (24%) were influenza A/H3N2 (an increased proportion), and 2 (4%) were influenza B.

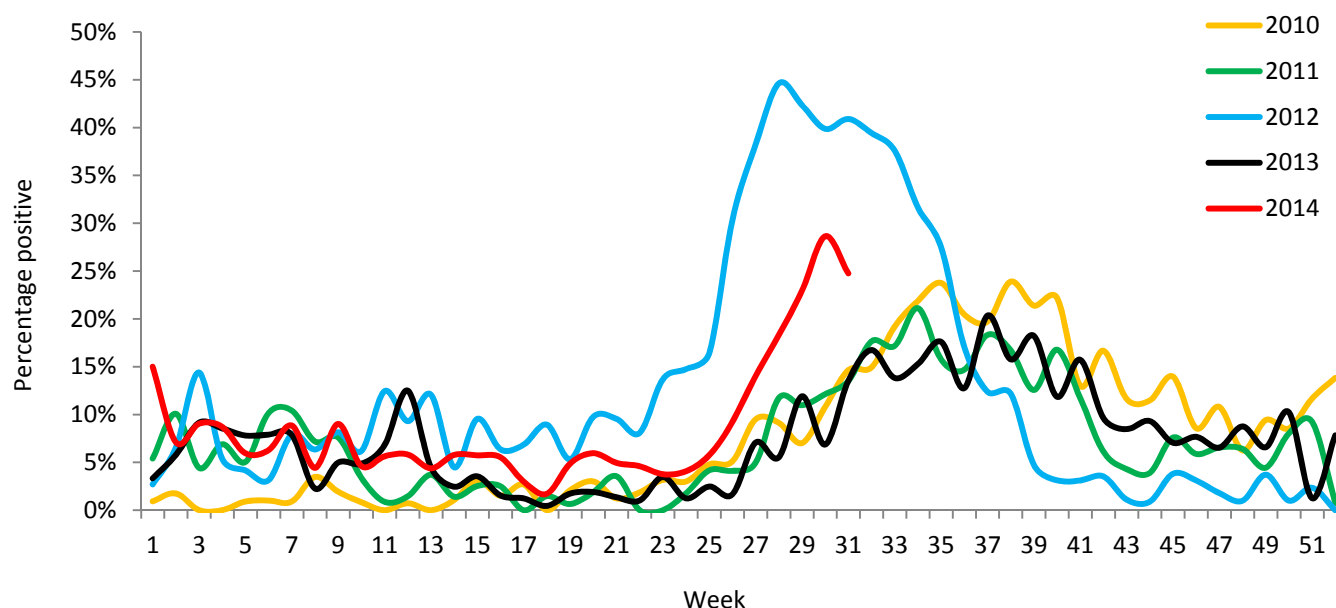
Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza decreased slightly to 13.2 cases per 1,000 admissions this week which is consistent with the average from recent years.

