



Houston Department of
Health and Human Services

Office of Surveillance & Public Health Preparedness
Bureau of Epidemiology

Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report
CDC Week 51: December 15-22, 2012

Influenza Activity by County, State, and National Levels

Houston/ Harris County: Week 51	Texas: Week 51	CDC: Week 51
Widespread	Widespread	Regional

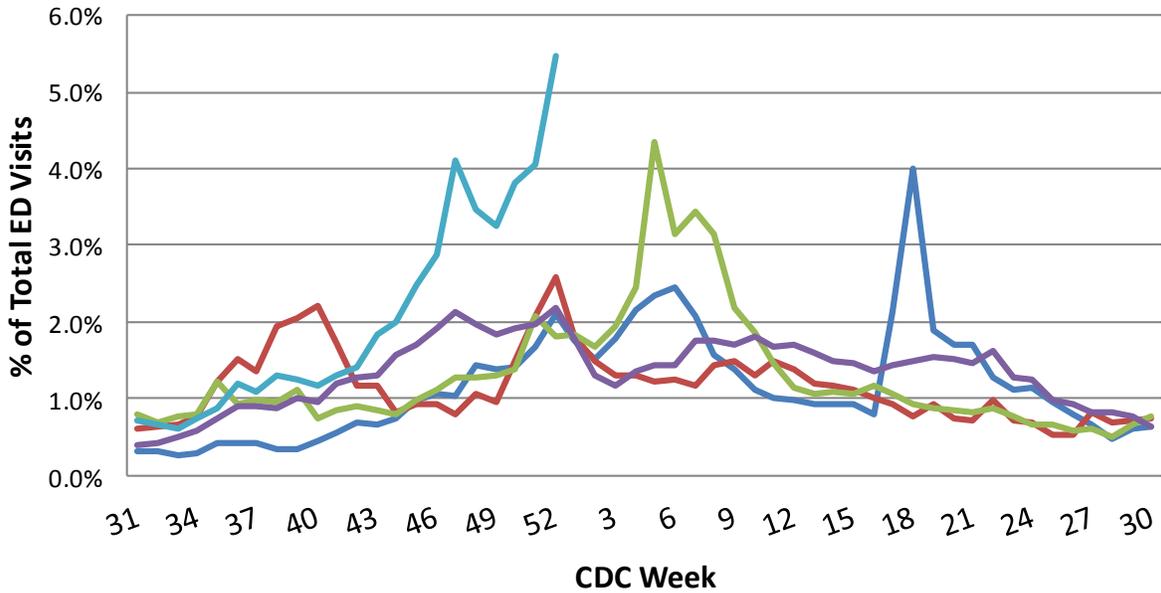
Highlights

- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in Houston/Harris county **increased** from 3.8% in week 50 to 4.0% in week 51.
- The percentage of rapid flu test positives in Houston **increased** from 38.9% in week 50 to 73.3% in week 51.
- During the 2012-2013 influenza season, 0 Houston influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported.
- Since last report, 29 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 H3 (16), Influenza A H1 (0), Influenza B (6).
- Cumulatively this season, the City of Houston Bureau of Laboratory Services has tested 239 surveillance specimens.
- The percentage of all cause absenteeism increased from **4.9%** in week 50 to **5.1%** in week 51. Absenteeism due to ILI and school nurse office visits due to ILI was not available for week 51 at the time of update in Houston.
- At the national level during week 51, 29.6% of specimens tested and reported to the CDC were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI (4.2%) was below the national baseline (2.2%) and the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (6.5%) was below the epidemic threshold of 7.1% for week 51.

