STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 02

Week 2, ending January 16, 2010 with updates through 01/22/2010.
All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.

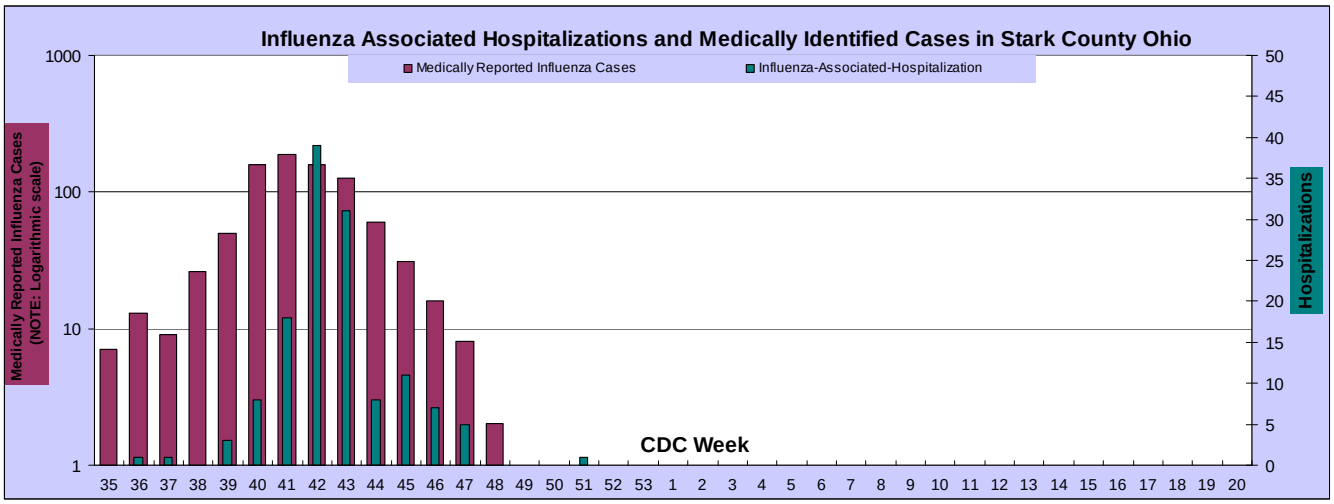
During week 02, (January 10-16, 2010) indicators of influenza like activity were all very low at the County, State and National levels, with one significant exception. During week 2, 8.0% of all deaths reported through the 122-Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to P&I. This percentage was above the epidemic threshold of 7.6% for week 2.

- For the third consecutive week there was no influenza-like illness or influenza-associated hospitalizations reported. This reflects a downward trend occurring during the past 12 weeks in overall influenza-like activity within Stark County. (Graph 1)
- Due to low levels of activity, demographic information has not changed significantly over the past 6 weeks. For medically reported cases, not hospitalized, the average age is 16.7 years with a range of 4 months to 79 years and a median of 11 years. Additionally, **64%** of the reports are in the age group of 5 to 24 years.
- Hospitalized cases ranged in age from ≤1 month to 80 years with a median of 37 years. The most affected age group, based on percentage, is 25-50 years at 35%. Young children aged 0-4 years continue to be hospitalized at the highest rate, >8 per 10,000 population.
- Reports from three Sentinel Providers reported **0.2**% of all patient visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) in Stark County. The National level of ILI visits **decreased** to 1.8%. This is only the second week during the 2009/2010 season that the National level of ILI fell below the baseline level of 2.3%. (See Graph 2)
- Combined Constitutional and Respiratory visits to Emergency Departments in Stark County **decreased** to **18.66%,** a decrease from week 1 and the lowest level seen since CDC Week 35, 2009**.** The overall number of total patient visits by Stark County residents to emergency departments remained steady and at baseline levels for this time of year. Note: The highest average number of visits for these syndromes usually occurs in CDC week 7 (late February) and is 26.79%, increases are also seen in the weeks following large holidays. (See Graph 3)
- For week 02, both Cough/Cold (C/C) Products and Thermometer sales continued their overall **downward** trend, and remained below expected values for this time of year. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- According to the 31 area schools reporting absenteeism information, the median percentage of student absenteeism remained steady at 3.9%. (See graph 6)
- For the second week in a row there were NO states reporting Widespread geographic activity. The state of Ohio remains at **sporadic** geographic influenza activity. Note: this indicator is reported to the CDC by each state and does not describe severity of disease. Sporadic geographic activity is defined as: Small numbers of laboratory confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory confirmed influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in cases of ILI. (See National Map)
- Nationally, the CDC identified **>98%** of cocirculating strains of influenza (seasonal influenza A (H1), A (H3), and 2009 influenza A (H1N1) and influenza B) as *2009 influenza A (H1N1)***.** Ohio **identified** one Influenza A/H3 during week 45 and a seasonal Influenza A/H1 during week 39, all other 1,188 Ohio isolates are related to the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) strain.
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **increased significantly to 8.0**% of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **above** the epidemic threshold of 7.6% for week 2.

