



Regional Update EW 15

Influenza
(April 26, 2011 - 17 h GMT; 12 h EST)

PAHO interactive influenza data: http://ais.paho.org/phip/viz/ed_flu.asp

Influenza Regional Reports: http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3352&Itemid=2469&to=2246

The information presented in this update is based on data provided by Ministries of Health and National Influenza Centers of Member States to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) or from updates on the Member States' Ministry of Health web pages.

- In Canada, influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate increased slightly, however all other indicators of influenza activity decreased; influenza B accounted for a greater proportion than influenza A. In the United States, the ILI activity was below the baseline; there has been a co-circulation of influenza A and B. In Mexico, the predominant circulating respiratory virus has been influenza A/H1N1 2009 in the last 5 weeks.
- Influenza activity in Central America, the Caribbean, the Andean Region and the South Cone remained low. There has been a co-circulation of influenza A and B.

Epidemiologic and virologic influenza update

North America

In Canada¹, in epidemiological week (EW) 15, the national influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate increased slightly compared to previous weeks; however it remains within the expected rate for this time of year. Children under 5 years of age had the highest ILI consultation rates (57.2 per 1,000 consultations). In EW 15, the percentage of samples positive for influenza was 10.3%, similar to the prior week; of which influenza B (63.1%) accounted for a greater proportion than influenza A (36.9%). Among the other respiratory viruses, the proportion of specimens positive for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) decreased to 11% of specimens tested.

In Mexico, in EW 15, among all samples tested, the percent positivity for influenza viruses was ~14%, which represents an increase as compared to EW 14 (9%). The predominant circulating respiratory virus has been influenza A/H1N1 2009 in the last 5 EWs, followed by influenza B.

In the United States², in EW 15, at the national level, the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI (1.3%) was below the national baseline. At the regional level, all ten regions reported ILI activity to be below their region-specific baseline. However, the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was at or above the epidemic threshold for 12 consecutive weeks. Four influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported this week. During EW 15, 6.8% of samples tested were positive for influenza [influenza A/H3 (39.3%), influenza type B (36.8%), untyped influenza A (24.4%) and influenza A/H1N1 2009 (13.4%)]. Of characterized influenza B viruses, 94.8% belong to the B/Victoria lineage and 5.2% belong to the B/Yamagata lineage.

Caribbean

CAREC^{*}, in EW 15, reported that the proportion of admissions for severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) (~1%) decreased as compared to the prior week (~2.5%). Children between 5 -14 years of age had the highest SARI admissions rate (2.8 per 100 consultations). No SARI deaths were reported in the EW 15. To date in 2011, there has been a co-circulation of influenza A/H1N1 2009 and influenza A/H3N2. A few samples were positive to respiratory viruses in EW 14. No influenza viruses have been detected since EW 13.

^{*} Participating CAREC member countries, which include, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, were assessed together

In Cuba, in EW 15, among all samples tested, the percent positivity for respiratory viruses remained in ~70% and no influenza viruses were detected this week. Based on the laboratory data, to date in 2011, influenza A/H3 has been the predominant influenza virus circulating. Among other respiratory viruses, adenovirus and parainfluenza were the predominant respiratory viruses detected in EW 15.

In Jamaica for EW 15, sentinel site data showed that the proportion of consultations for Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI) decreased by 0.1% compared to the previous week. The proportion of admissions due to SARI was less than 1% and remained stable compared to the previous week. The percentage of samples positive for influenza was 33.3% which represents an increase compared to the previous week (22.2%). To date in 2011, influenza type B has been the predominant virus circulating.

Central America

In Costa Rica, in EW 15, among all samples tested, the percent positivity for respiratory viruses decreased to 34% from 45% (EW 14); however, no influenza viruses were detected this week. To date in 2011, influenza B has been the primary influenza virus circulating, while adenovirus has been the primary respiratory virus circulating.

In Guatemala, in EW 15, among all samples tested, the percent positivity for respiratory viruses was ~50% and the percent positivity for influenza viruses was 33%. Influenza A/H3N2 has been the predominant respiratory virus in the last 3 EWs. Among other respiratory viruses, RSV and parainfluenza have been also circulating.

