



Houston Department of
Health and Human Services

Office of Surveillance & Public Health Preparedness
Bureau of Epidemiology

Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report
CDC Week 1: December 29, 2013 - January 4, 2014

Influenza Activity by County, State, and National Levels

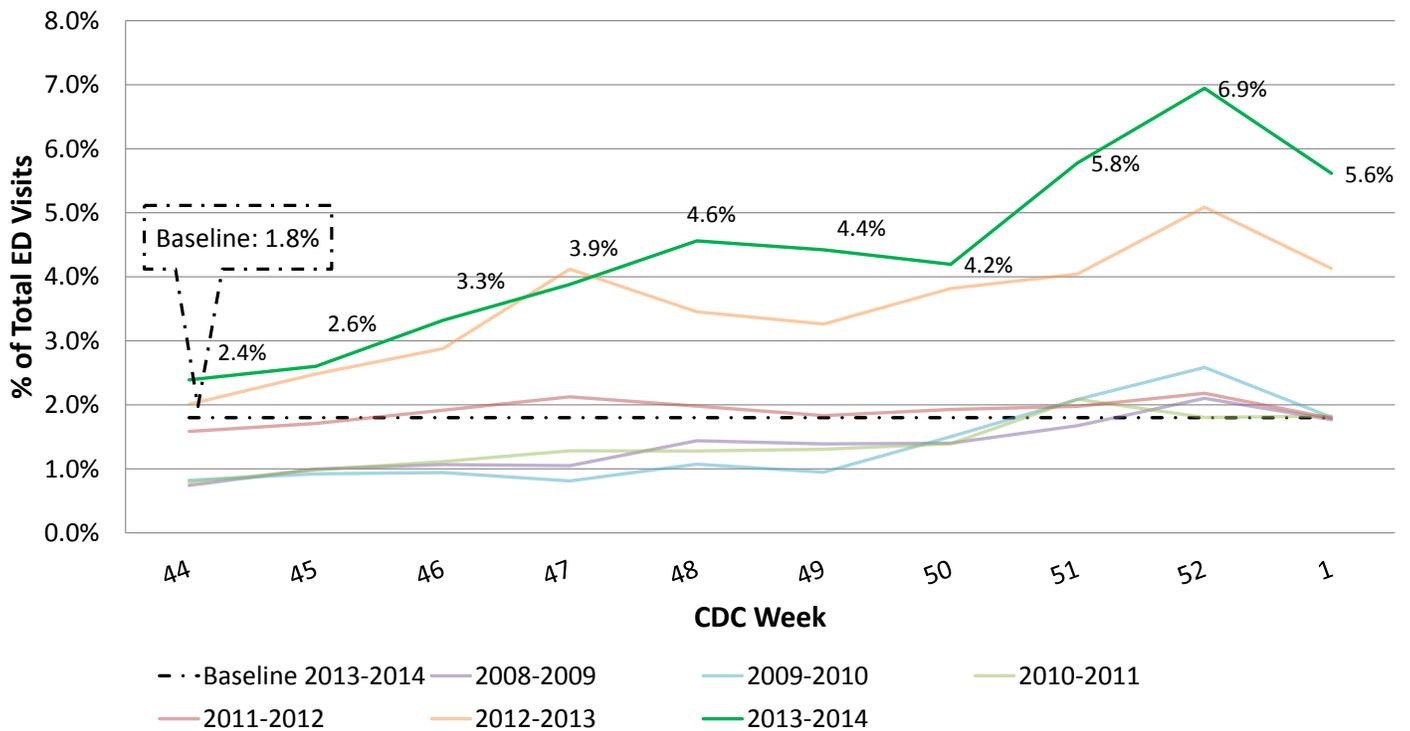
Houston/ Harris County: Week 1	Texas: Week 1	CDC: Week 1
High	High	Elevated