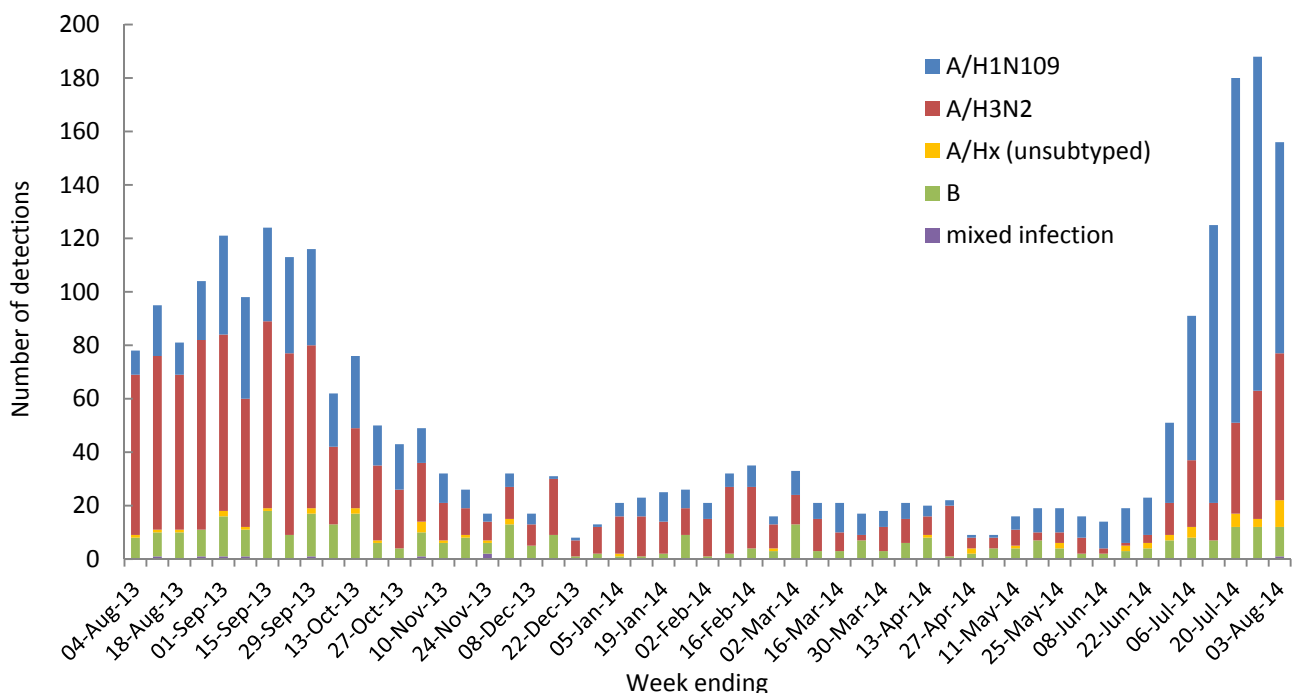
The graph is a summary of influenza notifications received by the DoH who were recorded as having a hospital admission, expressed per 1,000 admissions.

PathWest-QEII-PMH influenza percentage positive 2010 - 2014



Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 25% tested positive for influenza virus, a decline from the previous week, but higher than levels reported at this time during recent mild influenza seasons.

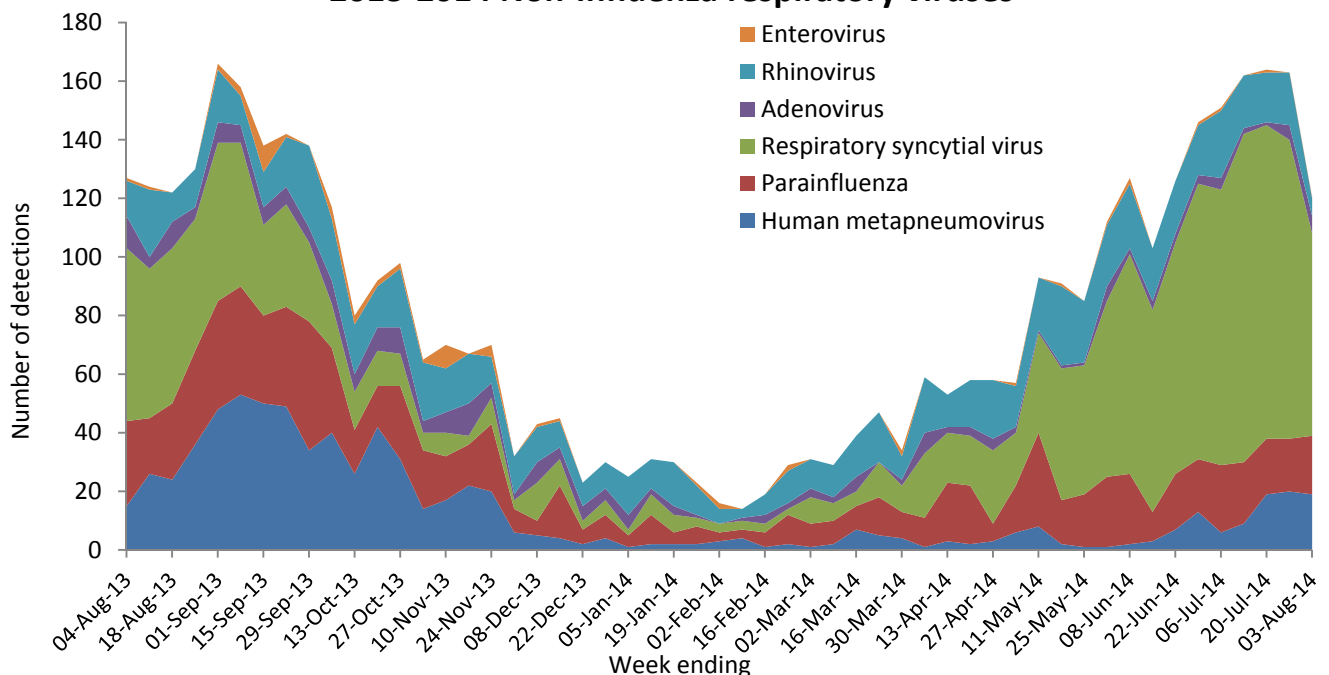
PathWest-QEII-PMH 2013-2014 Influenza subtypes



