



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



## **Travis County Influenza Surveillance**

This report contains data for the 2013-2014 Influenza Season through October 26, 2013 (MMWR<sup>1</sup> week 43).

### **Situation Update:**

- National flu activity remains low across most of the country; however slightly elevated activity is occurring in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Increases throughout the country are expected in the coming weeks. Those who have not yet gotten the flu vaccine for the 2013-14 flu season should do so now.
- Nationally, 4.5% of the specimens tested were positive for influenza ranging, from 0.5% to 11% depending on the region. Statewide, the percent positive was 1.82%, and locally no specimens submitted via polymerase chain reaction (PCR)<sup>2</sup> tested positive for influenza.
- The influenza strains circulating nationally are influenza A H3N2 (15.2%)<sup>16</sup>, influenza A H1N1 (60.7%)<sup>16</sup> and influenza B (24.1%)<sup>16</sup>. No antiviral resistance has been reported. Texas also reports influenza A H3N2 (28.6%), influenza A H1N1 (57.1%) and influenza B (14.3%).
- Nationally, influenza-like illness (ILI) is below baseline. In Texas, the percentage of visits for influenza-like illness as reported by ILINet providers was 3.78% which is slightly below baseline. Locally, the percentage of visits was 2.2%.
- Nationally, pneumonia and influenza deaths are below the epidemic threshold. Locally these deaths have trended near seasonal levels and none of these deaths have been attributed to influenza.

### **H3N2v:**

- Nationally, there have been 19 cases of H3N2 variant reported this summer; none were from Texas. One person was hospitalized and no deaths have occurred.
- All cases of H3N2v have mostly been associated with prolonged exposure to pigs at agricultural fairs. Limited human-to-human spread of this virus has been detected in the past but no sustained or community spread has been identified. CDC reports that it is possible for sporadic infections and even localized outbreaks to continue to occur.



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### H7N9:

- No cases of H7N9 have been reported in the United States. The CDC reports the risk to people in the United States is considered to be low at this time.
- For more information, visit [H7N9 Influenza](#).

### 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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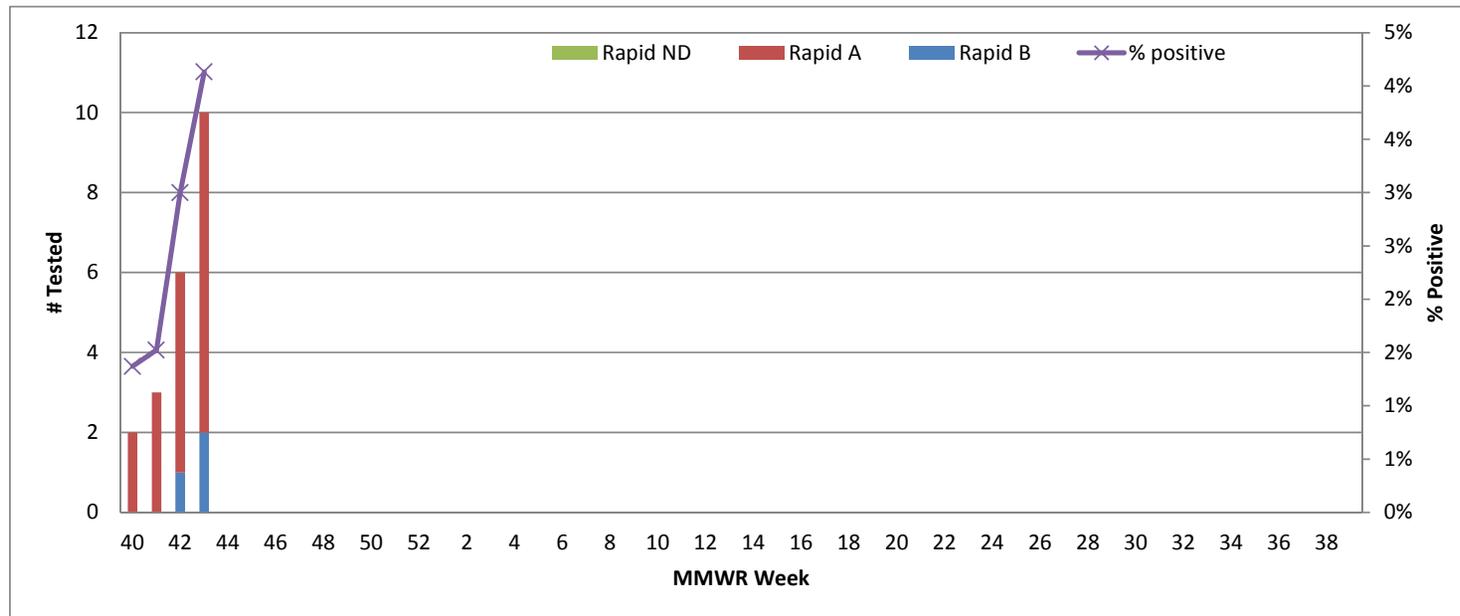