South America – Andean

In Colombia, the predominant influenza virus in EWs 14-15 was influenza A/H1N1 2009, the highest number of cases were reported in Nariño, Bogota y Valle. Among other respiratory viruses, RSV has been the predominant circulating respiratory virus during 2011.

In Venezuela³, according to the weekly epidemiological report, in EWs 14, the numbers of ARI cases decreased ~7% as compared to the prior week; however, it slightly remained above the endemic channel. The number of pneumonia cases remained similar to the prior weeks and within the endemic channel. Up to April 9th in 2011, among the samples positives for influenza (n=1466), 95% were influenza A/H1N1 2009, 4% were influenza A/H3 and <1% were influenza type B.

South America – Southern Cone

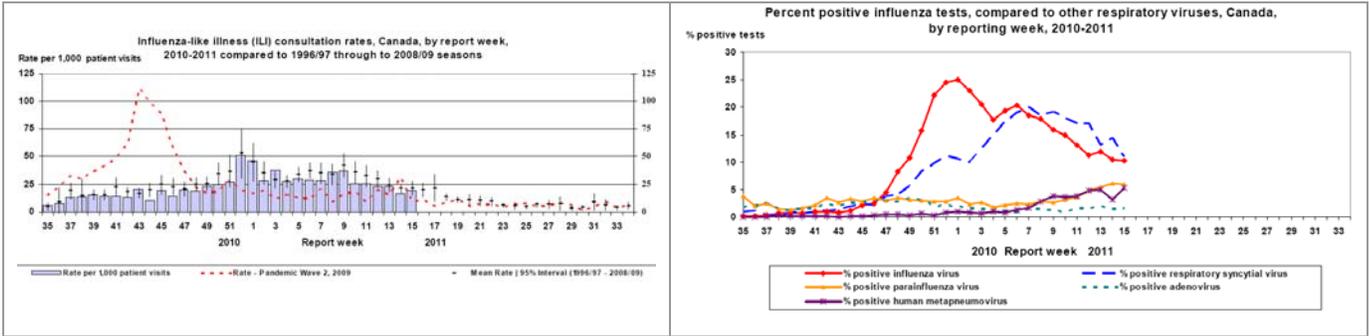
In Chile⁴, in EW 15, ILI activity remained low and within the expected level for this time of year. The proportion of emergency services consultations for respiratory illness, out of the total number of consultations, also remained within the expected level for this time of year. SRV and adenovirus have been the predominant respiratory virus in circulation to date in 2011.

In Paraguay⁵, in EW 15, the number of ILI cases slightly increased as compared to the prior week and remained above the endemic channel. Based on virological data, RSV has been the predominant circulating respiratory virus between EWs 6-15. No influenza viruses have been detected since EW 13.