One hundred and fifty six influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 79 (51%) influenza A/H1N1, 55 (35%) influenza A/H3N2, 10 (6%) influenza A/unsubtyped, 11 (7%) influenza B and one (1%) mixed infection.

The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 6th August 2014.

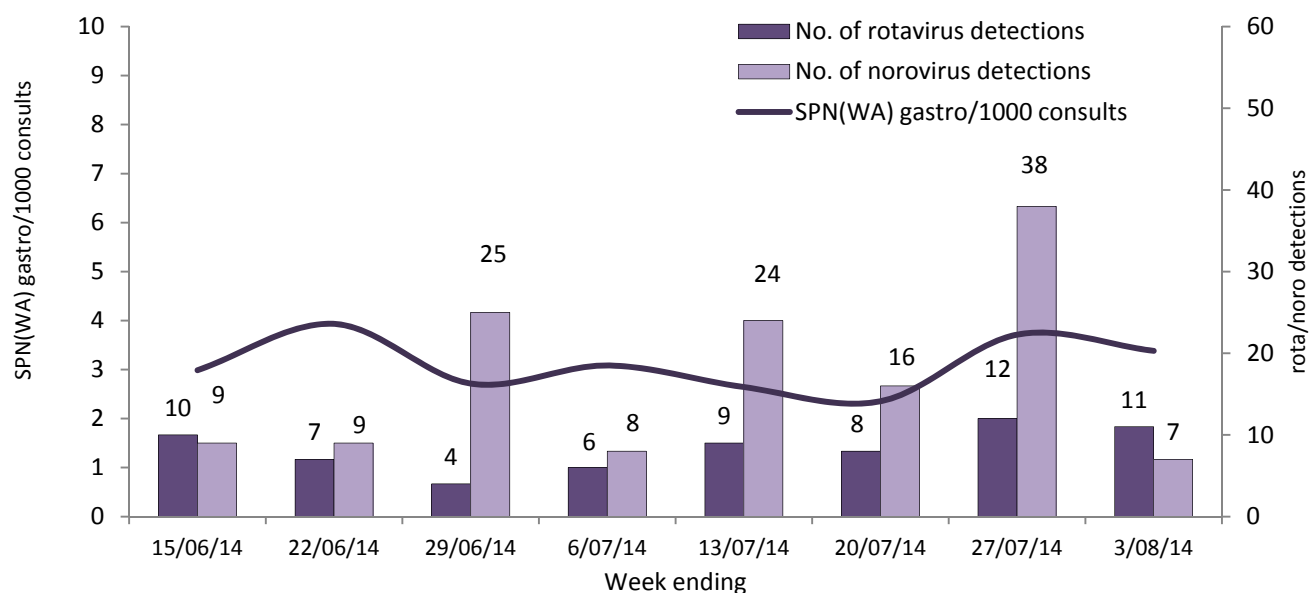
2013-2014 Non-Influenza respiratory viruses



Non-influenza respiratory virus activity decreased this week, with the exception of parainfluenza and human metapneumovirus.