Highlights

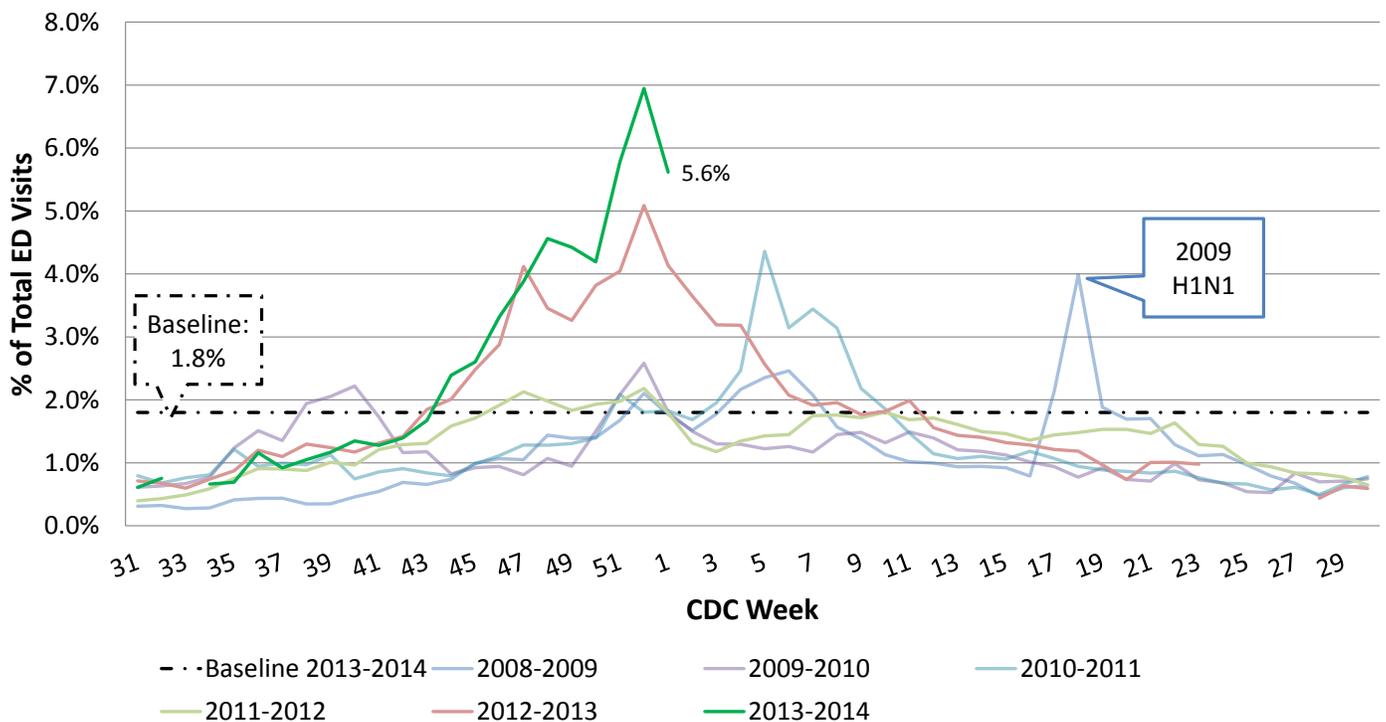
- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in Houston/Harris county **decreased** from 6.9% in week 52 to 5.6% in week 1.
- The percentage of flu test positives in Houston **decreased** from 43.8% in week 52 to 25.0% in week 1.
- During the 2013-2014 influenza season, one (1) Houston influenza-associated pediatric death has been reported.
- In week 1, 12 surveillance specimens were tested by the City of Houston Bureau of Laboratory Services. The following types and number of viruses were detected in these specimens:
Influenza A (3), Influenza A H1N1 (0), Influenza B (1).
- Cumulatively this season, the City of Houston Bureau of Laboratory Services has tested 332 surveillance specimens. Of the 112 positive lab results, the 2009 H1N1 strain accounts for 98 (87.5%) of the positives.
- The percentage of all cause absenteeism was unavailable for week 1.
- At the national level during week 1, 26.2% 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 (6.9%) was **below** the epidemic threshold of 7.1% for week 1.