HDHHS Influenza Surveillance Report (12/22/12, Week 51)

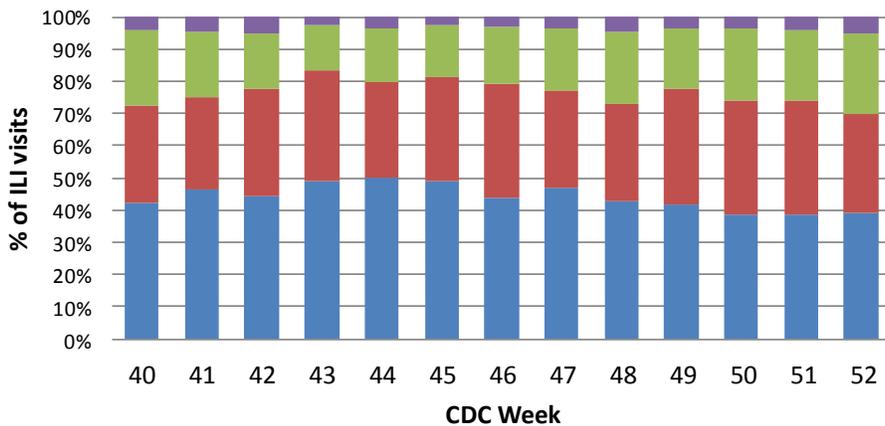
Syndromic Surveillance: 2012-2013 Influenza Season and Age Distribution

