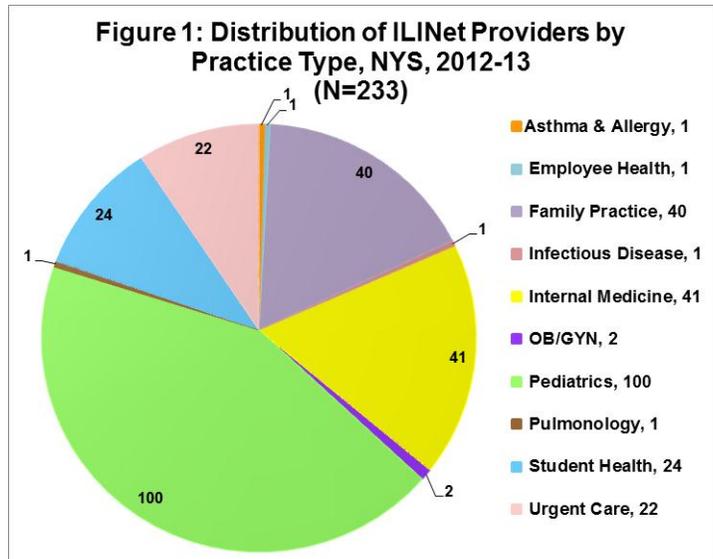


New York State Department of Health Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Program (ILINet) 2012-13 Influenza Season Summary

Three influenza viruses circulated during the 2012-13 season; the relative proportion of influenza A(H3N2), 2009 A(H1N1), and influenza B viruses varied both geographically and temporally, with influenza A(H3N2) being the predominant virus early in the season and influenza B being the predominant virus at the end of the season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) characterized this season as being moderately severe.¹ NYS experienced geographically widespread influenza activity² for 22 consecutive weeks beginning the week ending November 24, 2012 through the week ending April 20, 2013.

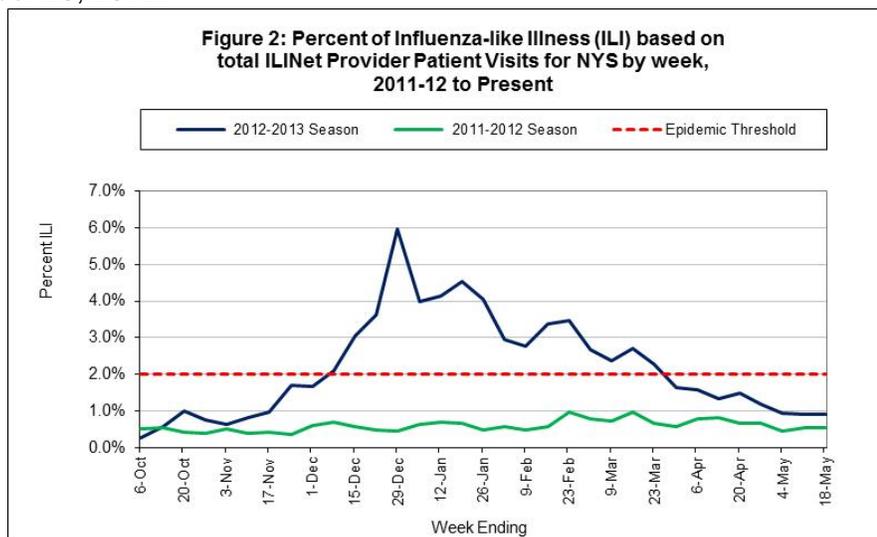
The New York State (NYS) ILINet Program consists of 233 providers from 37 counties³ (see attached map). Figure 1 shows the distribution of ILINet providers by practice type.



Program Data

ILINet providers reported over 456,000 patient visits this season with an average of 13,843 total patient visits per week, a slight increase compared to 12,680 visits per week last season. The average weekly number of patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) was 303, significantly higher than last season at 78.

Figure 2 is a two-season comparison showing the percent of ILI in NYS. The 2012-13 weekly percentage of visits for ILI ranged from 0.29% to 5.95%, with an overall average of 2.20%. Compared to the 2011-12 season, the 2012-13 season began early when ILI activity exceeded the epidemic threshold of 2.0% beginning December 8, 2012. ILI activity remained above the epidemic threshold for 16 consecutive weeks through the week ending March 23, 2013. ILI activity peaked at 5.95% the week ending December 29, 2012.



¹ CDC characterized the influenza season as moderately severe due to a higher percentage of outpatient visits for ILI, higher rates of hospitalizations, and deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza compared with recent years.

² Widespread influenza activity is defined as increased or sustained numbers of lab-confirmed cases of influenza reported in at least 31 of the 62 NYS counties.