Syndromic Surveillance: 2013-2014 Influenza Season and Age Distribution

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



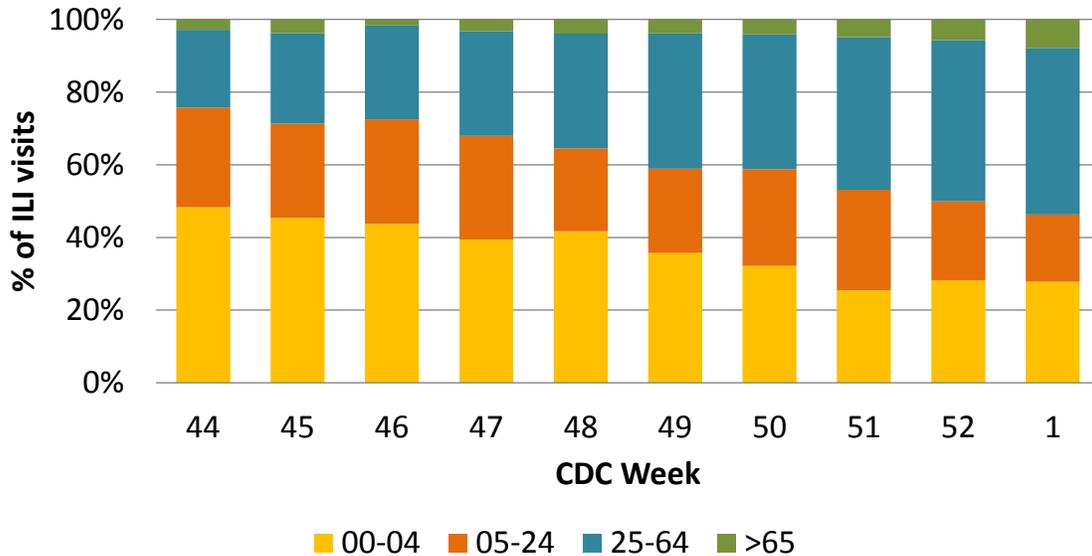
Comparison of ILI-Related ED Visits in Houston/Harris County



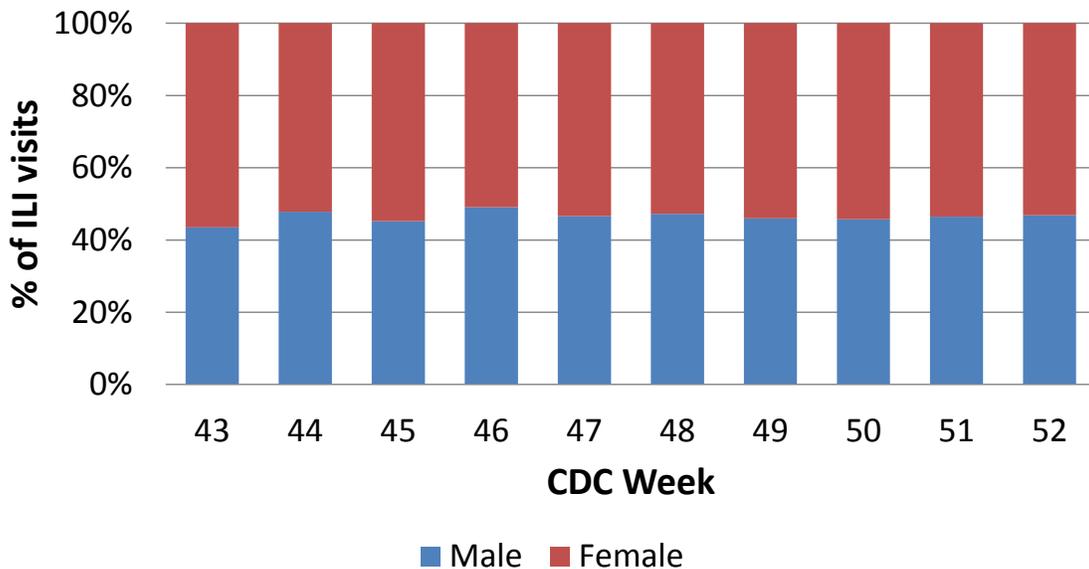
NOTE: Houston/Harris County ILI activity is assessed using information provided by surveillance participants in the Real-time Outbreak Disease Surveillance System (RODS). For week 1, 36 surveillance participants reported ILI information to Houston Department of Health and Human Services. Influenza-like 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: 2013-2014 Influenza Season and Age Distribution