For questions, or to receive this report weekly by email, send requests to either chenning@cantonhealth.org or schanzk@starkhealth.org.

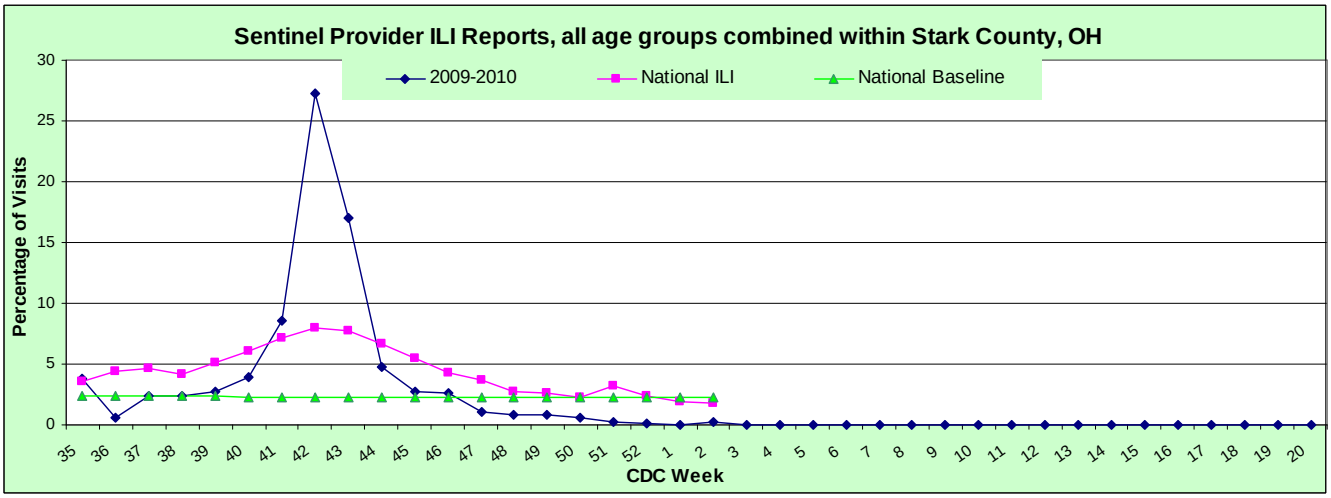
Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

Note: Influenza is only reportable if associated with a hospitalization; therefore, this only represents a small number of actual influenza cases in Stark County.



