



STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 38

Week 38 ending September 26, 2009, with updates through 10/04/2009.

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

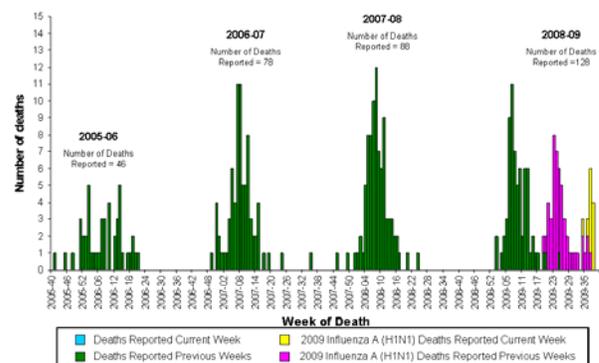
During week 38 (September 20-September 26, 2009), influenza activity continued to increase locally, statewide, and nationally.

- An **increase** in the number of medically provided positive influenza patients was observed in Stark County with **NO** influenza-associated hospitalizations. As observed in the graph 1, one influenza-associated hospitalization was reported in week 39. See Graph for details.
- Of the medically reported cases, not hospitalized, the average age is 17.5 years with a range of 0.7 to 53 years and a median of 14 years. Cases are widely throughout the county, appearing in 17 different zip codes.
- Sentinel Provider reports for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) **increased** in Stark County. The National level of ILI visits continue to be elevated above the national baseline, however they decreased slightly from the previous week. (See Graph 2)
- Total Emergency Department visits in Stark County **decreased** from an average of 550 in week 37 to 510 in week 38; this is still 3.55% **above** the multi-year average.
- Combined Constitutional and Respiratory visits to Emergency Departments in Stark County remained nearly **constant** from the previous week. However, Constitutional and Respiratory visits are still 9.3% above the weekly average. (See Graph 3)
- Over-The Counter sales of Thermometers continue to be **elevated** above the 5-year average (19% above baseline). Following 5 consecutive weeks of increase, Cough/Cold Product sales **decreased** slightly, remaining **below** the 5-year average.
- The state of Ohio Influenza Activity Level **increased** to Widespread Activity. The United States continues to see geographic spread of influenza activity with 27 states now reporting Widespread activity. (See US Map)

In Ohio, Widespread Activity is defined as Increased ILI in at least half of the regions AND recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the state.

- Clusters of Influenza continue to be identified in Ohio. During the previous week, clusters were identified in Allen, Clark and Lucas counties.
- Nationally, the CDC identified **99%** 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 **remained at 6.1%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **below** the epidemic threshold of 6.4% for week 38.
- Concerning this week is continued reports of pediatric deaths, 11 were reported in week 38. The small chart on the right indicates a third wave of pediatric deaths, the most recent are entirely from the nH1N1 strain of influenza.

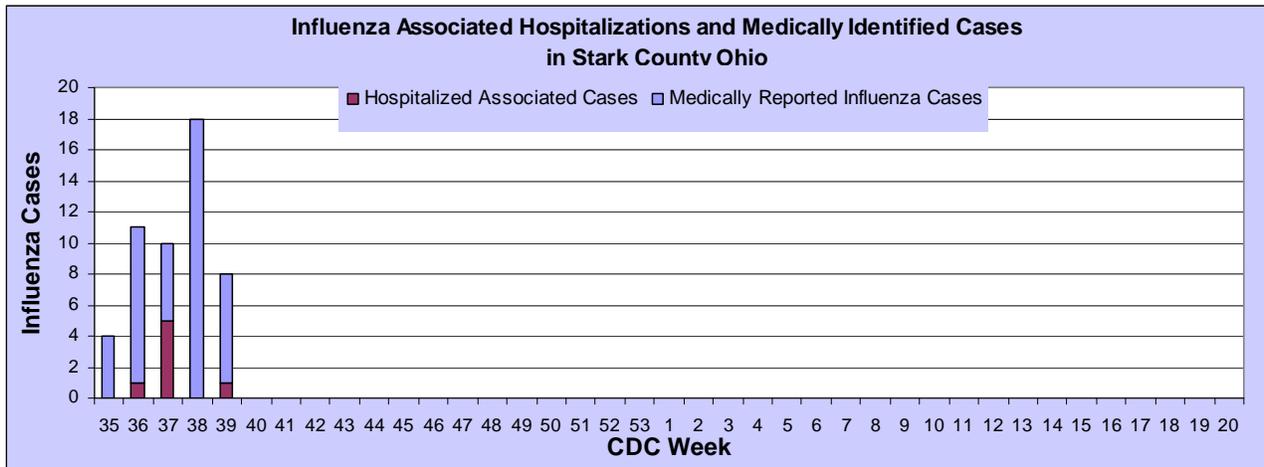
Number of Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths
by Week of Death:
2005-06 season to present



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

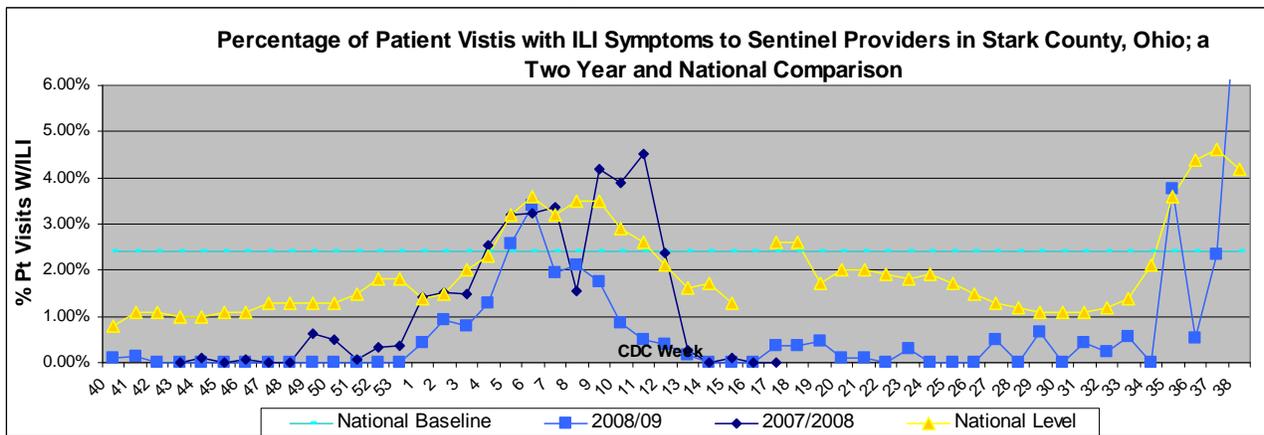
Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

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



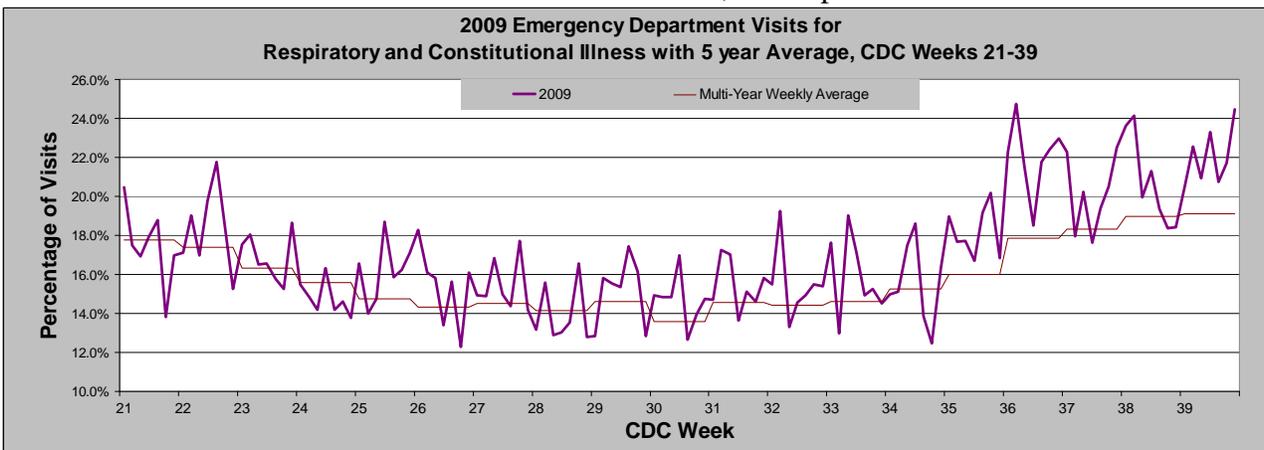
Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

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.

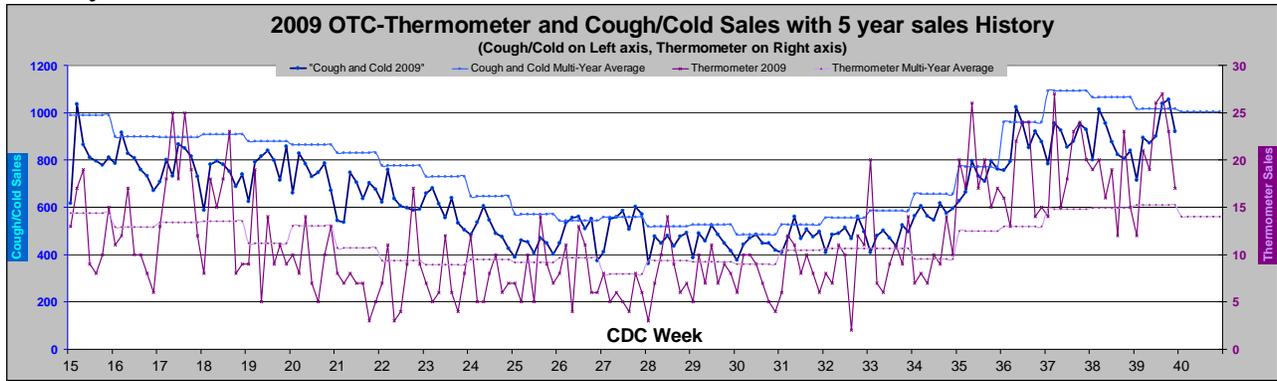


Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes

Source: RODS Real time Outbreak Disease Surveillance, Retail pharmaceutical sales.



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



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