ILI % by Age Groups, Houston/Harris County, 2013-2014



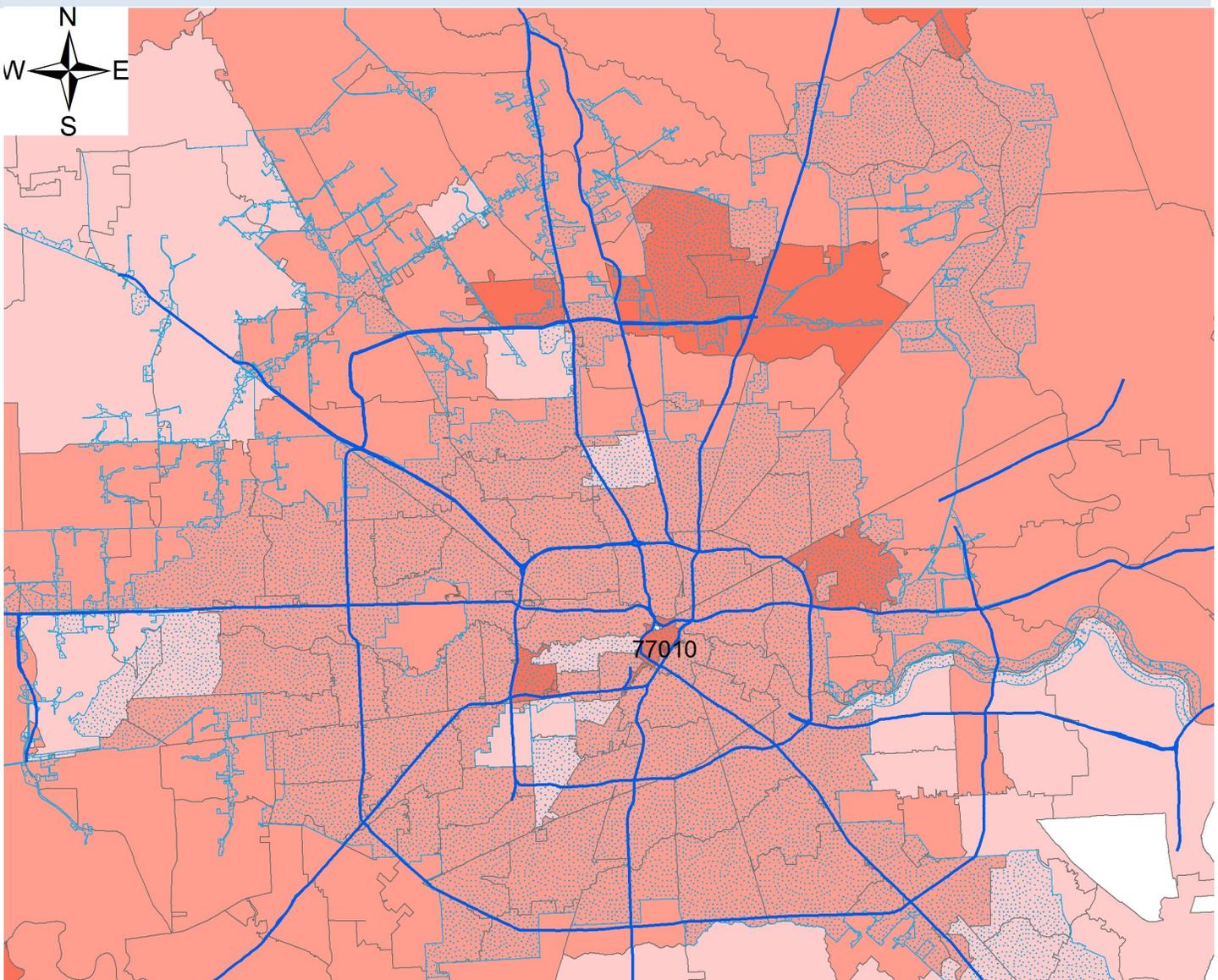
ILI % by Gender, Houston/Harris County, 2013-2014



In week 1, 5.6% of emergency department (ED) visits were due to influenza-like illness (ILI) complaints. Of the 2,450 patients presenting with ILI, the age group that recorded the most ED visits were the 25-64 year olds (45.8%).