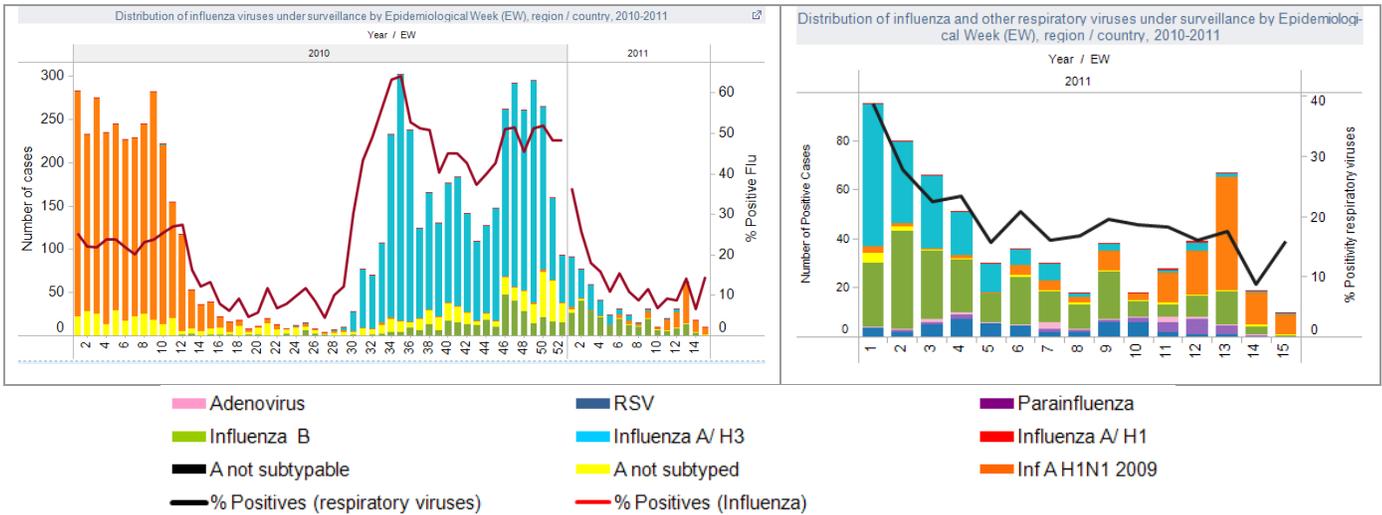
Graphs

North America

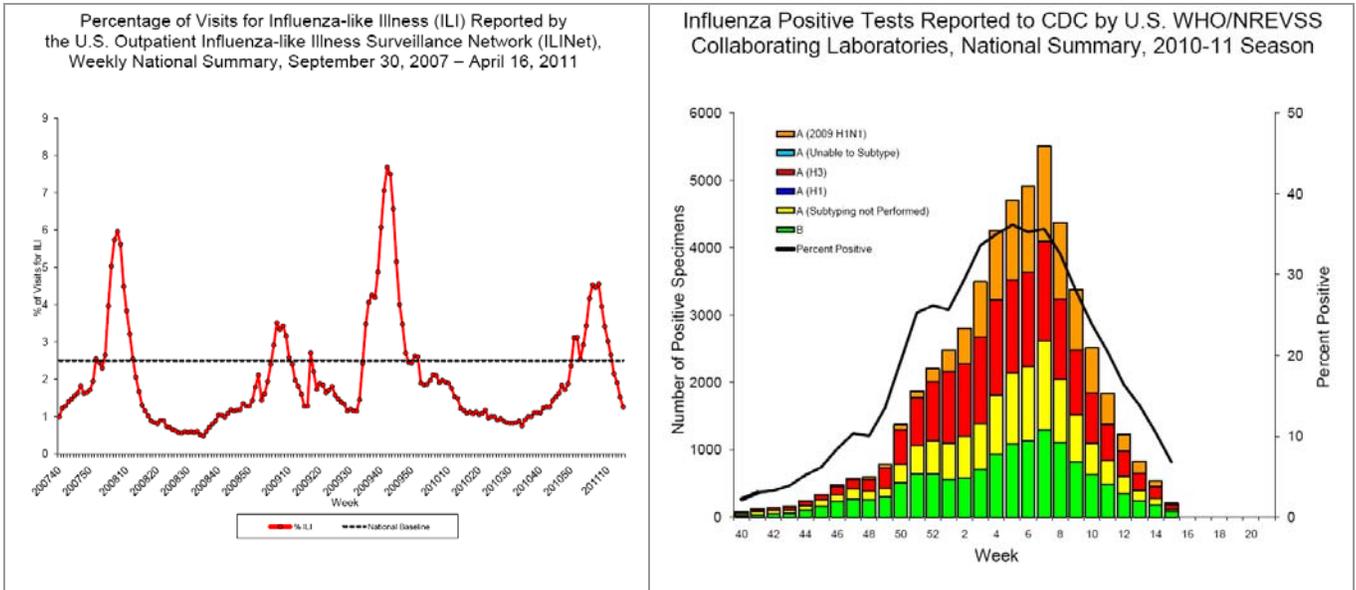
Canada



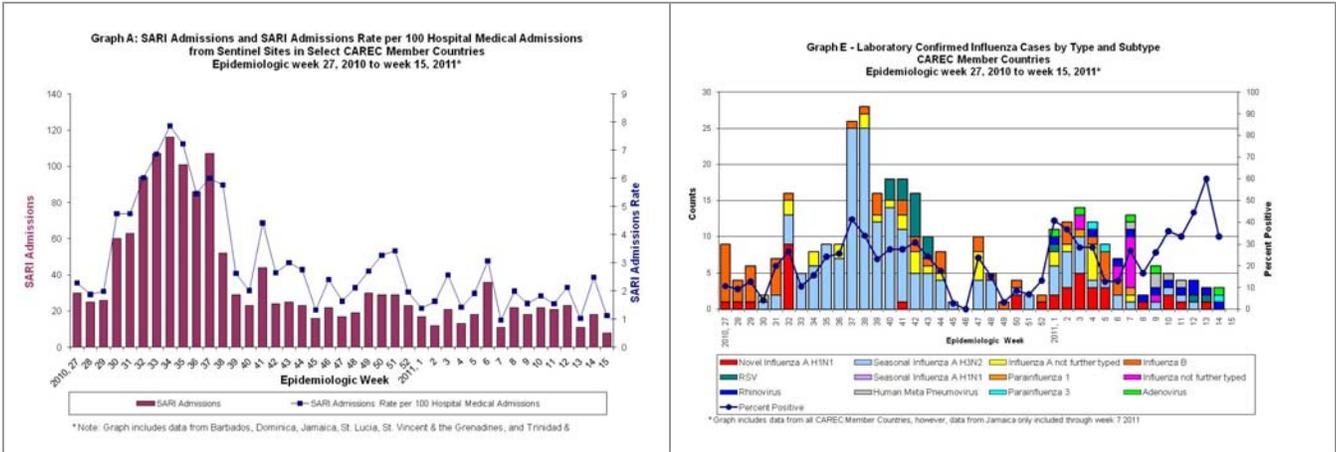
Mexico



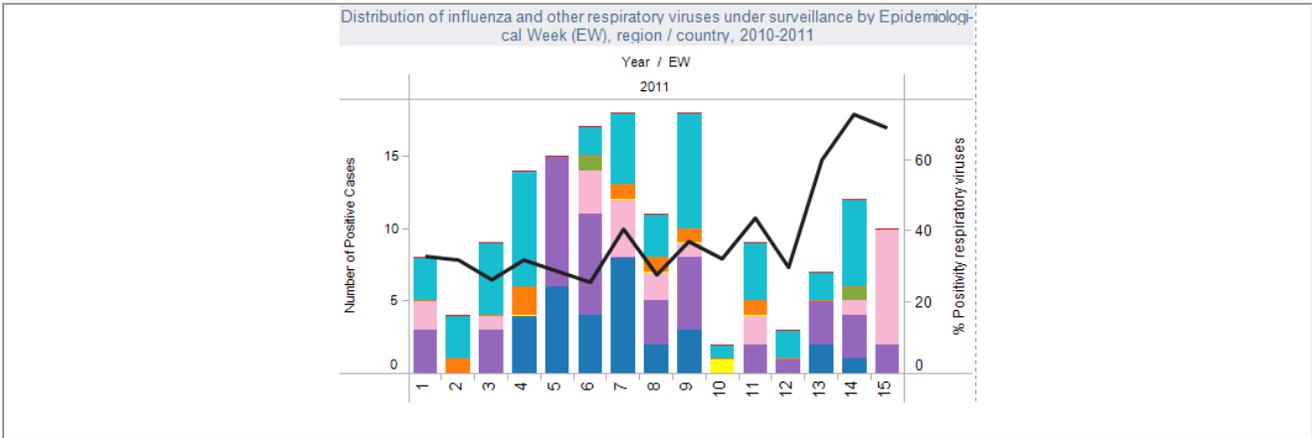
United States



CAREC

