



Houston Department of
Health and Human Services

Office of Surveillance & Public Health Preparedness
Bureau of Epidemiology

Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report

CDC Week 01: January 04- 10, 2015

Influenza Activity by County, State, and National Levels

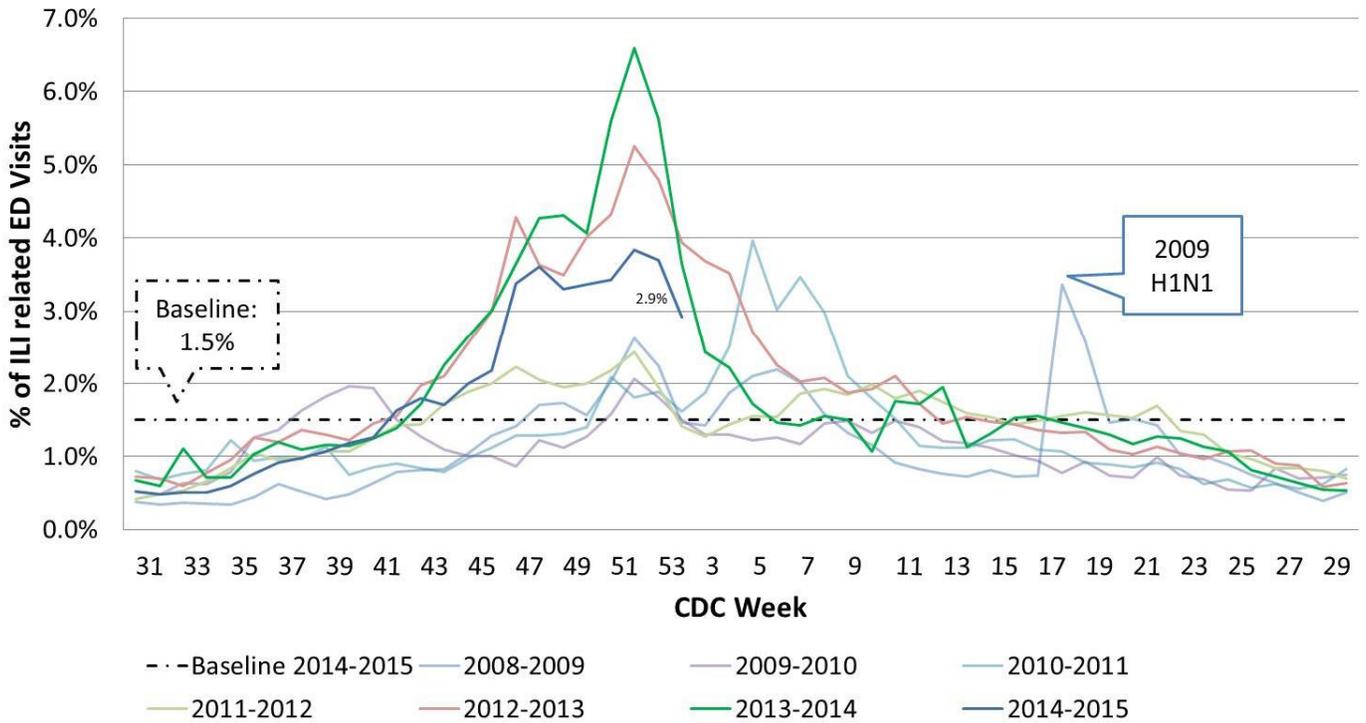
Houston/ Harris County: Week 01	Texas: Week 01	CDC: Week 01
Widespread	Widespread	Widespread