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



— 2008-2009 — 2009-2010 — 2010-2011 — 2011-2012 — 2012-2013

ILI % by Age Groups, Houston/Harris County



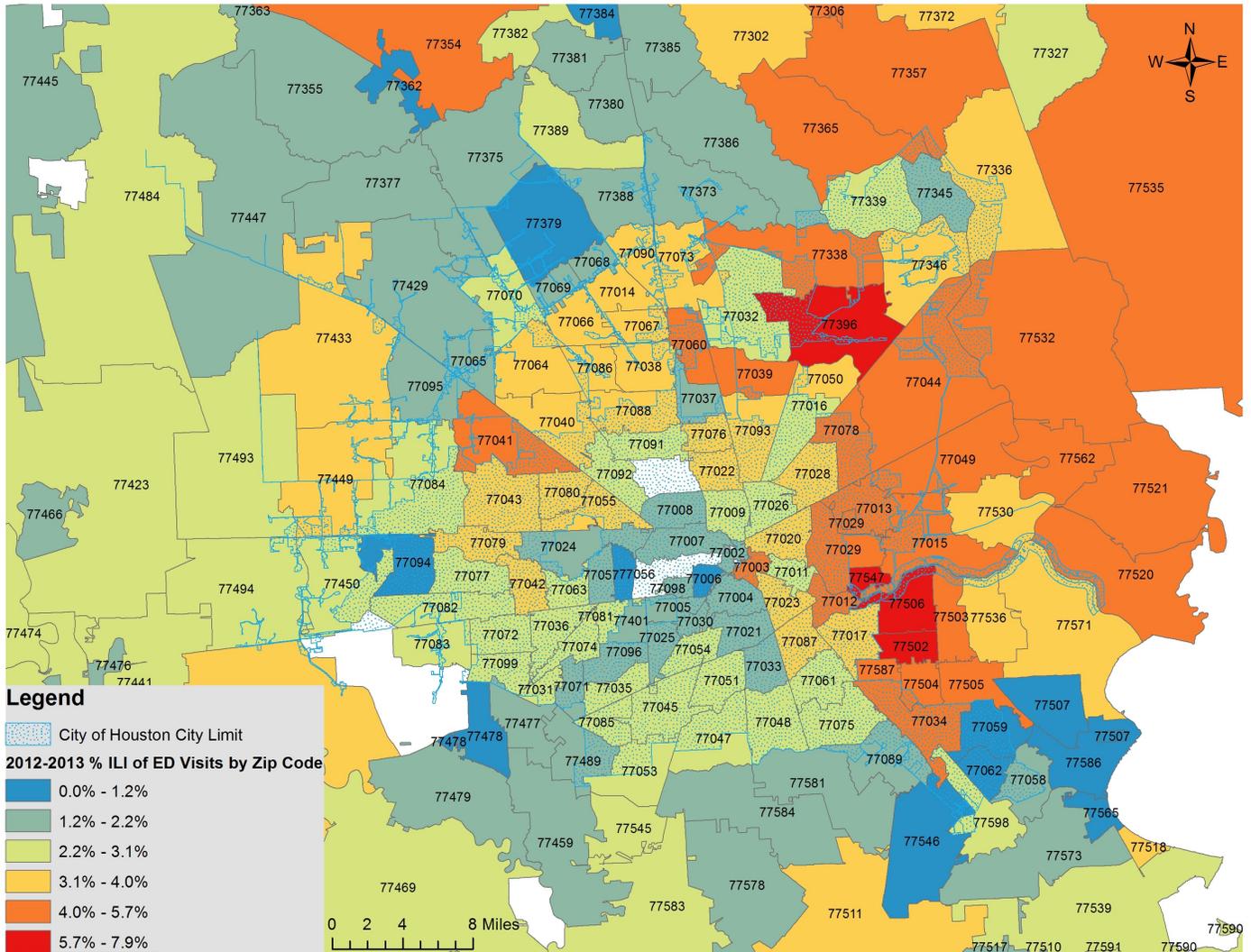
■ 00-04 ■ 05-24 ■ 25-64 ■ >65

In week 51 (December 15-22), 4.1% of emergency department (ED) visits were due to influenza-like illness (ILI) complaints. Of the 1326 patients presenting with ILI in Houston, the largest proportion (38.3%) were in the 0-4 years of age group; 65 years and older accounted for the lowest percentage of health care visits due to ILI (4.3%).

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 51, 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.

HDHHS Influenza Surveillance Report (12/22/12, Week 51)

Syndromic Surveillance: Geographic Distribution Map



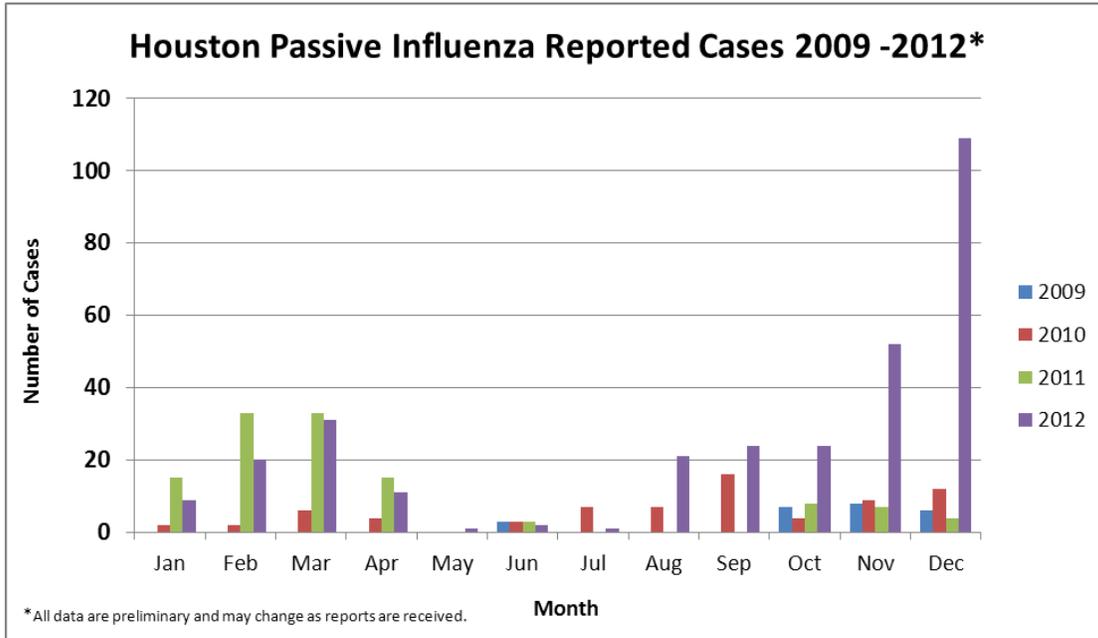
In week 51 (December 15-22), 16.6% of all patients presenting to the ED with ILI complaints resided in the following zip codes: 77301, 77449, 77520, 77521, 77015, 77506, 77396, 77084, 77502, and 77511.

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 cases from each zip code from the total amount of cases seen 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.

