

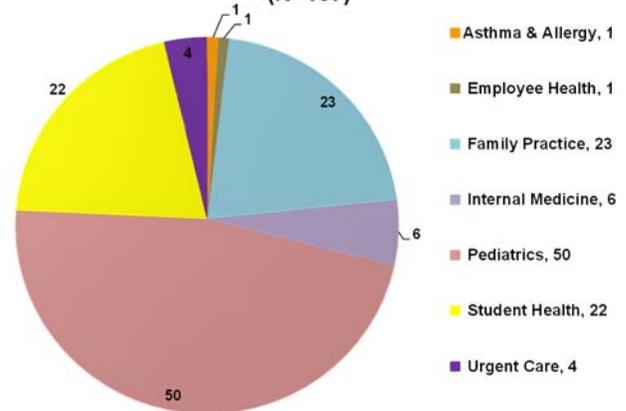
New York State Department of Health Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Program (ILINet) 2014-15 Influenza Season Summary

Season Overview

The 2014-15 season was dominated by influenza A (H3N2) virus circulation, however influenza B viruses also circulated toward the end of the season. There were few reports of influenza A (H1N1) during the season. NYS experienced geographically widespread influenza activity¹ for 24 consecutive weeks beginning the week ending December 6, 2014 through the week ending May 16, 2015.

By the end of the season, the New York State (NYS) ILINet Program included 107 providers from 37 counties². Figure 1 shows the distribution of ILINet providers by practice type.

Figure 1: Distribution of ILINet Providers by Practice Type, NYS, 2014-15 (N=107)

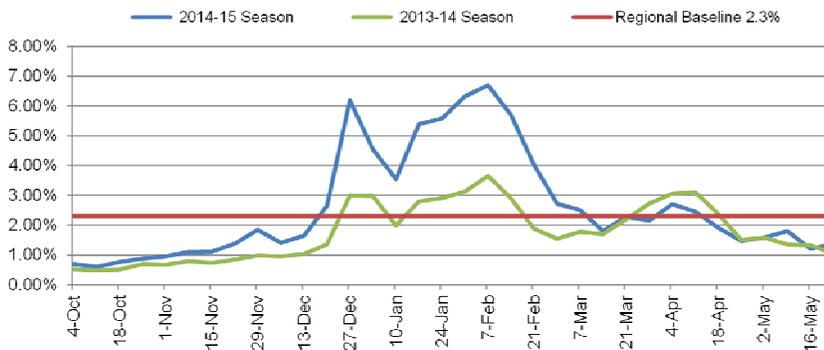


Program Data

ILINet providers reported almost 429,000 patient visits this season with an average of 12,608 total patient visits per week, a decrease compared to 15,634 visits per week last season. The decrease in the overall number of patient visits was due to a decrease in the number of providers participating in the Program. The average weekly number of patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) was 304, slightly higher than last season at 273.

Figure 2 is a two-season comparison showing the percent of ILI reported in NYS. The weekly percentage of visits for ILI ranged from 0.44% to 6.69%, with an overall average of 2.36%. Although the overall number of patient visits was lower, the percentage of visits for ILI was higher than the previous season. ILI activity exceeded the epidemic threshold of 2.30% for 12 consecutive weeks beginning the week ending December 20, 2014 and for an additional two consecutive weeks beginning the week ending April 4, 2015. This small, second increase in ILI activity was a result of influenza B activity late in the season. ILI activity peaked during the week ending February 7, 2014.

Figure 2: Weekly Percent of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) based on total ILINet Provider Patient Visits for NYS, by Week, 2013-14 to Present



(Continued on page 2)

¹Widespread 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.