Highlights

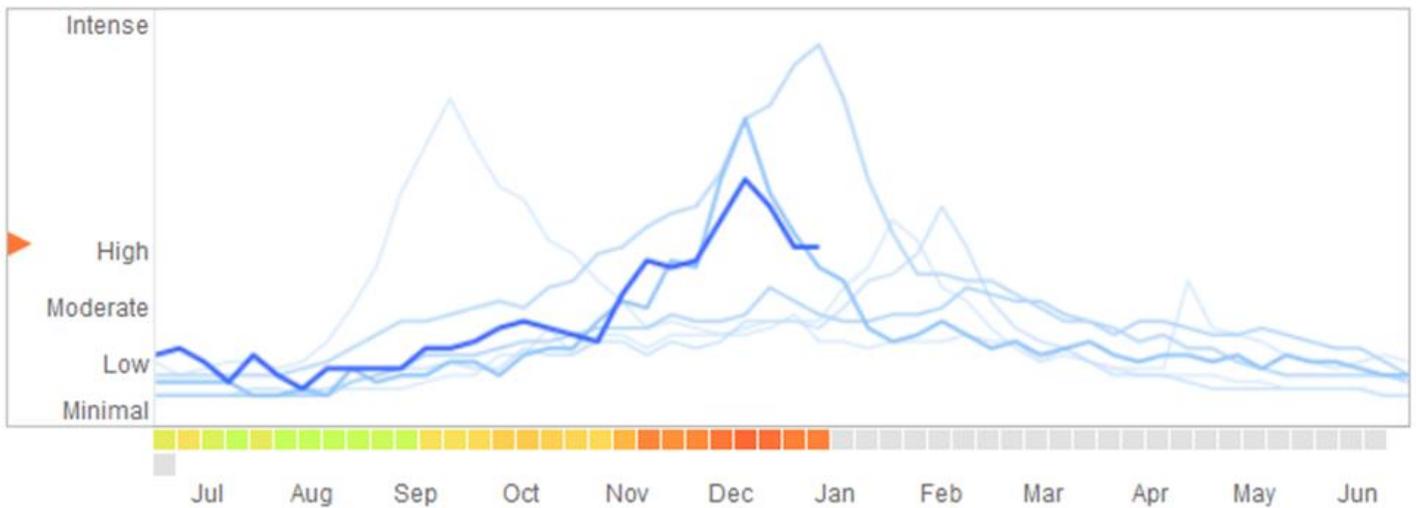
- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in Houston/Harris county **decreased** from 3.7% in week 53 to 3.0% in week 01.
- During the 2014-2015 influenza season, zero (0) Houston influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported.
- In week 01, zero (0) surveillance specimens were tested by the City of Houston Bureau of Laboratory Services.
- Cumulatively this season, the City of Houston Bureau of Laboratory Services has tested 230 surveillance specimens. Of the 111 positive lab results, the Flu A H3 strain accounts for 100 (90.1%) of the positives.
- At the national level during week 01, 20.2 % of specimens tested and reported to the CDC were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI 4.4% was **above** the national baseline 2.0% and the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza 8.5% was **above** the epidemic threshold of 7.0% for week 01.