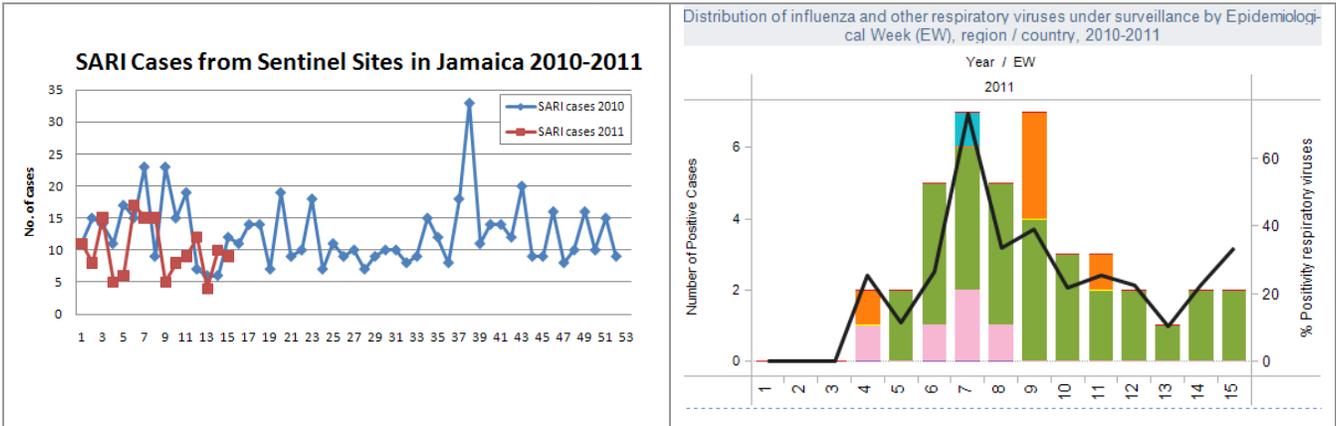


Cuba



- Adenovirus
- RSV
- Parainfluenza
- Influenza B
- Influenza A/ H3
- Influenza A/ H1
- A not subtypable
- A not subtyped
- Inf A H1N1 2009
- % Positives (respiratory viruses)
- % Positives (Influenza)