**Figure 1. Influenza Surveillance, Travis County Providers** <sup>4,5,6</sup>

Week Ending	9/7/2013	9/14/2013	9/21/2013	9/28/2013	10/5/2013	10/12/2013	10/19/2013	10/26/2013
MMWR Week	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
# Influenza Rapid Tests Performed	28	94	54	69	98	140	137	212
# Total Positive Influenza Tests	0	6	2	4	2	3	4	12
% Positive Influenza Tests	0.0%	6.4%	3.7%	5.8%	2.0%	2.1%	2.9%	5.7%
# Positive A Influenza	0	6	2	3	2	3	3	11
# Positive B Influenza	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	1
# Non-Differentiated Influenza <sup>3</sup>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

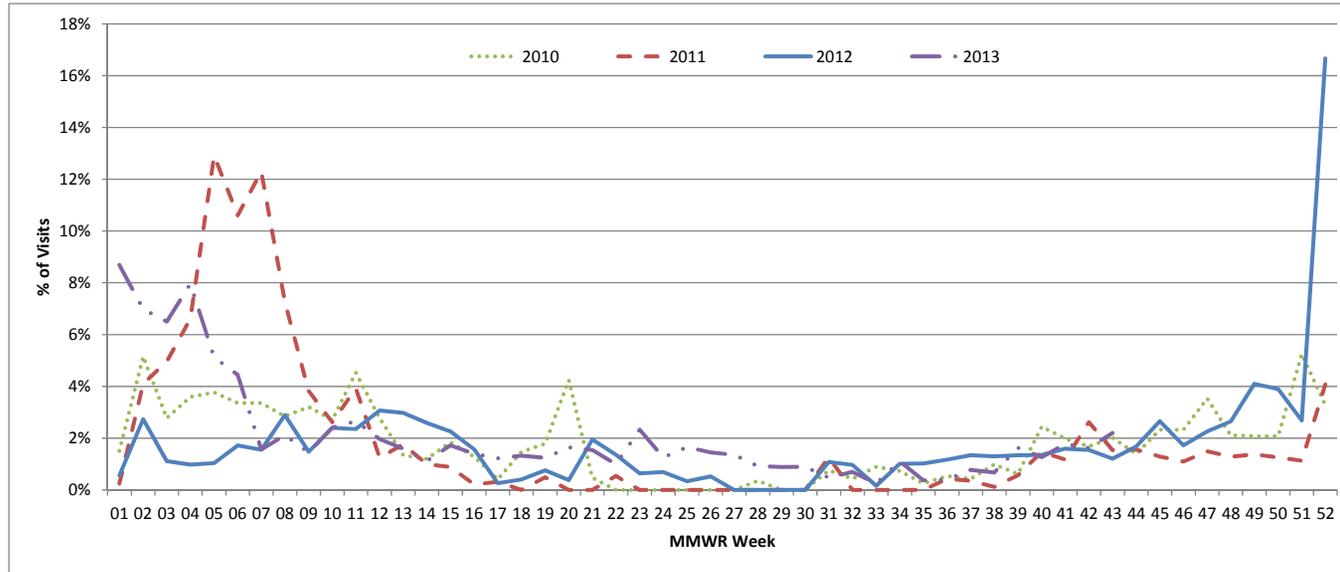
Austin/Travis County influenza surveillance does not attempt to capture all cases of influenza or influenza-like illness. These data should be used for trending purposes over time and for identifying types/strains of influenza that are occurring in the Austin area rather than for estimating the total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



