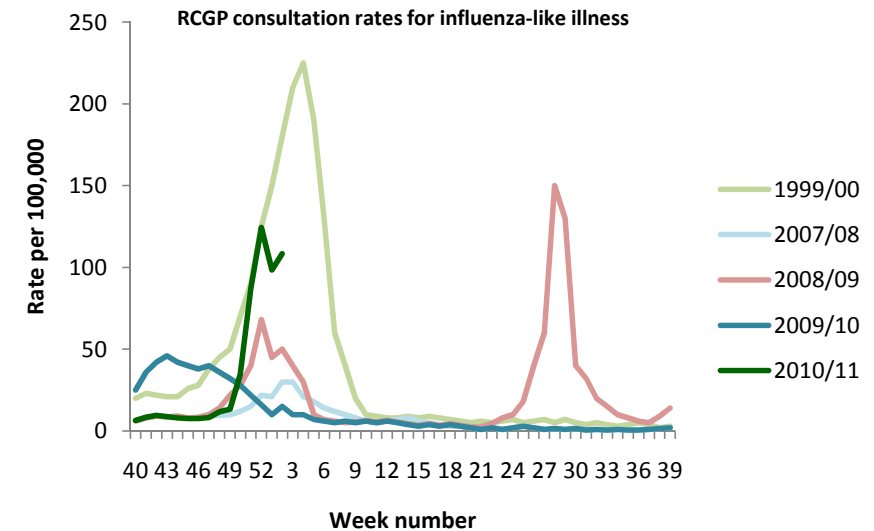


Seasonal flu statistics

- GP consultation rates for influenza-like illness (ILI) in England and Wales showed a weekly increase in the second week of January 2011. The consultation rate rose to 108.4 per 100,000; lower than this season's peak of 124.2 per 100,000 in week 51 but higher than baseline activity levels (30 consultations per 100,000).
- The highest rates of GP consultation are found among those aged 15 to 44 years; 143.3 ILI consultations per 100,000.
- Flu levels are yet to reach epidemic proportions- classed as a rate of over 200 ILI consultations per 100,000. However, current consultation rates are higher than those observed for the same period in recent years, apart from the 1999/00 flu epidemic.
- As at 13 January 2011, there were 661 patients with confirmed or suspected influenza in NHS critical care beds in England (representing a decrease on the previous week) – these patients occupied 19% of available critical care beds nationally. Most of those occupying critical care beds were aged between 60 to 64 years.
- Up to 12 January 2011, 112 deaths had been confirmed as associated with influenza infection. The deaths have been mainly among those aged 15 to 64 years (69% of deaths). Around 15% of deaths were among children aged 14 and under and 16% among adults 65 and over.
- Microbiological surveillance by the Health Protection Agency shows that the majority of influenza viruses detected have been H1N1-2009 (70%) and influenza B (25%).



Patients in England with confirmed/suspected influenza in critical care beds by age

	Under 5	5–15	16–64	65 + over	Total
15 Dec 2010	10	9	141	22	182
23 Dec 2010	26	17	366	51	460
30 Dec 2010	42	24	586	86	738
6 Jan 2011	30	17	640	96	783
13 Jan 2011	18	8	534	101	661

Source: winterwatch.dh.gov.uk

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