Syndromic Surveillance: 2014-2015 Influenza Season

Comparison of ILI-Related ED Visits in Houston/Harris County



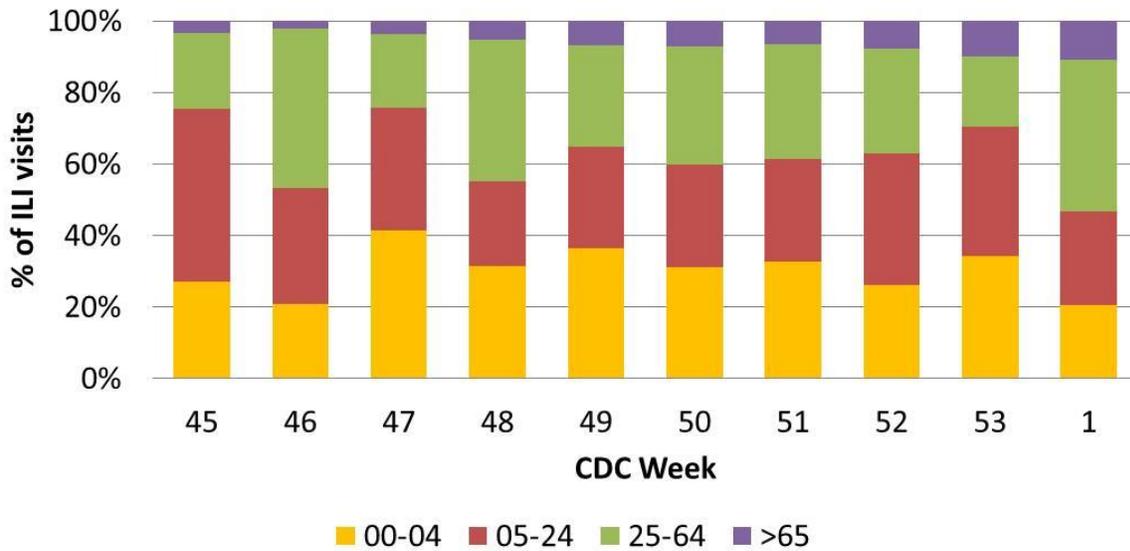
Google Flu Trends in Houston



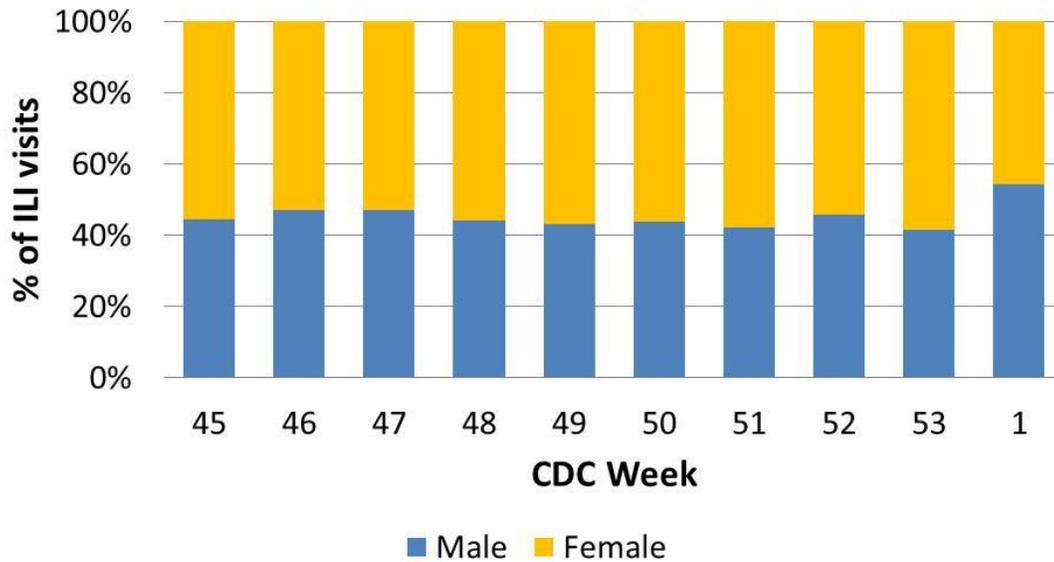
NOTE: Houston/Harris County ILI activity is assessed using information provided by surveillance participants in the Real-time Outbreak Disease Surveillance System (RODS). For week 01, 36 surveillance participants reported ILI information to Houston Department of Health and Human Services. Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as the mention of fever AND cough, OR fever AND sore throat, OR flu in the patient's ED chief complaint. These data do not represent laboratory confirmed cases of influenza nor do they represent all ED visits in Houston/Harris County.

Syndromic Surveillance: 2014-2015 Influenza Season Age and Gender Distribution

ILI % by Age Groups, Houston/Harris County, 2014-2015



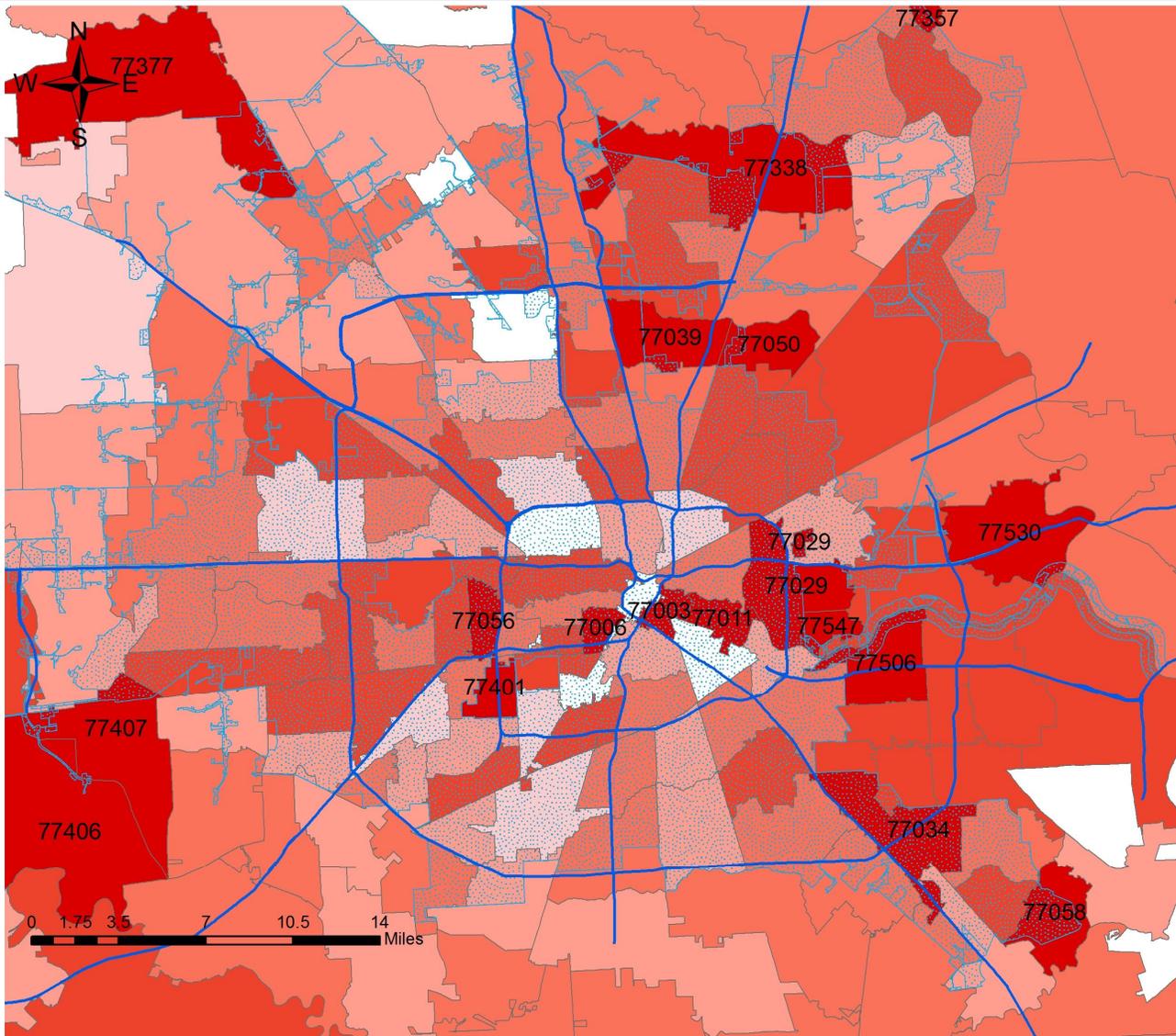
ILI % by Gender, Houston/Harris County, 2014-2015