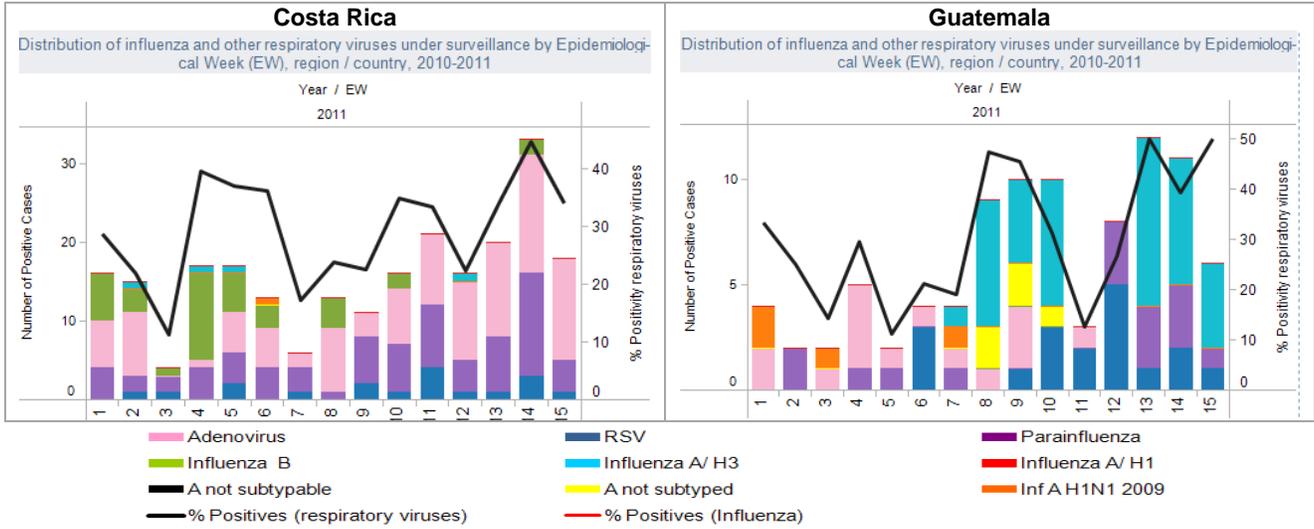
Jamaica



- Adenovirus
- RSV
- Parainfluenza
- Influenza B
- Influenza A/ H3
- Influenza A/ H1
- A not subtypable
- A not subtyped
- Inf A H1N1 2009
- % Positives (respiratory viruses)
- % Positives (Influenza)