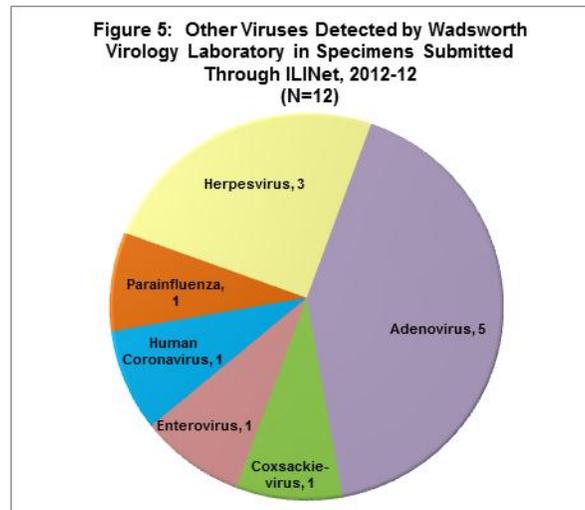
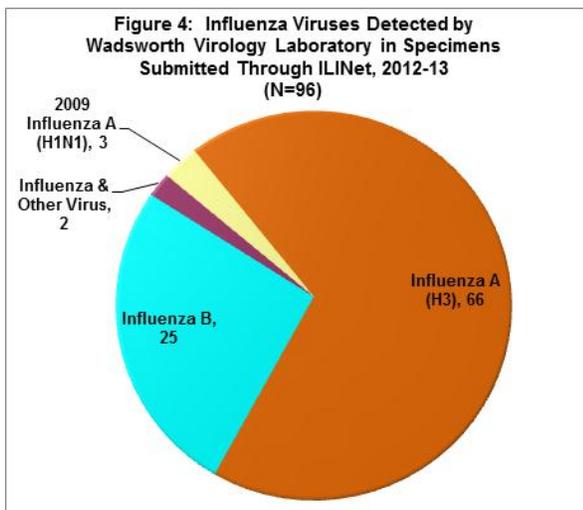
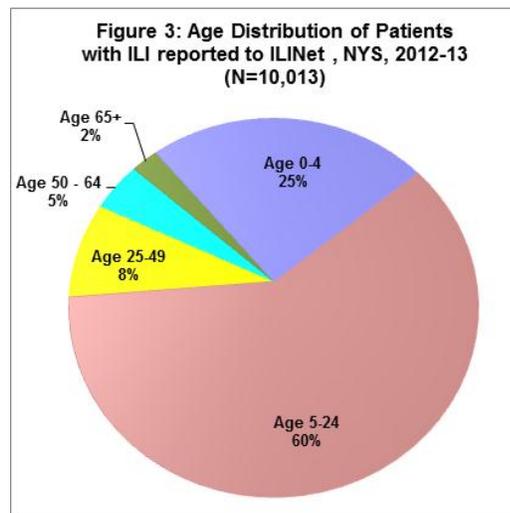
³ The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDHMH) coordinates their own ILINet program of health care providers located in New York City (NYC). Information on the NYC program is available at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/influenza-mdflyer20050623.pdf>.

Figure 3 reflects the percentage of patients diagnosed with ILI by age group. The proportion of ILI seen in the 0-4 year and 5-24 year age groups likely reflects the preponderance of providers in pediatrics, family medicine and student health.

Laboratory Data

NYS ILINet providers submitted 160 respiratory specimens, of which 60% were positive for influenza (Figure 4).

Non-influenza viral agents were identified in 12 specimens (Figure 5). ILINet specimens were also used in antiviral resistance studies at NYSDOH's Wadsworth Laboratory. None of the ILINet specimens this season were found to have antiviral resistance.



Provider Reporting

On average, 88% of providers reported data each week. CDC requests ILINet providers submit data by noon each Tuesday. The percentage of providers reporting by the CDC deadline ranged from 5%-79% each week, with an overall seasonal average of 37%, an increase of 6% over last season (Table 1).

Table 2 shows reporting by month. 91% of providers were considered regular reporters, having reported their weekly ILI data at least 50% of the time. 68% of the providers reported 100% of the season. Currently, 73% of providers provide enhanced surveillance by reporting throughout the year, an increase of 18% over last season.

Month/Year	Average Number of Providers Reporting (N=205)
CDC Deadline of noon each Tuesday	76 (37%)
1-3 days after deadline	38 (19%)
4-7 days after deadline	14 (7%)
8-14 days after deadline	13 (7%)
15-30 days after deadline	24 (19%)
More than 30 days	50 (24%)

Month/Year	Percent Reporting (N=233)
October 2012	96%
November 2012	92%
December 2012	92%
January 2013	91%
February 2013	90%
March 2013	88%
April 2013	80%
May 2013	76%

Additional summary data and information about the program can be obtained by contacting Donna Gowie, ILINet Program Coordinator, by phone at (518) 473-4439, or by e-mail at dlgo4@health.ny.gov.

