



STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 3

Week ending 23 January, 2010. With updates through 01/31/2010.

All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.

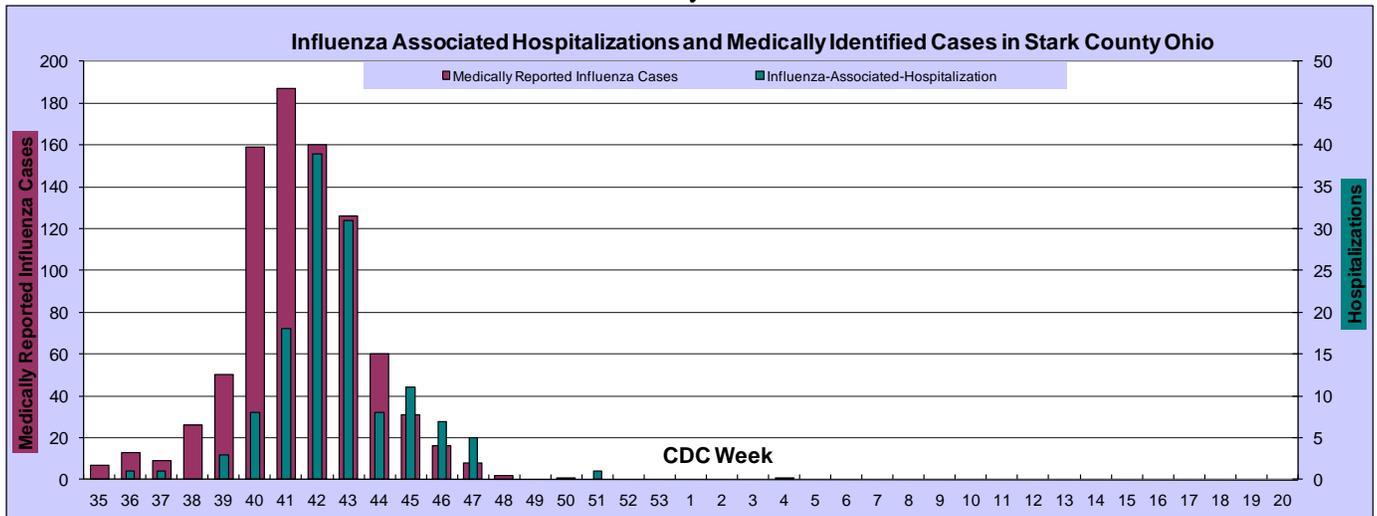
During week 3, (January 17-23, 2010) indicators of influenza like activity revealed very slight increases locally, and remained steady and at very low levels throughout other communities the State and the Nation.

- There was no influenza-like illness or influenza-associated hospitalizations reported during CDC Week 3. However, as can barely be seen in Graph 1, there was one case of a non-hospitalized influenza patient reported by a medical partner. This patient was culture confirmed type A with no further sub-typing available. This brings an end to 5 continuous weeks of zero non-hospitalized reports received by the area health departments in Stark County. (Graph 1)
- Demographic information has not changed over the past 5 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 indicated a very slight **increase** to **0.3%** of all patient visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) in Stark County. The National level of ILI visits continued to **decrease** to 1.7%. The National level remains below the baseline level of 2.3%. (See Graph 2)
- Combined Constitutional and Respiratory visits to Emergency Departments in Stark County **increased** to **20.08%** from 18.66 in week 2, but remain below expected for this time of year. The overall number of total patient visits by Stark County residents to emergency departments has also increased slightly. Note: The highest average number of visits for these syndromes usually occurs in CDC week 7 (late February) and is 26.79%. (See Graph 3)
- For week 03, both Cough/Cold (C/C) Products and Thermometer sales **increased** slightly. Both of these influenza surveillance indicators remain below expected for this time of year. Of note, the majority of the increase in Cough/Cold products was seen in pediatric antifever medicines. Antifever medicines tend to track in a similar pattern as other significant influenza indicators. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- According to 56 area schools reporting absenteeism information, the median percentage of student absenteeism is 4.1%. This represents a **slight increase** from week 2, but overall remains very low for this time of year. (See graph 6)
- Once again, no states reported 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)*.
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **increased to 8.3%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **above** the epidemic threshold of 7.7% for week 3.