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**Figure 3. 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

**Figure 4. Travis County Confirmed Influenza Test Results:<sup>2,9,10</sup>**

	11/25/2012 - 1/26/2013	1/27/2013 - 3/23/2013	3/24/2013 - 5/25/2013	05/26/2013 - 7/27/2013	7/28/2013 - 9/28/2013	9/29/2013 - 11/2/2013
MMWR Week	47-3	4-12	13-21	22-30	31-39	40-44
Influenza A (Total Positive PCR Tests)	20	29	1	0	1	0
Subtype	Seasonal H1N1	0	3	1	0	1
	Season H3N2	20	26	0	0	0
	Not Subtyped	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza B (Total Positive PCR Tests)	27**	4	0	0	0	0
PCR Negative Specimens	22	28	6	0	9	1

\* Incomplete data.

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\*\* 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

**Figure 5. Influenza Testing by Texas Laboratories<sup>11, 14</sup>**

<b>Week 43</b>	
Number of labs reporting flu tests	13
Number of specimens tested	579
Number of positive specimens (%) <sup>†</sup>	14 (2.42%)
Percentage of total tests that were antigen detection tests	40.1%
<b>Positive specimens by type/subtype [n (%)]</b>	
<b>Influenza A</b>	<b>13 (92.9%)</b>
Subtyping performed	6 (46.2%)
A (H1N1)	4 (66.7%)
A (H3N2)	2 (33.3%)
Subtyping not performed	7 (53.8%)
<b>Influenza B</b>	<b>1 (7.1%)</b>

<sup>†</sup>Laboratory data in 2013-2014 season reports may not be comparable to reports from previous seasons because of the inclusion of DSHS and LRN laboratory data for the current season.

**Texas Antigenic Characterization<sup>11</sup>**

*Influenza A (H1N1) [1]*

- One virus was related to A/California/07/2009. This virus strain was included in the 2013-2014 influenza vaccine for the Northern Hemisphere.

**Texas Antiviral Resistance<sup>11</sup>**

No antiviral resistance testing data for Texas specimens are available at this time.

**Figure 6. Texas Respiratory Laboratory Results<sup>5</sup>**

<b>Virus</b>	<b>Number of Laboratories Testing</b>	<b>Tests Performed</b>	<b>Positive Tests</b>	<b>Percentage of Tests Positive</b>
Adenovirus (respiratory)	5	277	17	6.14%
HMPV	4	275	1	0.36%
Parainfluenza virus	6	292	23	7.88%
Rhinovirus	2	257	85	33.07%
RSV <sup>†</sup>	12	135	17	12.59%

<sup>†</sup>RSV tests displayed in the table are antigen detection tests only. Some non-NREVSS reporters also contribute to the RSV data.