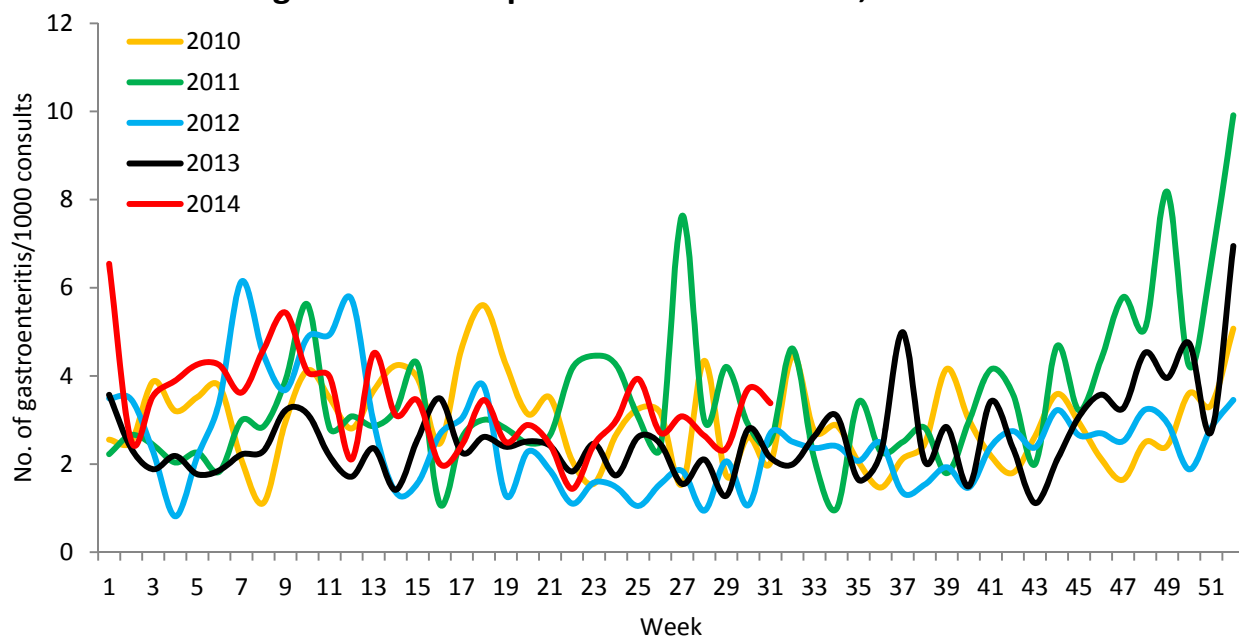
Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis GP Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to SPN(WA) GPs were similar to the previous week, at 3.4 per 1,000 consultations this week. Norovirus detections decreased this week.

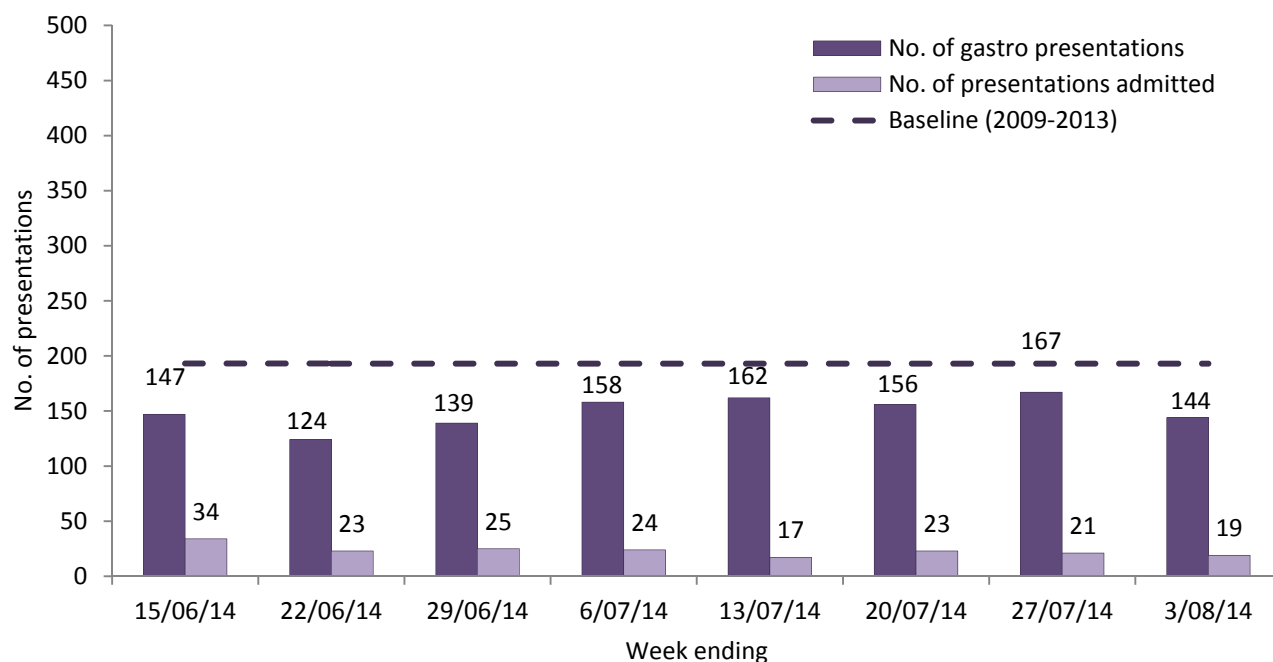
Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs decreased, but remains around the upper margin of rates seen in the same time period in recent years.