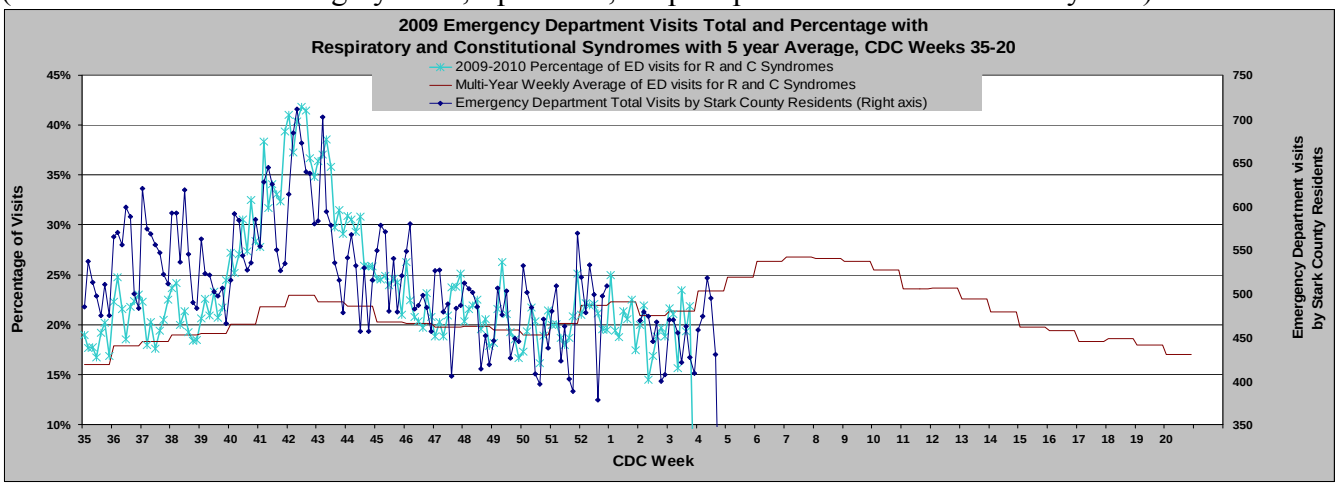
Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

Sentinel Providers-An influenza sentinel provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the state health department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by Stark Counties 4 provider's s are combined with other influenza surveillance data to provide a national picture of influenza virus and ILI activity.