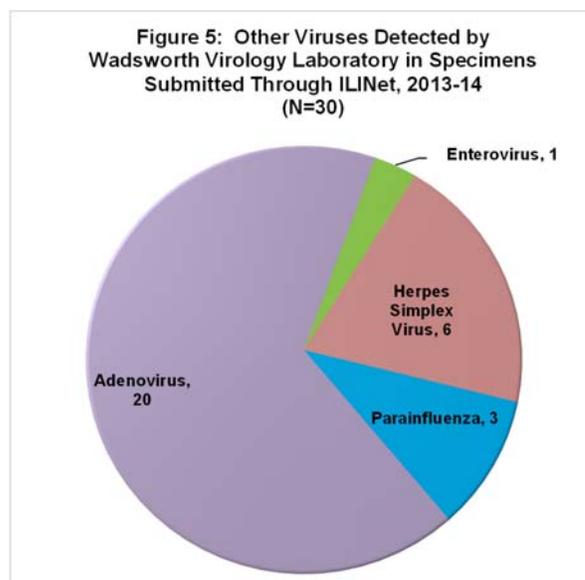
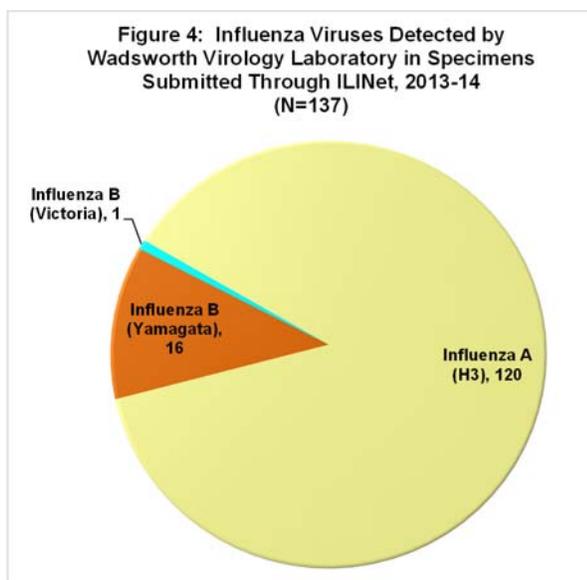
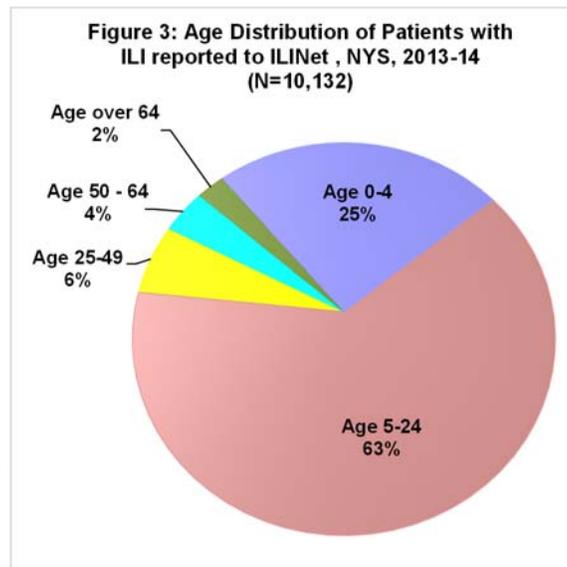
²The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDHMH) coordinates their own ILINet program of health care providers located in New York City (NYC). Information on the NYC program is available at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/influenza-mdflyer20050623.pdf>

(Continued from page 1)

Figure 3 reflects the percentage of patients diagnosed with ILI by age group. The large proportion of ILI reports among patients in the 0-4 year and 5-24 year age groups is in part because of the preponderance of ILINet providers in pediatrics, family medicine, and student health.

Laboratory Data

During the 2014-15 season, 29 ILINet providers submitted 319 respiratory specimens to NYSDOH's Wadsworth Laboratory, a decrease of 21% from the previous season. Of the 319 specimens submitted, 43% were positive for influenza. This season, the Wadsworth Laboratory further tested all positive influenza B specimens to identify their lineage (Figure 4). Influenza-positive ILINet specimens were also tested for antiviral resistance. None of these specimens were found to have antiviral resistant influenza. Additionally, non-influenza viral agents were identified in 30 specimens (Figure 5).



Provider Reporting

Data submitted by the ILINet providers is the primary contribution to outpatient influenza surveillance in NYS and nationally. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requests that ILINet providers submit weekly ILI data by **noon each Tuesday**. The CDC gauges completeness of ILINet surveillance, or reporting coverage for the influenza season, by assessing the number of *regularly reporting* ILINet providers. CDC defines a *regularly reporting* provider as one who reports data at least 50% of reporting weeks during the season, but not necessarily by the CDC deadline.

In NYS, 79% of providers were considered regular reporters, and on average 32% of providers reported data prior to the CDC deadline. The percentage of providers reporting by the CDC deadline ranged from 11%-59% each week. Also, 49% of NYS providers reported 100% of the season. CDC encourages providers to report ILI data year-round. Currently, 55% of NYS providers report data year-round.