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

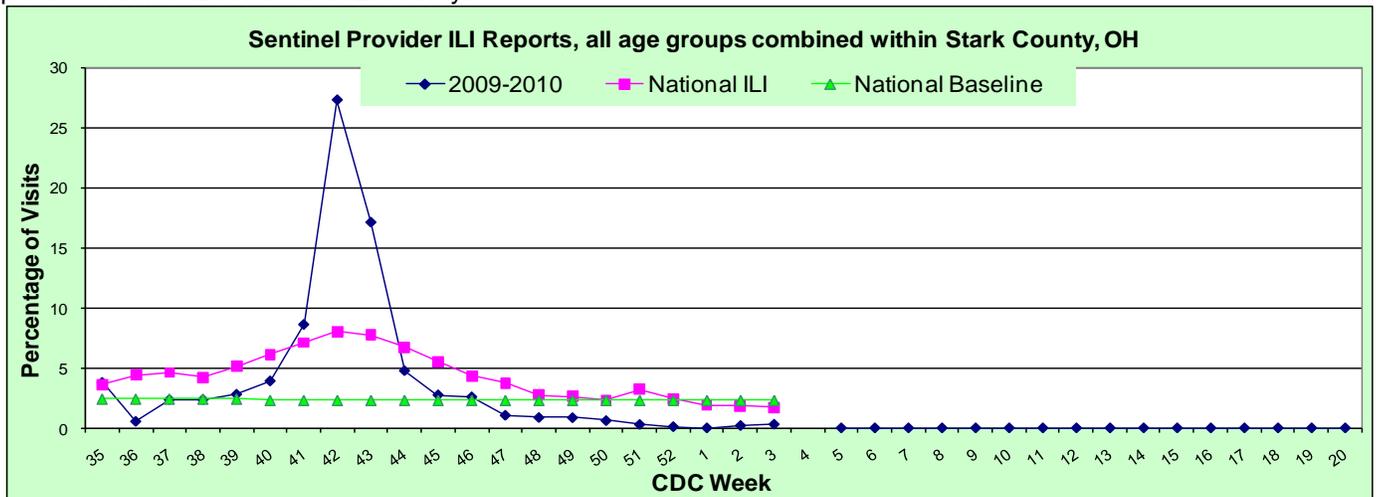
Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

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

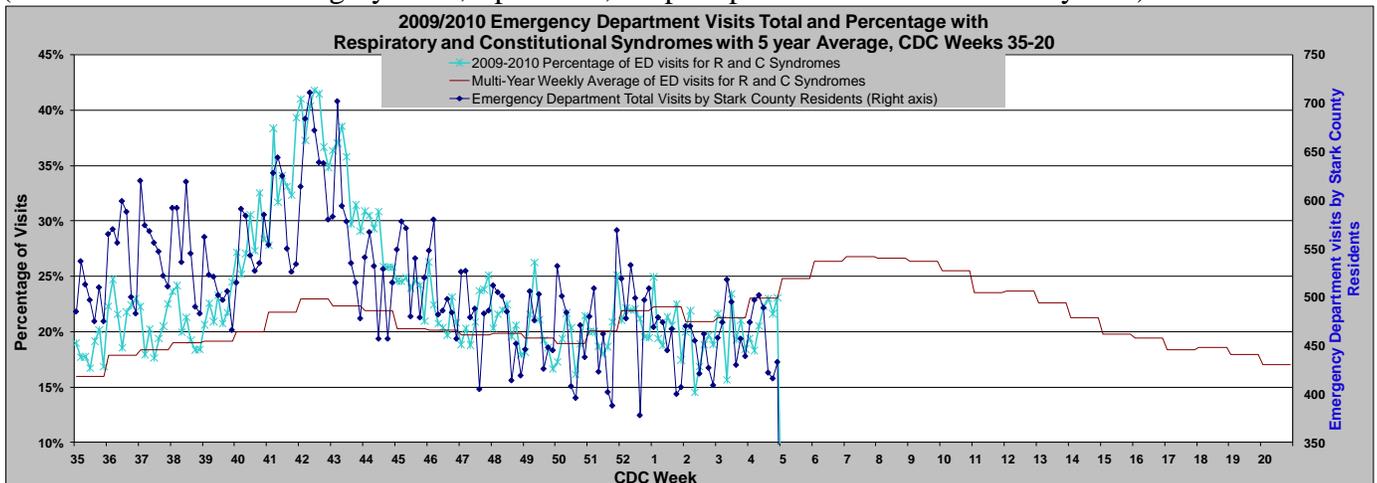


Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

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.