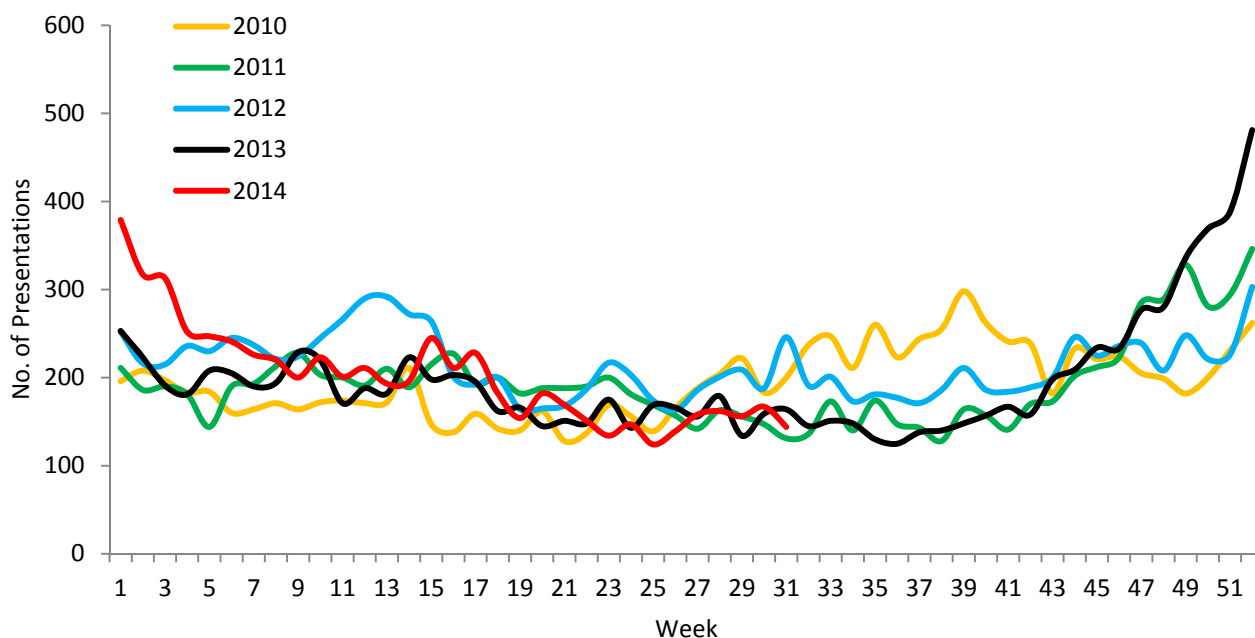
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remain below baseline this week.