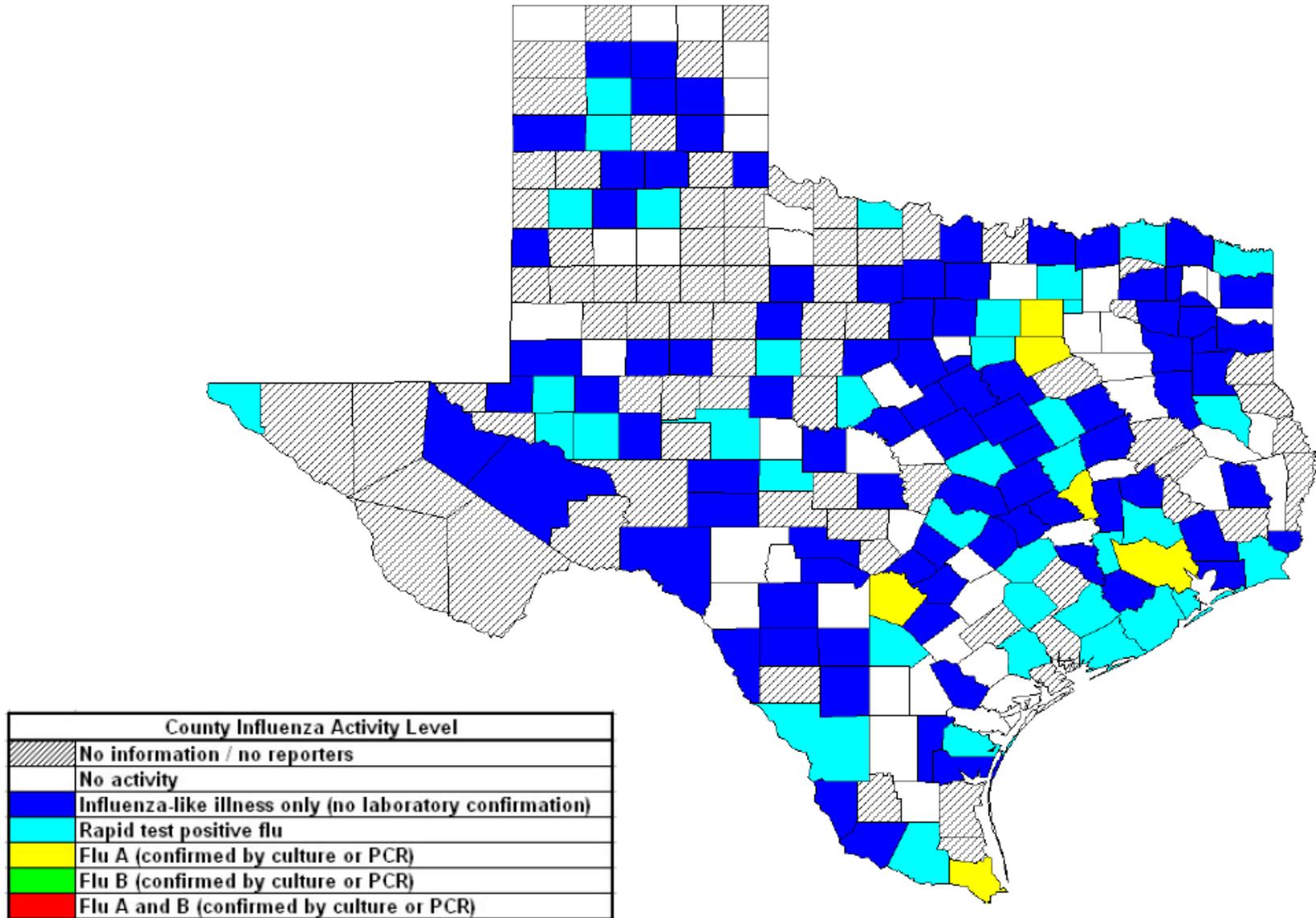
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Figure 7. Statewide Influenza Activity<sup>10,12,13</sup>