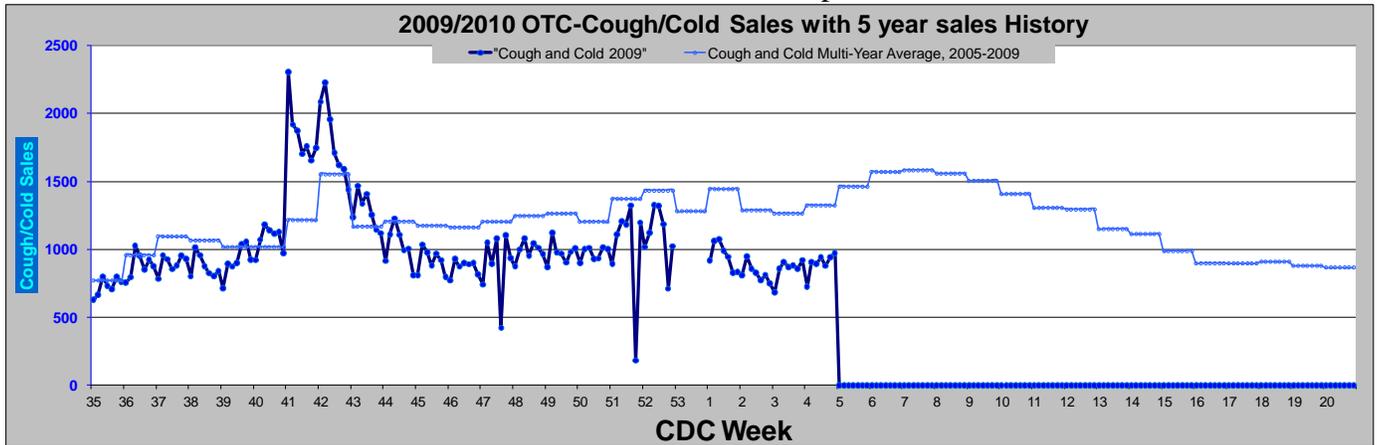


Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes (Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)



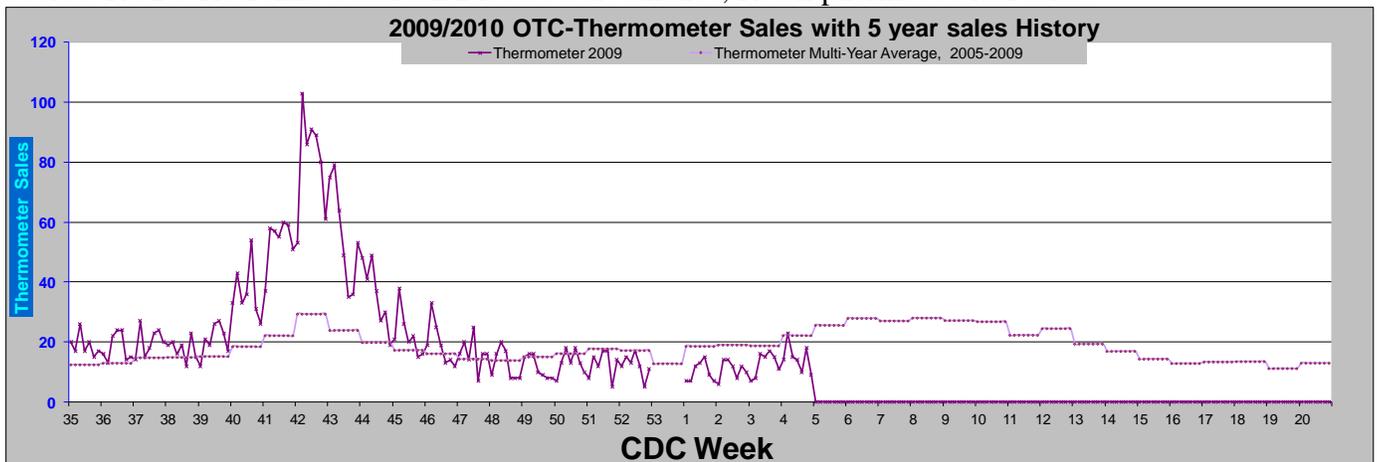
Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County

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.)