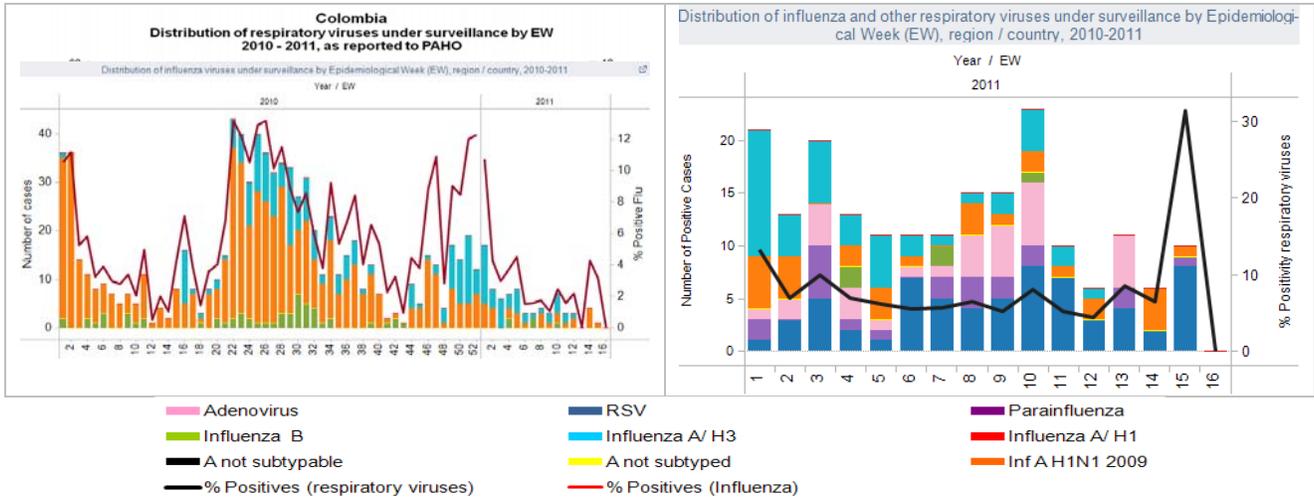
Central America

Costa Rica and Guatemala

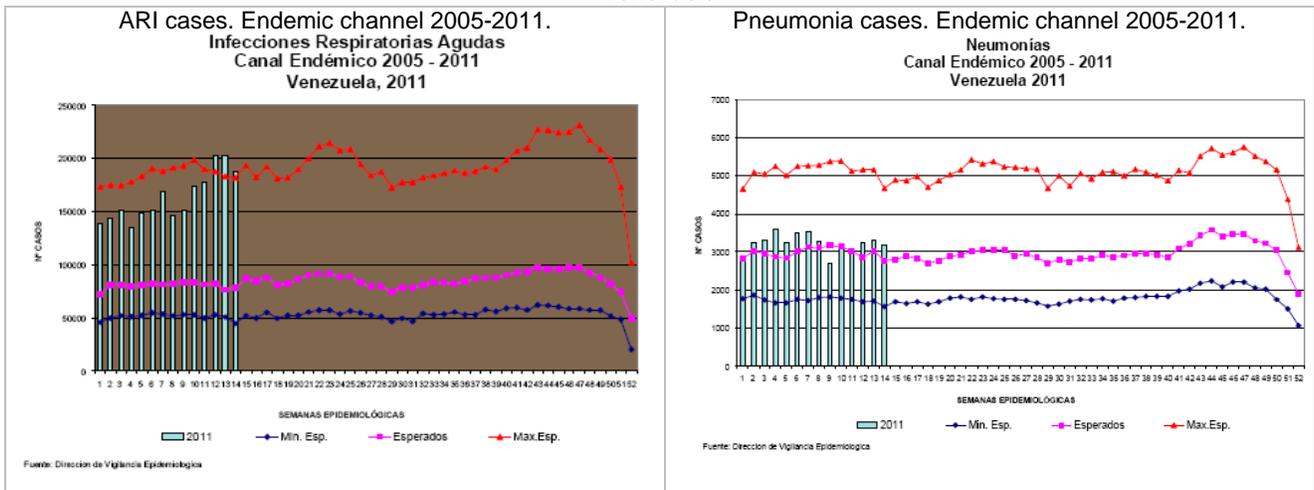


South America - Andean

Colombia

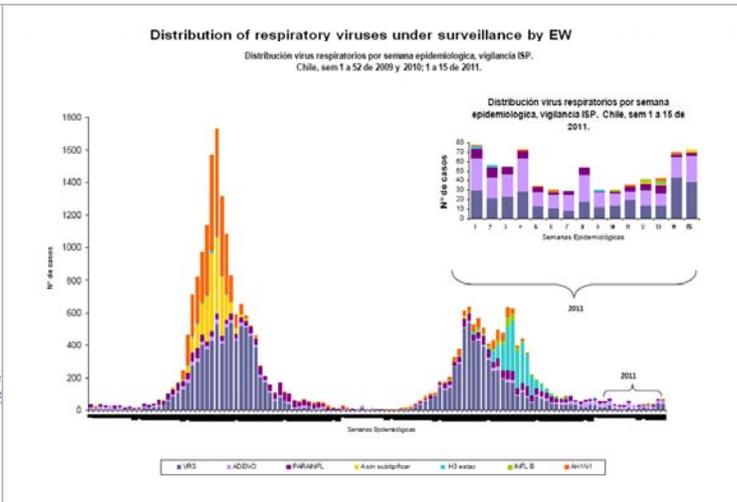
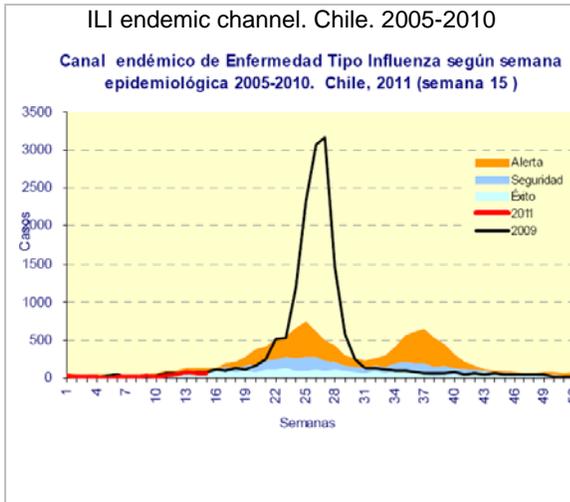


Venezuela

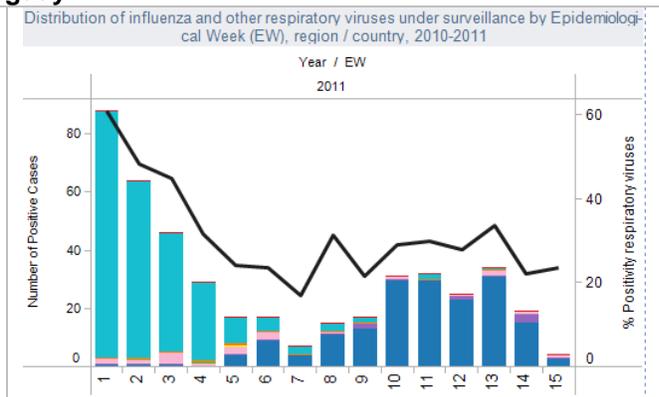
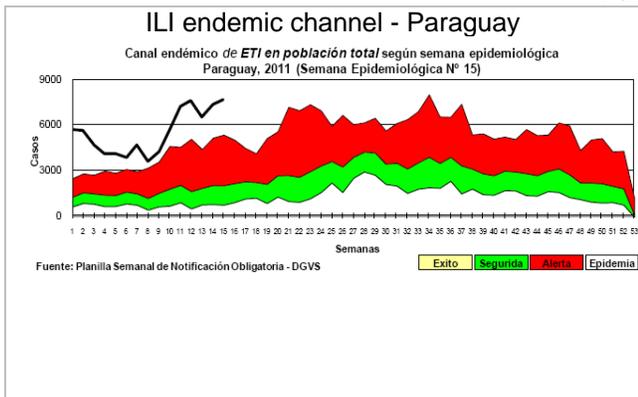


South America – Southern Cone

Chile



Paraguay



- ¹ Canada. FluWatch Report. EW 15. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>
- ² USA. Surveillance Summary. Week 15. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- ³ Venezuela. Boletín epidemiológico - SE 14. Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Salud.
- ⁴ Chile. Informe de situación. SE 15. www.pandemia.cl
- ⁵ Paraguay. Boletín epidemiológico semanal. SE 16. Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social