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

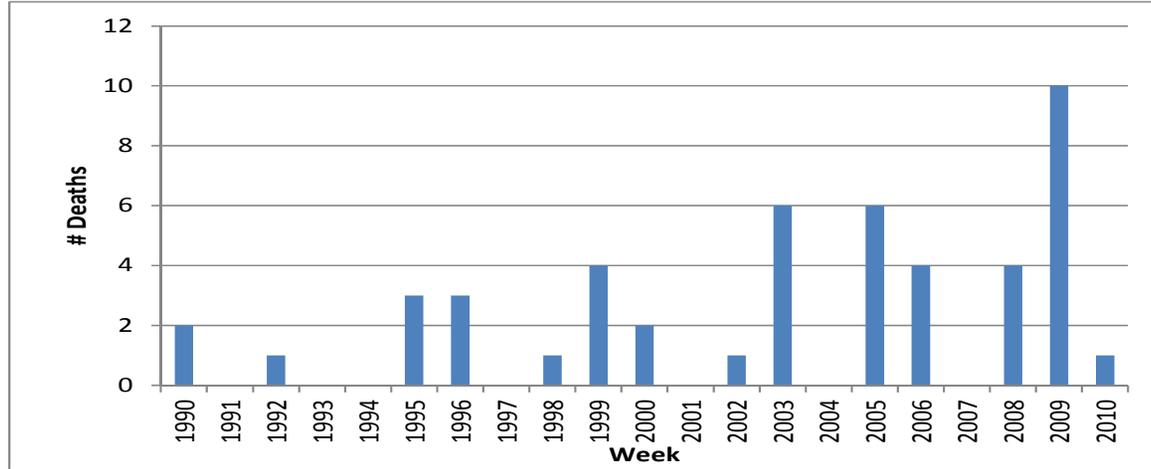
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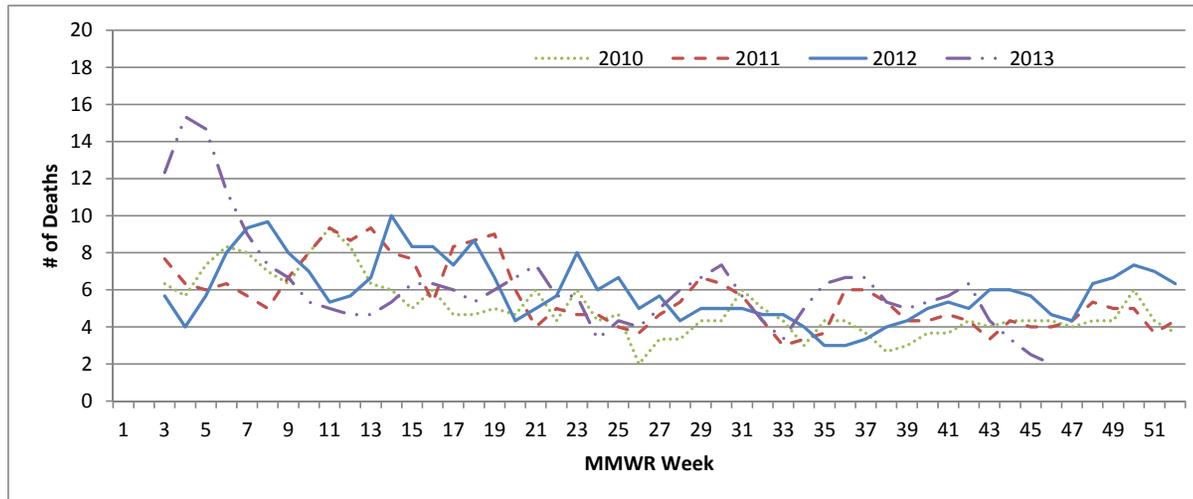