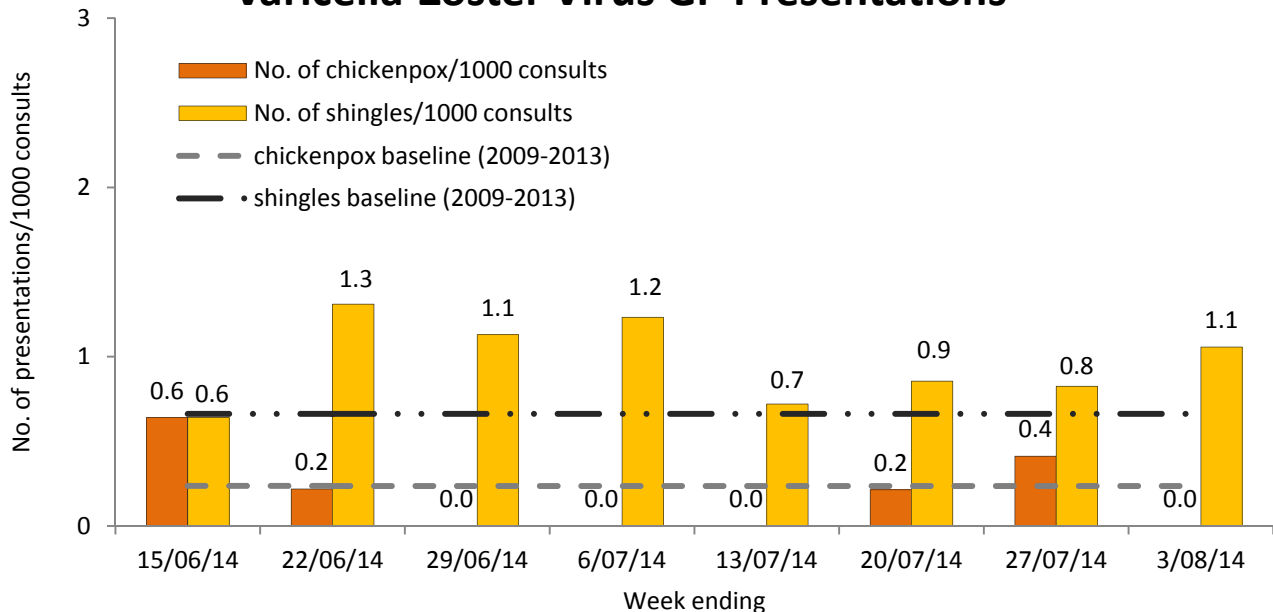
ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014



The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs is in the lower range of values experienced at the same time period in recent years.

Viral Rashes

Varicella-Zoster Virus GP Presentations

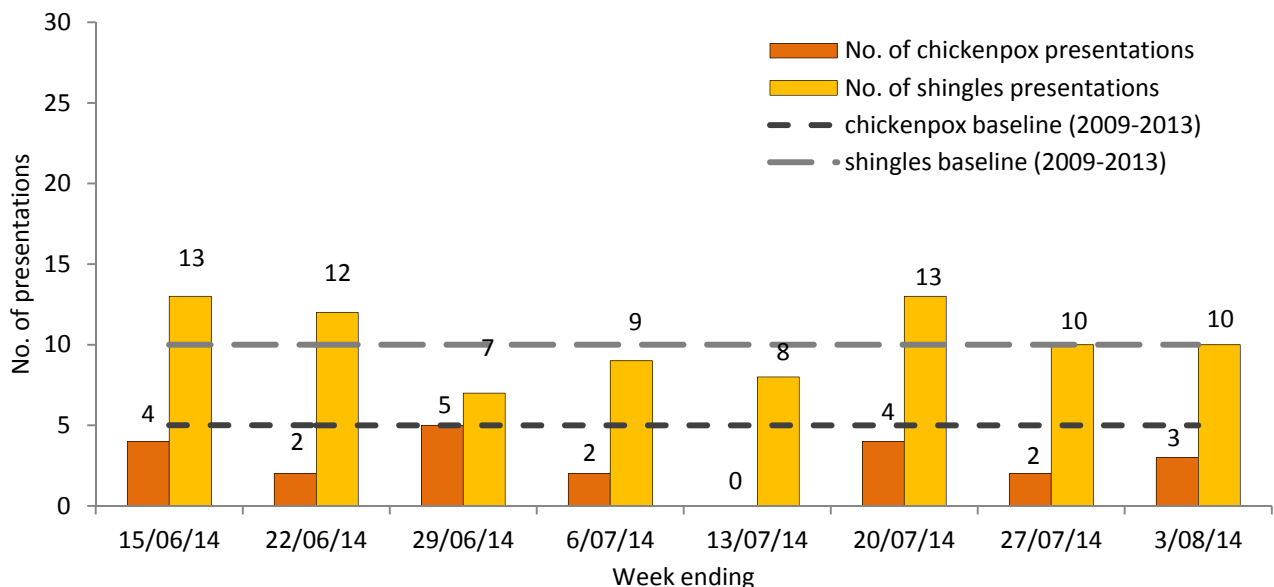


The rate of shingles presentations at sentinel GPs remain above baseline. No chickenpox cases were seen at sentinel GPs this week. One case of measles was reported in an unvaccinated traveller returning from the Philippines. No confirmed cases of rubella or mumps were reported.

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.