HDHHS Influenza Surveillance Report (12/22/12, Week 51)

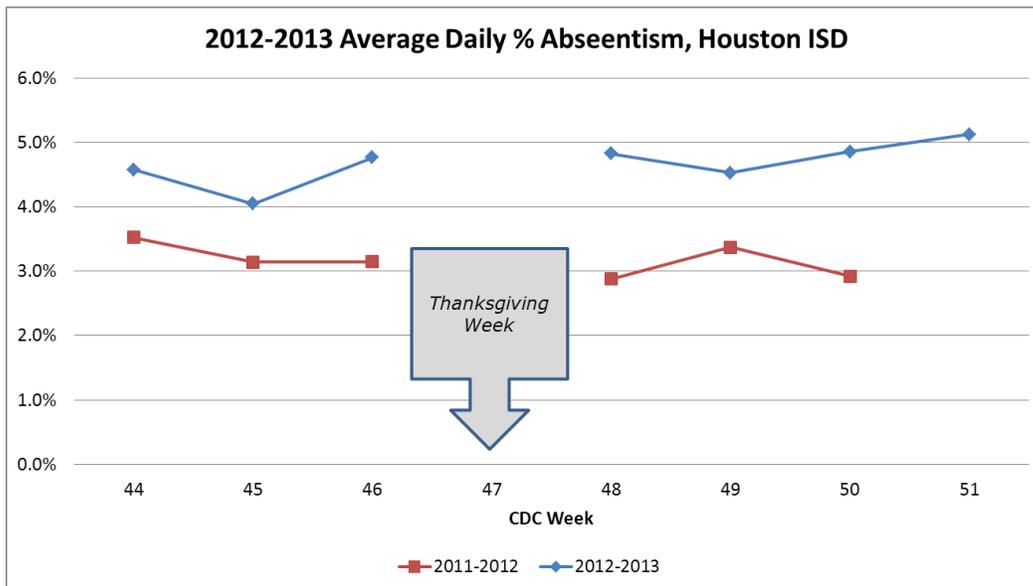
Passive Surveillance

There were twice as many cases reported in December 2012 (n =109) than in the November 2012 (n= 52). The largest proportion of patients reported with influenza in 2012 was among those between age group of 5 to 24 (46%).



School Surveillance

- The average daily % absenteeism for HISD schools **increased** from 4.8% in week 48 to 5.1% in week 51. In 2011, the average daily % absenteeism for HISD schools for week 50 was 2.9%.



NOTE: Houston ISD absenteeism and student ILI is collected from 306 schools within Houston Independent School District. For week 51, 306 schools provided general absenteeism data.

HDHHS Influenza Surveillance Report (12/22/12, Week 51)

School Surveillance (con't)

Data current as of 12/12/12.

- An increase in both probable and confirmed influenza cases have been observed each month. The majority of flu cases (13/17=76.5%) is unclassified, followed by type A (3/17=17.6%). There is one case with both flu A+B .
- So far, 163 schools in HISD are reporting ILI. Elementary schools have reported the majority of cases (90/163=55.2%) followed by multi-level schools (60/163=36.8%).

Table 1: ILI and Influenza Cases by Type and by Month

	Total Cases	Lab Confirmed	Percentage of Confirmed Cases	Flu A	Flu B	A+B	Unclassified
August	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	32	0	0	0	0	0	0
October	49	5	2.45%	0	0	1	4
November	81	12	9.72%	3	0	0	9
Total	163	17	10.43%	3	0	1	13

Table 2: ILI and Influenza Cases by School Type and by Month

	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Multi-Level Schools
August	0	0	0	1
September	18	0	0	14
October	32	1	1	15
November	40	8	3	30
Total	90	9	4	60

HDHHS Influenza Surveillance Report (12/22/12, Week 51)

The Houston Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report is available on the Houston Department of Health and Human Services web site at:

www.houstontx.gov/health/flu/index.html

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. Regional ILI baselines are determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>

Absenteeism baseline is the average weekly absenteeism experienced during April-May during the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years. Some data points may be excluded due to holidays and inclement weather.

Additional information regarding Houston, Texas and national ILI activity can be accessed at www.houstontx.gov/health/flu/index.html

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2013/>

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

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