In week 01, 3.0% of emergency department (ED) visits were due to influenza-like illness (ILI) complaints. Of the 1076 patients presenting with ILI, the age group that recorded the most ED visits was the 25 to 64 year olds (43.0%).

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Syndromic Surveillance: Geographic Distribution Map



Legend

 City of Houston City Limit

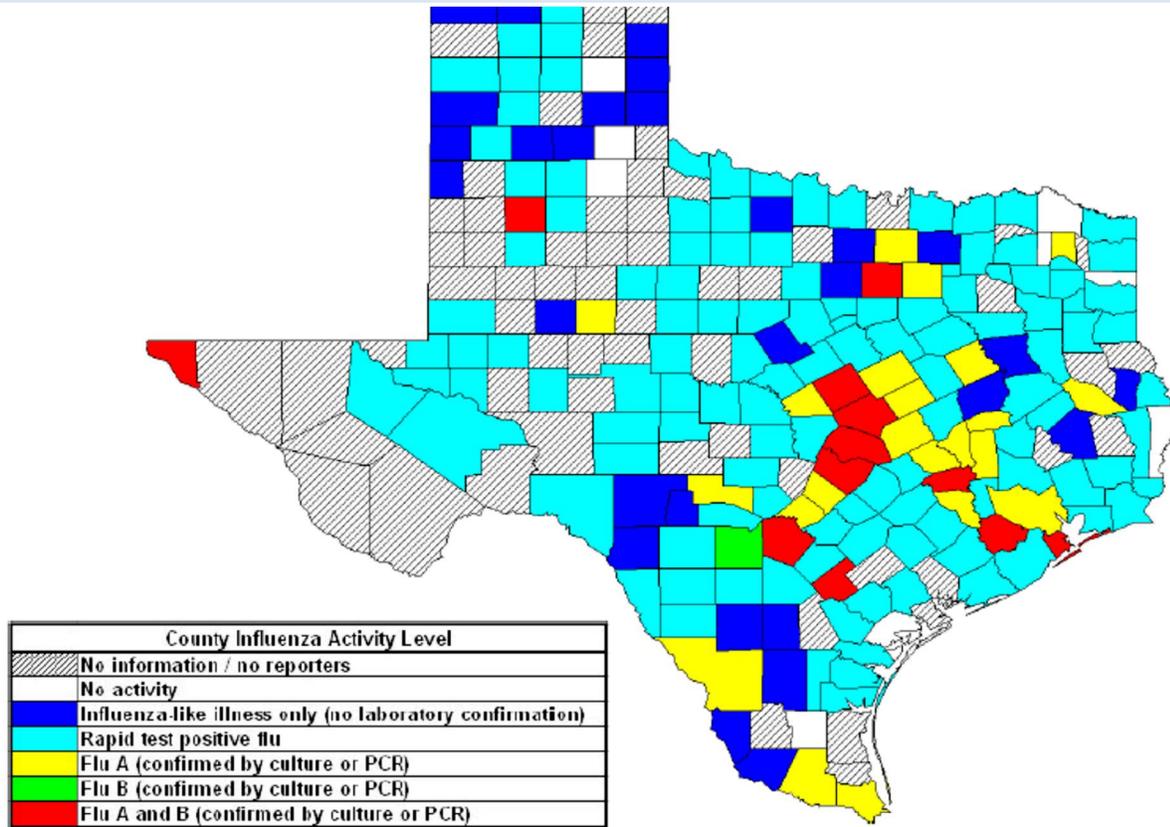
2013-2014 %ILI of ED Visits by Zip Code

-  0% - 1.1%
-  1.11% - 2.5%
-  2.51% - 4%
-  4.01% - 6%
-  6.01% - 12.5%

During week 01, the zip codes that have the greatest percentage of ED visits related to ILI (6.0% or greater) are:

NOTE: Houston/Harris County ILI distribution map was created using data provided by 36 hospitals that voluntarily provide data based on chief complaints in the Real-time Outbreak Disease Surveillance System (RODS). This map reflects the percentage of ILI cases from each zip code from the total amount of cases seen in each zip code during the current week of reporting. Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as the mention of fever AND cough, OR fever AND sore throat, OR flu in the patient's ED chief complaint. These data do not represent laboratory confirmed cases of influenza nor do they represent all ED visits in Houston/Harris County.

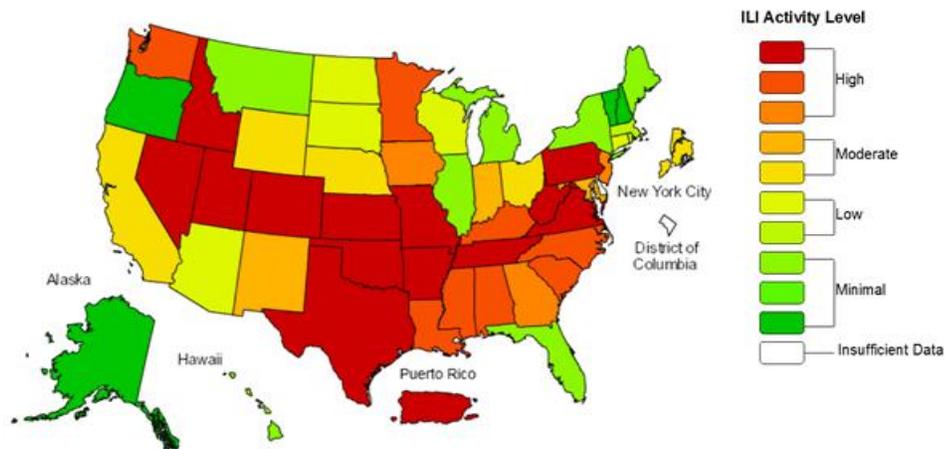
Texas and National Influenza and ILI Activity



NOTE: Influenza activity level corresponds to current MMWR week only and does not reflect previous weeks' activity. The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law to the Texas Department of State Health Services. This map contains data from sentinel sites and does not represent all influenza cases in the state. Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date or date received in the lab if the former is unknown.

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2015/>

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet
2014-15 Influenza Season Week 1 ending Jan 10, 2015



NOTE: Data collected in ILINet are used to produce a measure of ILI activity by state. Activity levels are based on the percent of outpatient visits in a state due to ILI and are compared to the average percent of ILI visits that occur during spring and fall weeks with little or no influenza virus circulation. This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to health care providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels. Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore, may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

The Houston Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report is available on the Houston Department of Health and Human Services web site at:
<http://www.houstontx.gov/health/weekly-flu-report>

NOTE:

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever (temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$) plus a cough OR a sore throat, in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.

Houston ILI baselines were determined using the same method as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Regional ILI baselines. The baseline is developed by calculating the mean percentage ILI of ED visits during non-influenza weeks for the previous three seasons and adding two standard deviations. A non-influenza week is defined as periods of two or more consecutive weeks in which each week accounted for less than 2% of the season's total number of specimens that tested positive for influenza.

Additional information regarding Houston, Texas and national ILI activity can be accessed at:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/health/>

<http://http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2015/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>

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