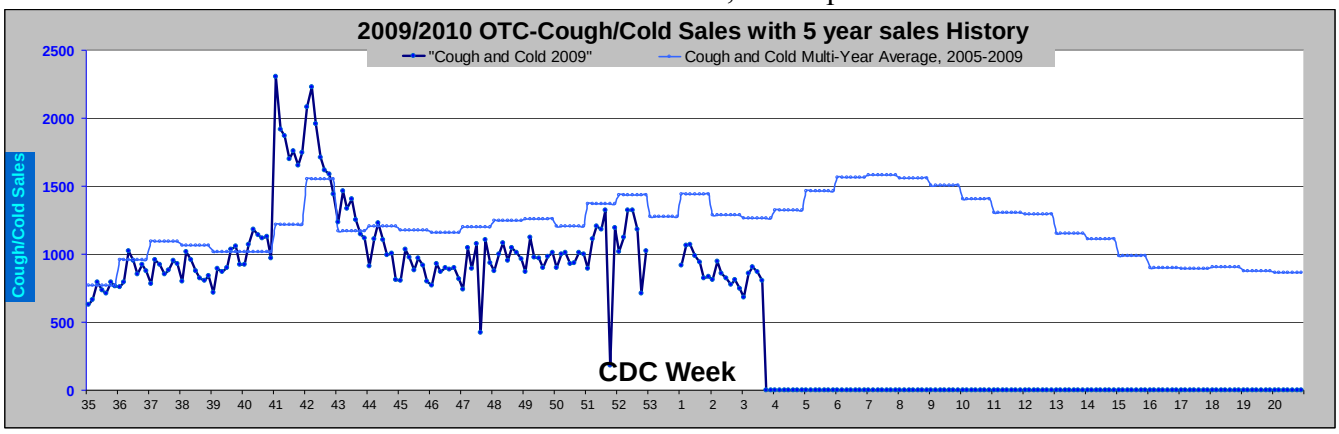


Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes

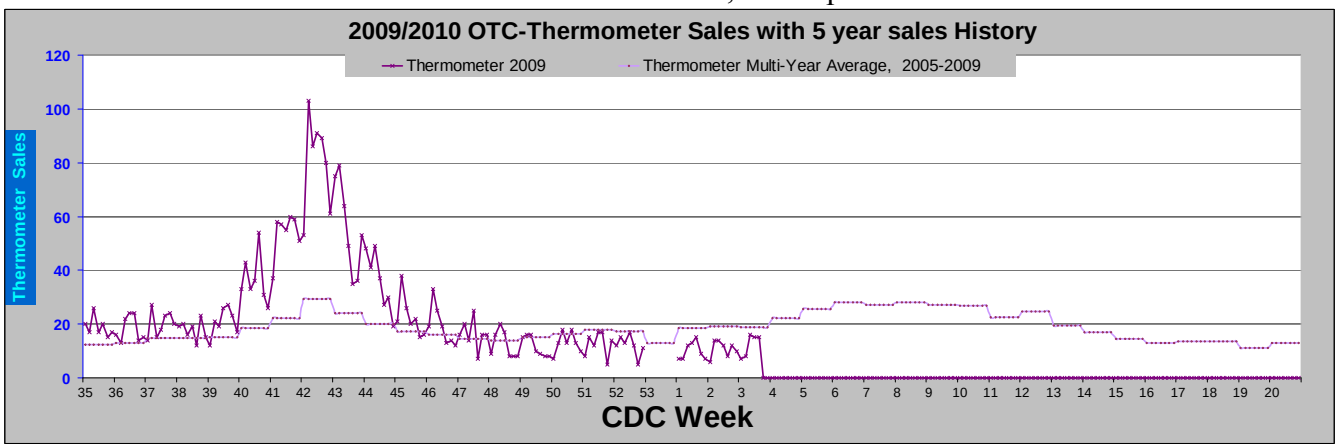
(Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)



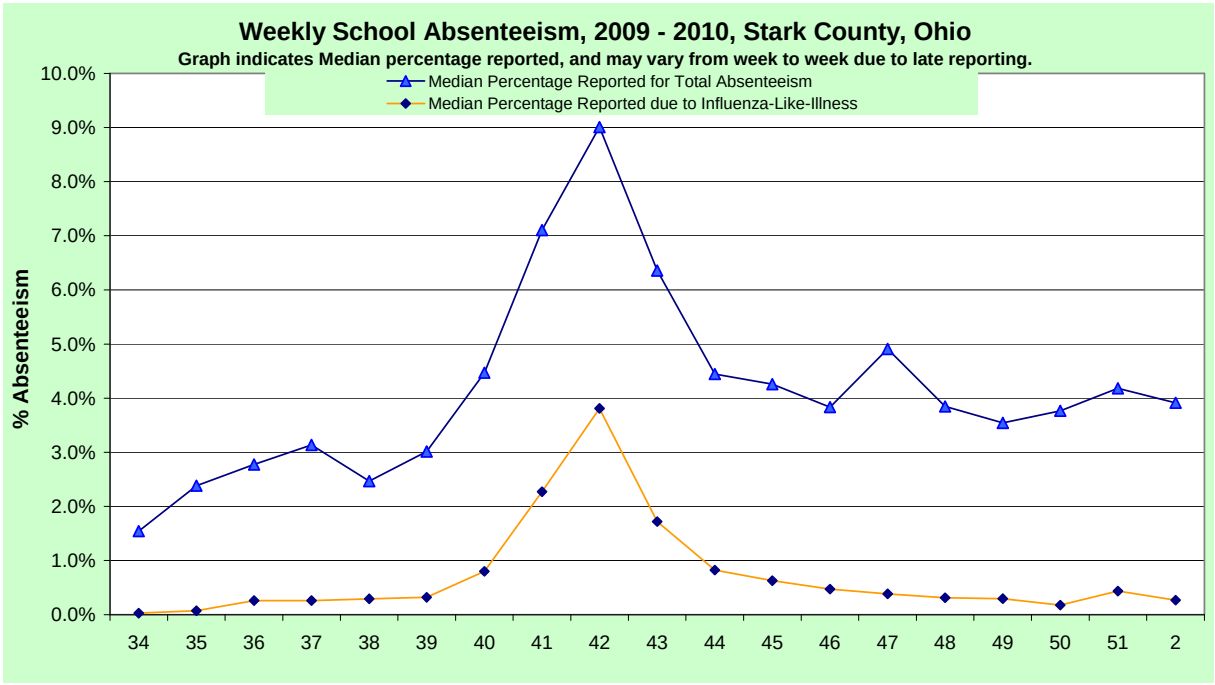
Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County
Source: RODS Real time Outbreak Disease Surveillance, Retail pharmaceutical sales.



Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County
Source: RODS Real time Outbreak Disease Surveillance, Retail pharmaceutical sales.



Graph 6: School Absenteeism, 2009-2010, Stark County, Ohio.
(Source: Voluntary reporting by area public and private schools. Schools report overall absenteeism and five illness categories including influenza –like-illness and gastrointestinal illness.)



Map Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists
(Source: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly)