



**Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department  
Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit**



## **Travis County Influenza Surveillance**

This report contains data for the 2012-2013 Influenza Season through August 31, 2013 (MMWR<sup>1</sup> week 35).

### **Situation Update:**

- Nationally, 49 states (AK had insufficient data) report experiencing minimal influenza activity. Locally, influenza activity continues to trend with previous seasonal trends. Levels remain low
- Statewide, three (1.73%) specimens tested in influenza surveillance labs in Texas were positive for influenza. Locally, one specimen submitted in the past month tested positive for 2009 H1N1.
- In Texas, the percentage of visits for influenza-like illness as reported by ILINet providers was 2.56%. Locally, the percentage of visits was 1.39%.
- The number of deaths attributed to pneumonia has trended near the levels typically observed in the summer nationally. There has been an increase locally; however, none of these deaths have been attributed to influenza.

### **Epidemiologic Overview:**

- While influenza officially begins September 29<sup>th</sup>, flu viruses circulate in the US and Travis County throughout the year.

### **H3N2v:**

- Nationally, there have been 18 cases of H3N2 variant reported this summer; none were from Texas. One person was hospitalized and no deaths have occurred
- All cases of H3N2v reported close contact with swine in the week prior to the illness. No ongoing human-to human transmission has been identified.

### **H7N9:**

- Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services continues to monitor the H7N9 situation. No cases of H7N9 have been reported in the United States.

For more information, visit [H7N9 Influenza](#).



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### Preventive Actions:

- The CDC recommends that anyone six months of age and older should be vaccinated for the flu every flu season. Individuals who are at high risk are especially advised to be vaccinated. High risk individuals are as follows:
  - Persons 65 years of age and older
  - Pregnant women
  - Individuals with certain chronic medical conditions, including diabetes, asthma, heart and lung disease
  - Health care workers
  - Individuals who live with and/or care for high risk individuals
- In addition to the vaccine, there are certain preventive measures an individual can take to prevent the flu:
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap is not available.
  - Practice proper sneezing and coughing measures.
  - Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes.
  - Avoid coming into contact with an individual who is sick.
  - If you are sick, stay home until you are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

***Although these preventive actions are highly recommended they do not take the place of the flu vaccine.***

*For additional information about Influenza surveillance, contact:*

*The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit at (512) 972-5555*

Other Helpful Resources:

[Texas Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)



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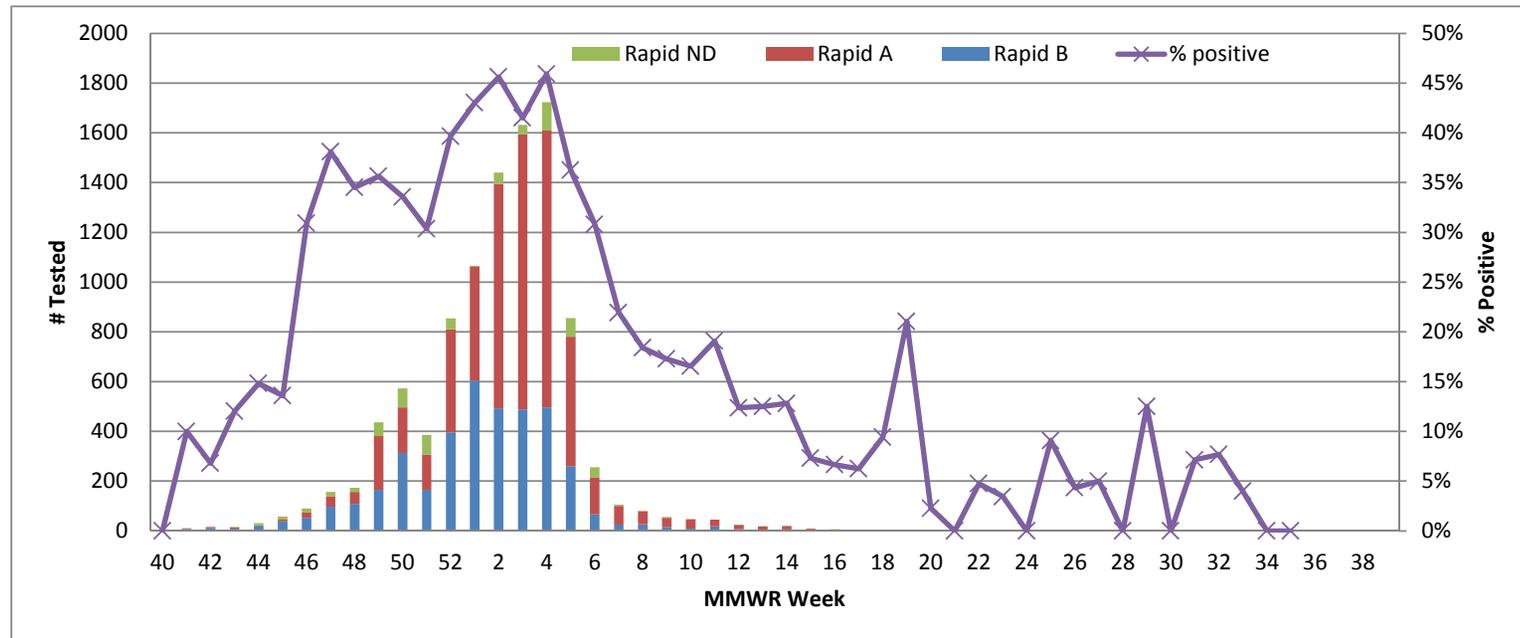


**Figure 1. Influenza Surveillance, Travis County Providers** <sup>4,5,6</sup>

Week Ending	7/13/2013	7/20/2013	7/27/2013	8/3/2013	8/10/2013	8/17/2013	8/24/2013	8/31/2013
MMWR Week	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
# Influenza Rapid Tests Performed	716	433	276	259	68	38	49	47
# Total Positive Influenza Tests	84	23	14	16	3	5	7	4
% Positive Influenza Tests	11.7%	5.3%	5.1%	6.2%	4.4%	13.2%	14.3%	8.5%
# Positive A Influenza	75	19	8	7	1	2	4	1
# Positive B Influenza	7	3	3	3	1	1	1	2
# Non-Differentiated Influenza <sup>3</sup>	2	1	3	6	1	2	2	1

Data source: Austin/Travis County Influenza surveillance reporters

**Figure 2. Number Tested and Percent Positive Rapid Influenza Tests by Week, Travis County: 2012-2013 Influenza Season** <sup>4,5,6,8</sup>



Data source: Austin/Travis County Influenza surveillance reporters

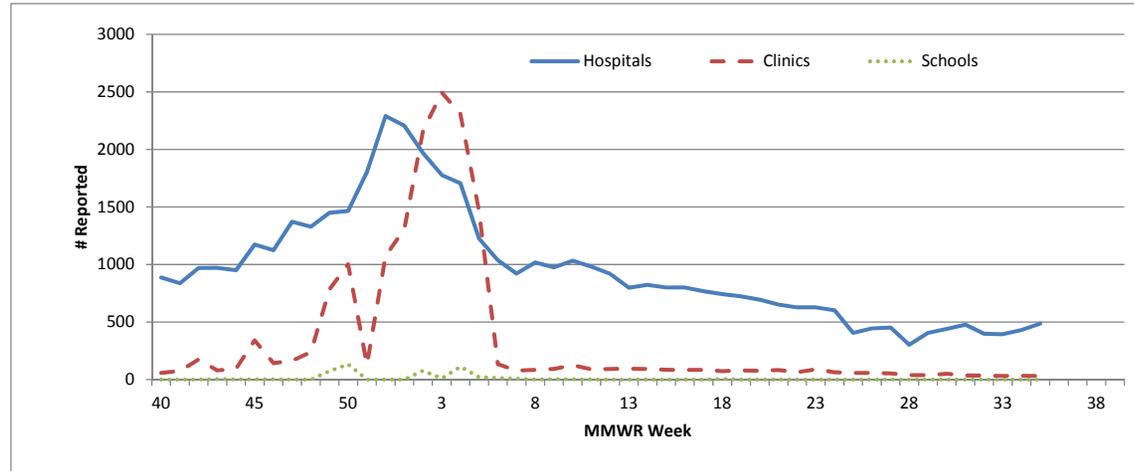
Austin/Travis County influenza surveillance does not attempt to capture all cases of influenza or influenza-like illness. These data should be used for trending purposes over time and for identifying types/strains of influenza that are occurring in the Austin area rather than for estimating the total number of cases.



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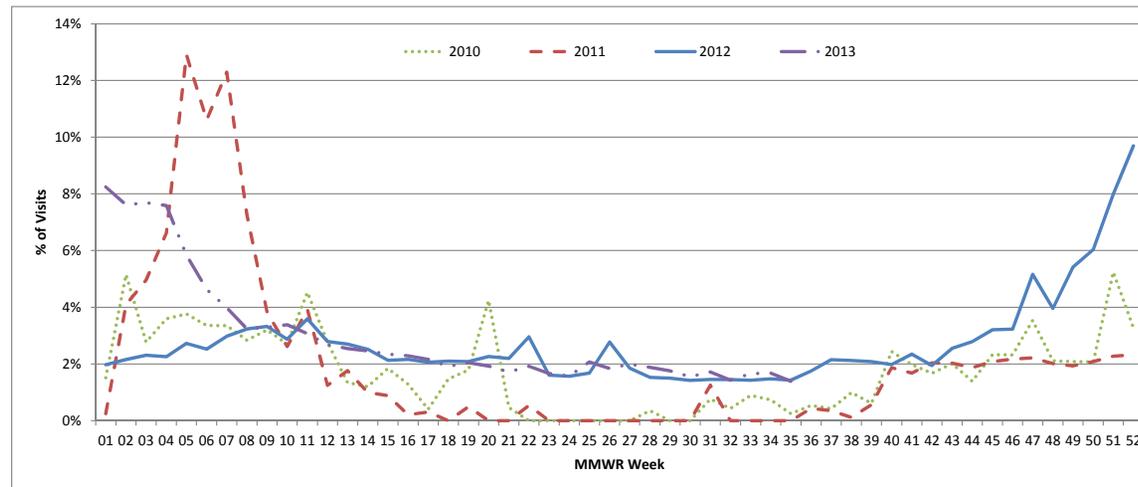


**Figure 3. Rapid Influenza Tests by Week and Provider Type, Travis County: 2012-2013 Influenza Season<sup>4,5,6,8</sup>**



Data source: Austin/Travis County Influenza surveillance reporters

**Figure 4. Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like-Illness Reported by Travis County Participants in ILINet: 2009-2013<sup>8</sup>**



Data source: CDC ILI.net system

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**Figure 5. Travis County Confirmed Influenza Test Results:**<sup>2,9,10</sup>

	09/23/2012 - 11/24/2012	11/25/2012 - 1/26/2013	1/27/2013 - 3/23/2013	3/24/2013 - 5/25/2013	05/26/2013 - 7/27/2013	7/27/2013 - 9/21/2013
MMWR Week	38-46	47-3	4-12	13-21	22-29	30-38*
Influenza A (Total Positive PCR Tests)	3	20	29	1	0	1
Subtype	Seasonal H1N1	0	0	3	1	0
	Season H3N2	3	20	26	0	0
	Not Subtyped	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza B (Total Positive PCR Tests)	4	27**	4	0	0	0
PCR Negative Specimens	2	22	28	6	0	3

\* Incomplete data

\*\* 1 test was culture confirmed rather than PCR confirmed

Data source: Austin/Travis County Influenza surveillance reporters and the Department of State Health Services lab

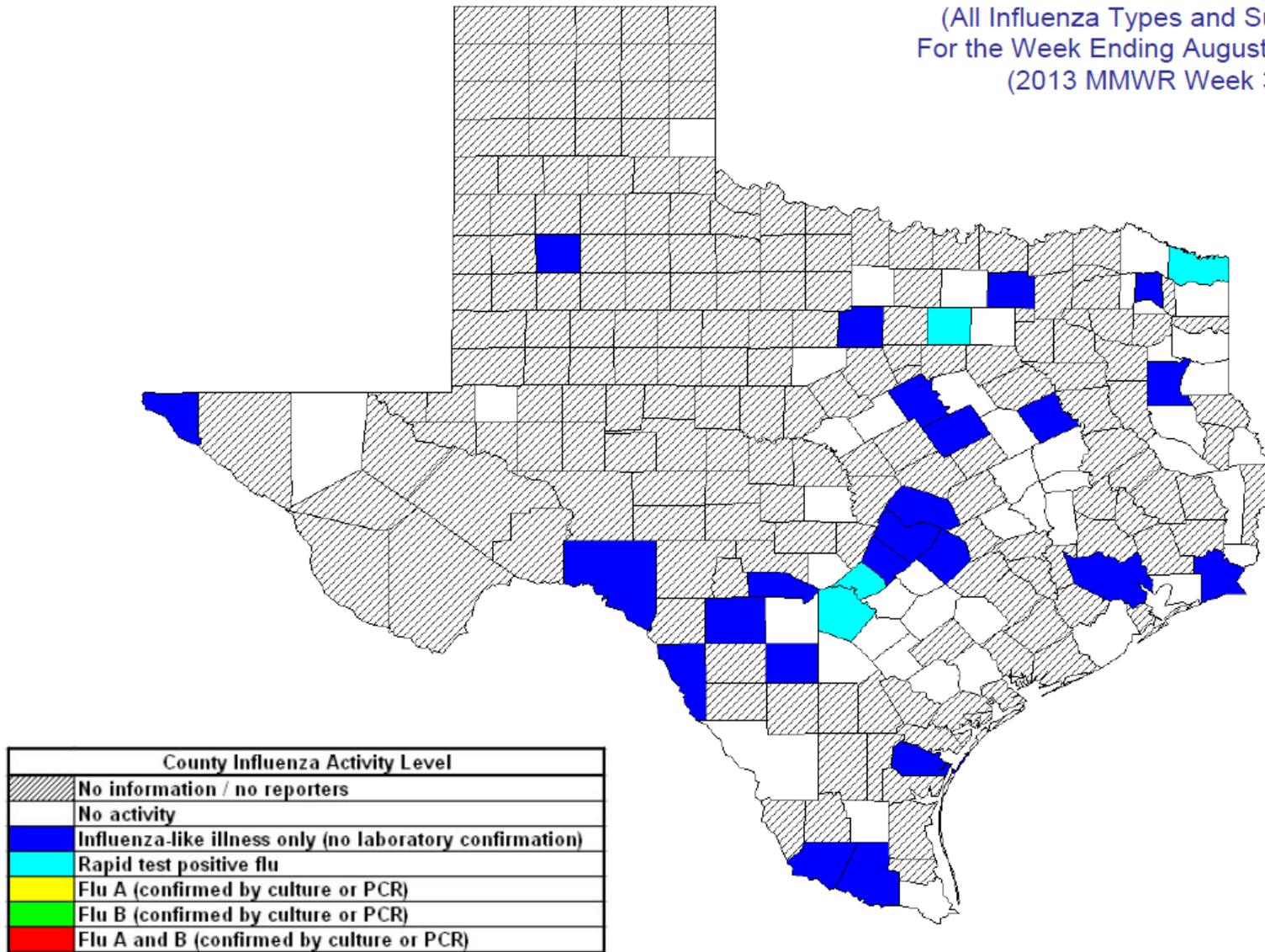


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Figure 7. Statewide Influenza Activity<sup>10,12,13</sup>

Statewide Influenza Activity  
(All Influenza Types and Subtypes)  
For the Week Ending August 31, 2013  
(2013 MMWR Week 35)



This chart was obtained from the Texas Influenza Surveillance Report <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/Influenza/surveillance/2013/>

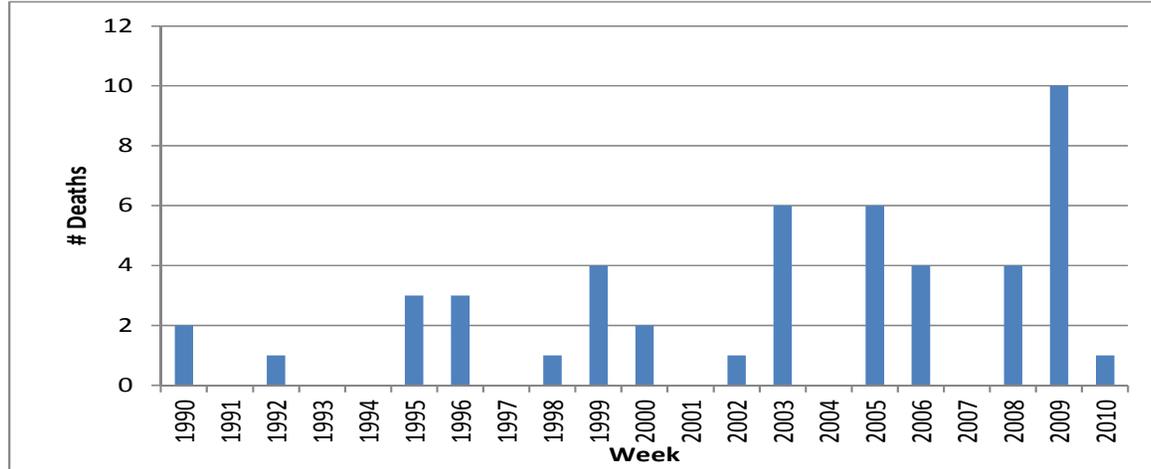
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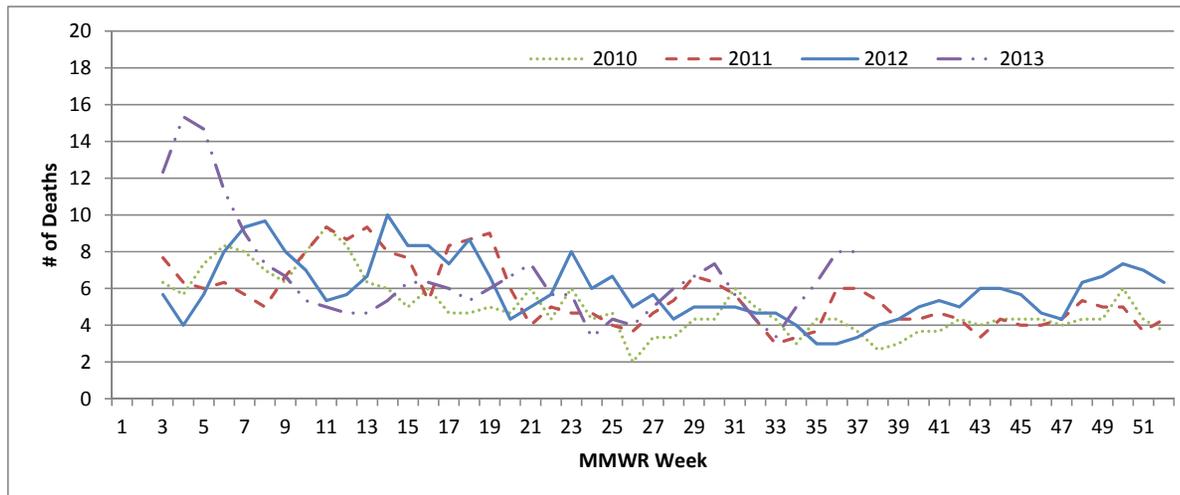


**Figure 8. Annual Influenza Related Mortality,  
Travis County: 1990-2009**



Data source: Texas Department of State Health Services <http://soupin.tdh.state.tx.us/deathdoc.htm> Data as of September 12, 2012

**Figure 9. City of Austin Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:  
2010-2013**



Data source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention 122 Cities Mortality: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwmort.asp>

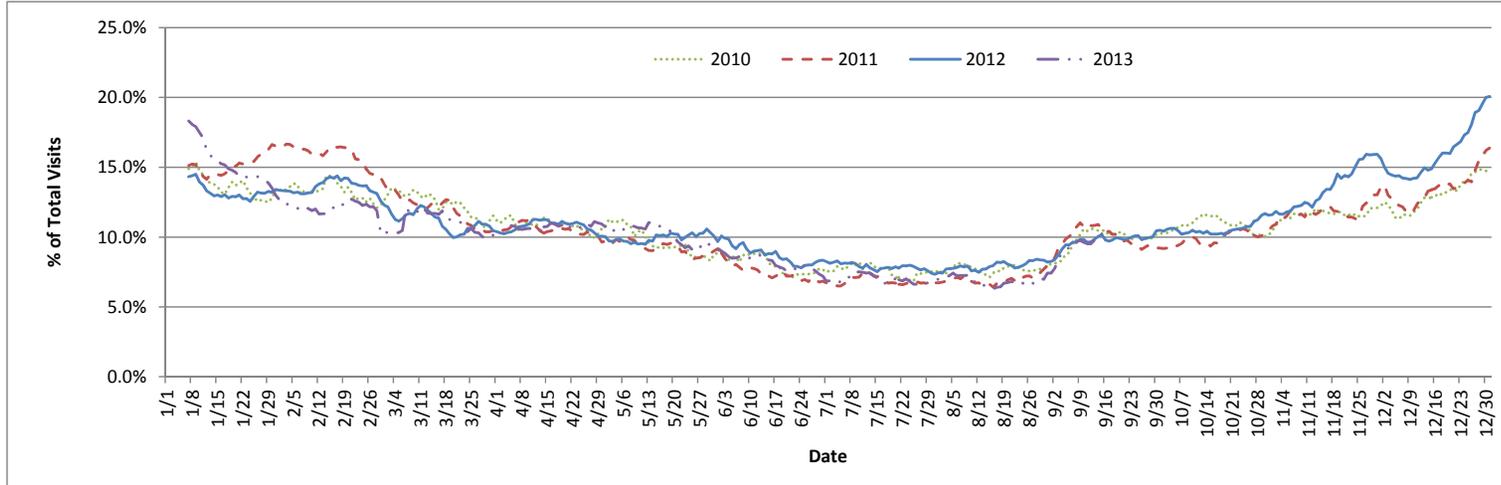
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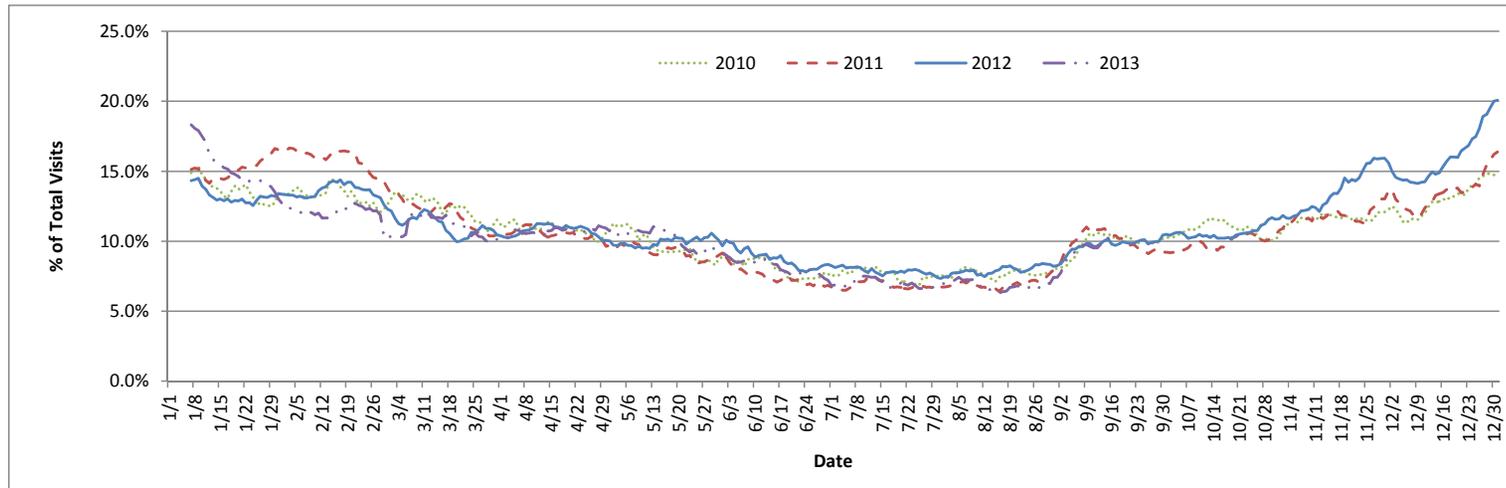


**Figure 10. RODS Syndromic Surveillance for the Respiratory Prodrome Category,  
Travis County: 2010-2013**



Data source: University of Pittsburgh Real-time Outbreak and Disease Surveillance System. Data is an aggregation of Austin area chief complaint hospital data

**Figure 11. RODS Syndromic Surveillance for Influenza-Like-Illness,  
Travis County: 2010-2013**



Data source: University of Pittsburgh Real-time Outbreak and Disease Surveillance System. Data is an aggregation of Austin area chief complaint hospital data

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**Figure 12. Texas Respiratory Laboratory Results: MMWR Week 35**

Virus	Number of Laboratories Testing	Tests Performed	Positive Tests	Percentage of Tests Positive
Influenza	7	173	3	1.73%
Adenovirus (respiratory)	5	255	8	3.14%
HMPV	5	144	3	2.08%
Parainfluenza virus	6	271	7	2.58%
Rhinovirus	2	92	21	22.83%
RSV	13	134	3	2.24%

- 1 MMWR is the Morbidity and Mortality weekly report week published by the CDC.
- 2 PCR testing is performed for specimens referred by area sentinel Influenza surveillance reporters. Providers interested in becoming sentinel providers may call the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit at (512) 972-5555.
- 3 Influenza A is commonly split into 2 subtypes: H1N1 and H3N2. Both strains can circulate each Influenza season.
- 4 Influenza is not a reportable condition in Texas; therefore, data is provided by sentinel surveillance reporters and is only a sample of the Influenza activity occurring in the Austin/Travis County area.
- 5 Data represent rapid Influenza testing; these tests provide quick results reporting only Influenza A or B (no subtyping). Early in the flu season, results should be used with caution due to false positive results which can occur, especially during times when Influenza activity is low.
- 6 Influenza data is collected from a variety of reporters; the number of reporters can vary from week to week.
- 7 Non-Differentiated refers to rapid test results that do not differentiate between Influenza A and B.
- 8 Data for Austin/Travis County ILI reporters only; the number of reporters can vary from week to week.
- 9 Influenza is confirmed via PCR testing and a further subtyping may be performed. PCR testing is performed for specimens referred by area Influenza surveillance reporters.
- 10 Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date or date received in the lab if the former is unknown.
- 11 Antigenic characterization and antiviral resistance is obtained from the Texas Influenza Surveillance Report <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/Influenza/surveillance/2013/>.
- 12 Influenza activity level corresponds to the current MMWR week only and does not reflect the previous weeks' activity.
- 13 The majority of Influenza cases are not reportable by law to the Texas Department of State Health Services. This map contains data from sentinel sites and does not represent all Influenza cases in the state.

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