**Figure 8. Annual Influenza Related Mortality,  
Travis County: 1990-2010**



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>

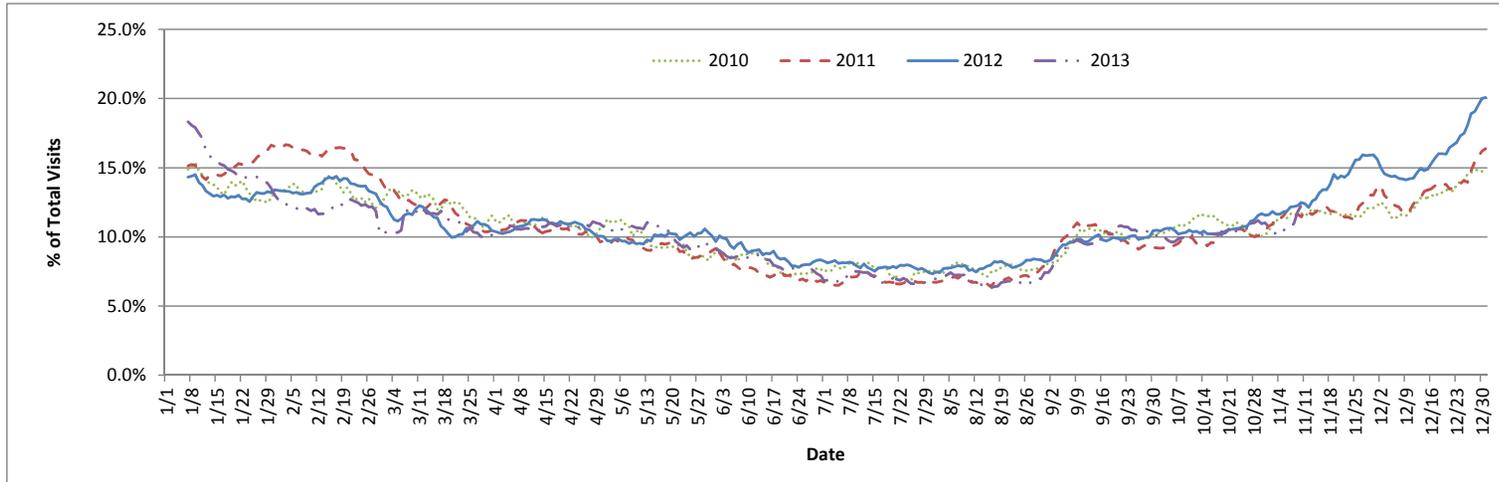
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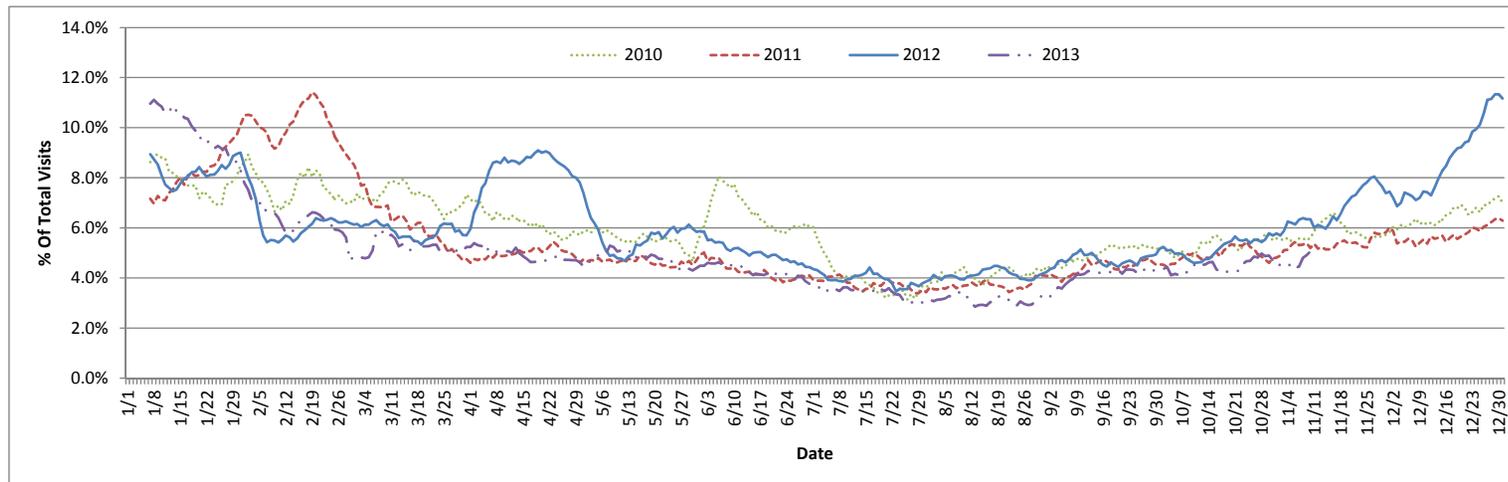


Figure 10. RODS Syndromic Surveillance for the Respiratory Prodrôme Category,  
Travis County: 2010-2013



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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- 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.
- 14 Laboratory data in 2013-2014 season reports may not be comparable to reports from previous seasons because of the inclusion of DSHS and LRN laboratory data for the current season.
- 15 Some non-NREVSS reporters also contribute to the RSV data.
- 16 Percentages based on the total number of specimens B positive and subtyped A specimens.