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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% - 4.99%
-  5% - 7.5%
-  7.51% - 15%

As of week 1, the zip codes that have the greatest percentage of ED visits related to ILI (6.1% or greater) are: 77010, 77432*, 77442*, 77444*, 77661*, 77873*.

**Zip codes not displayed on map.*

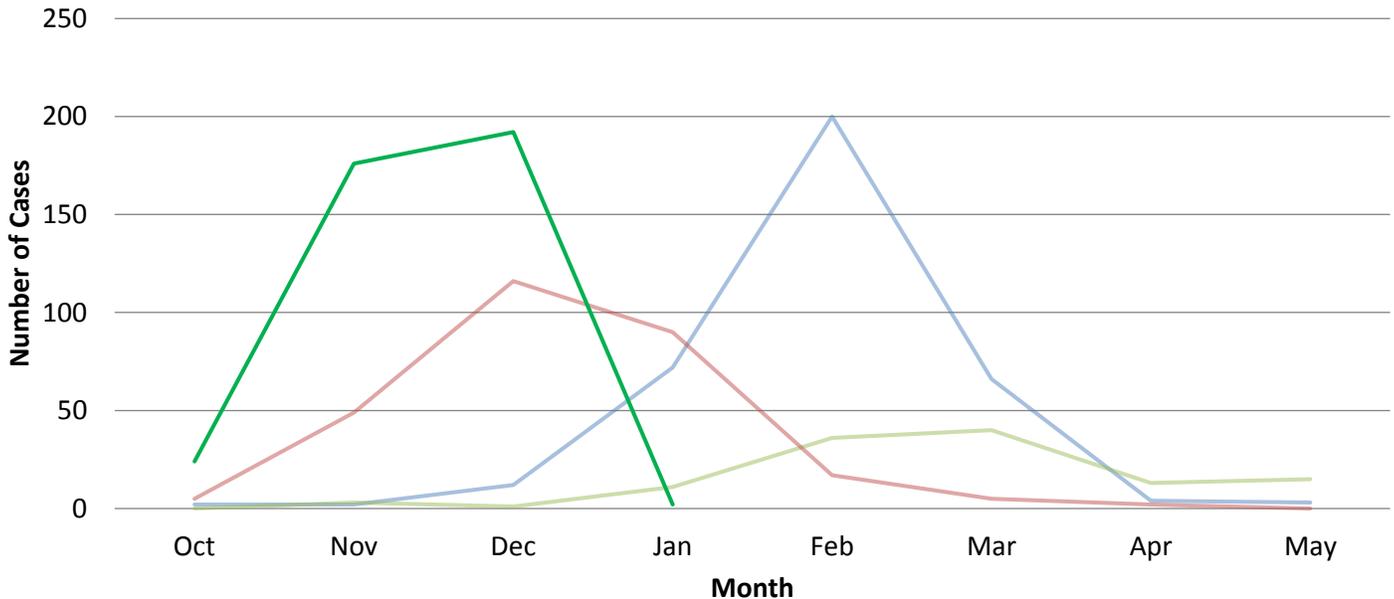
NOTE: The map for week 52 was inaccurate due to an error in the calculations, resulting in inflated ILI percentages per zip code.

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 up to 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.

Passive Surveillance

In week 1, there were (15) additional influenza cases from the prior week. The largest proportion of patients reported with influenza in December 2013 was among those in the age group of 25 to 64 years (86 cases).

Houston Passive Influenza Reported Cases 2010-2014*



*All data are preliminary and may change as reports are received.

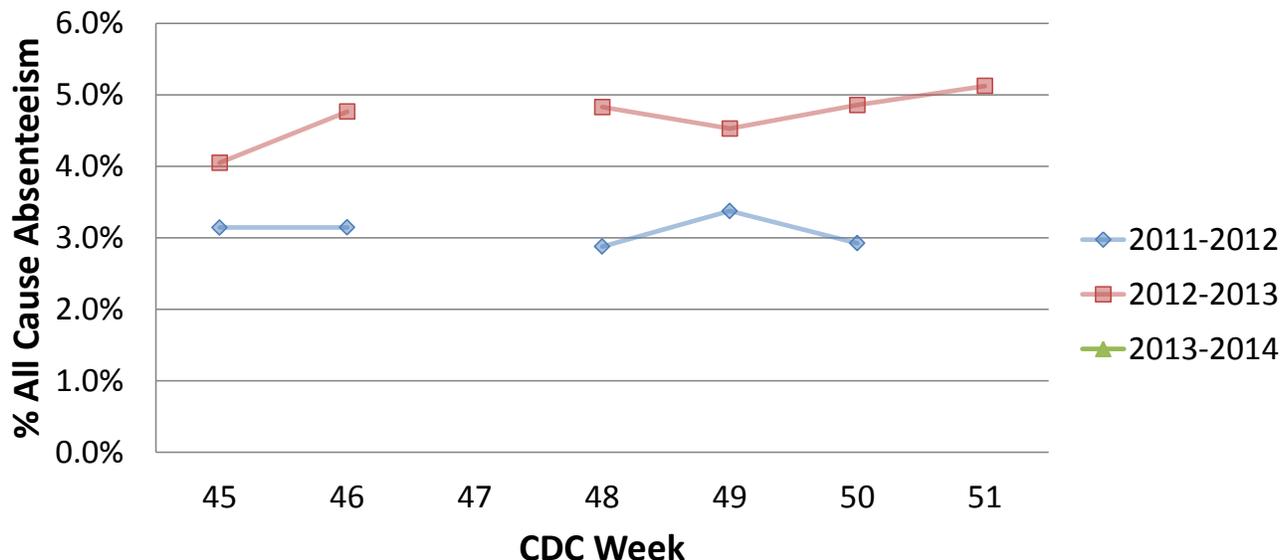
— 2010-2011 — 2011-2012 — 2012-2013 — 2013-2014

Laboratory Surveillance: Influenza Rapid Test Results, Houston

CDC Week Number	51 (Dec 15-21)	52 (Dec 22-28)	1 (Dec 29-Jan 4)
# of Influenza Tests Performed	37	16	12
% Influenza Positive	37.8%	43.8%	25.0%
# Influenza A Positive	14	6	3
% Influenza A Positive	100%	85.7%	100%
# Influenza B Positive	0	1	0
% Influenza B Positive	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%
# Non-differentiated Positive	0	0	3
% Non-differentiated Positive	0.0%	0.0%	100%

School Surveillance

Average Weekly % Absenteeism in HISD



The average daily % absenteeism for HISD schools was unavailable at the time of update.

Table 1: ILI and Influenza Cases by Type and School Type¹ per Month

	Total Cases	Lab Confirmed		Flu A	Flu B	A+B	Unclassified	Elem Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Multi-Level Schools
		#	%								
Aug	1	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sep	12	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	10	1	1	0
Oct	45	4	8.9%	0	0	0	4	29	4	10	2
Nov	113	2	1.8%	1	0	0	2	88	16	9	0
Dec	85	8	9.4%	5	0	0	3	52	23	7	3
Jan											
Feb											
Mar											
Apr											
Total	256	14	5.5%	6	0	0	9	180	44	27	5

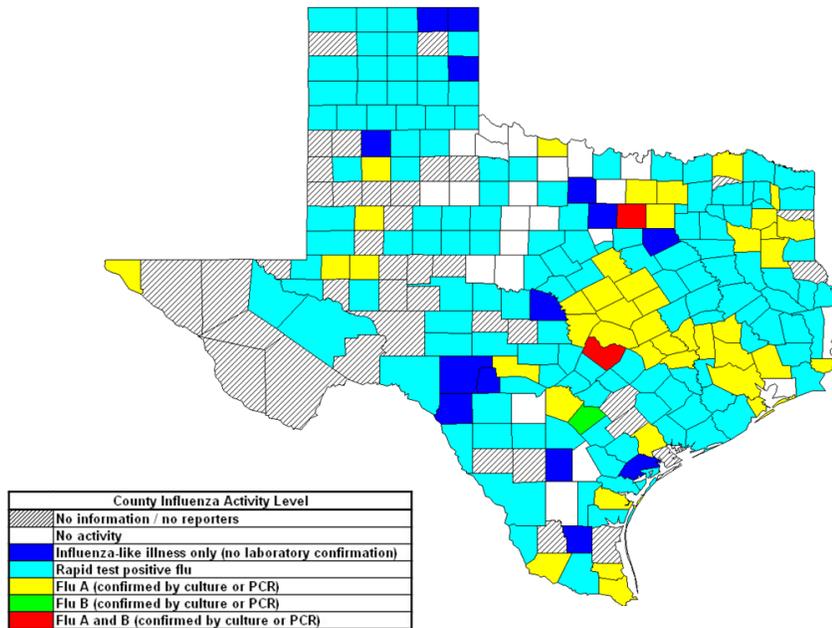
ILI cases in HISD students decreased in December compared to November. There were 8 laboratory confirmed cases seen in December and 5 were confirmed as influenza A.

NOTE: Absenteeism and student ILI is collected from 306 schools within Houston Independent School District.
¹School will be counted more than once if more than one case from the same school is reported during the report month.

Texas and National Influenza and ILI Activity

Statewide Influenza Activity Map

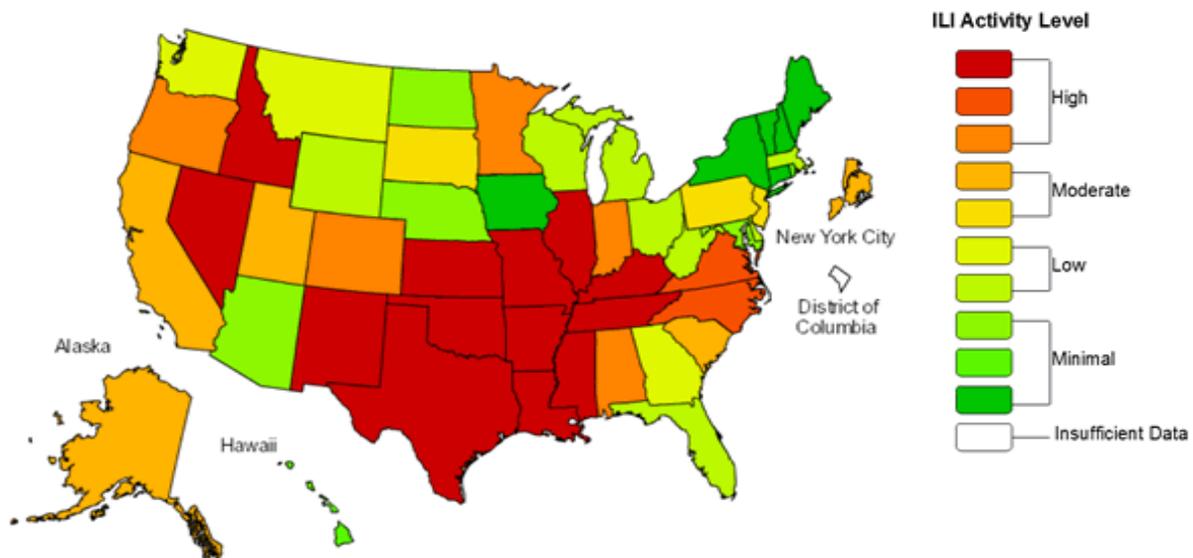
Figure 4: Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending January 04, 2014 (MMWR Week 01)



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/2013/>

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet 2013-14 Influenza Season Week 1 ending Jan 04, 2014



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/>