

**NATIONAL PRIMARY CARE INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE FORTNIGHTLY REPORT**

From The Australian Sentinel Practices Research Network (ASPREN) \*

No. 15, 2023 - 17th July — 30th July 2023

**NATIONAL SUMMARY**



Influenza-like-illness levels are increasing

**21**

Cases of influenza have been detected in this reporting period  
9 x Influenza A  
12 x Influenza B

**16%**

Influenza positivity during the reporting period.

**197**

Cases of influenza have been detected this year:  
123 x Influenza A  
74 x Influenza B



Gastroenteritis levels remain steady below baseline levels

**SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE  
REPORTING**

Reports were received from 264 reporters from 8 states and territories during the reporting period. During weeks 29 and 30 reporters saw a total of 42,504 patients.

**INFLUENZA-LIKE-ILLNESS (ILI)**

Nationally, ILI notifications significantly increased during the period with 372 notifications being reported in weeks 29—30. ILI rates reported in this period were 10 cases per 1000 consultations (weighted). This was slightly higher than the previous fortnight where rates were 9 and 10 cases per 1000 consultations in weeks 27 and 28 respectively. For the same reporting period in 2022, ILI rates were lower at 7 and 8 cases per 1000 consultations for weeks 29 and 30 respectively (see Fig. 5).

**GASTROENTERITIS**

Nationally, gastroenteritis notifications slightly increased to 77 notifications reported. Gastroenteritis rates reported in this period remained steady at 2 cases per 1000 consultations in weeks 29 and 30, compared to 2 cases per 1000 consultations in weeks 27 and 28 (see Fig. 5).

\* ASPREN is funded by the Commonwealth's Department of Health, Office of Health Protection, Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance Section.

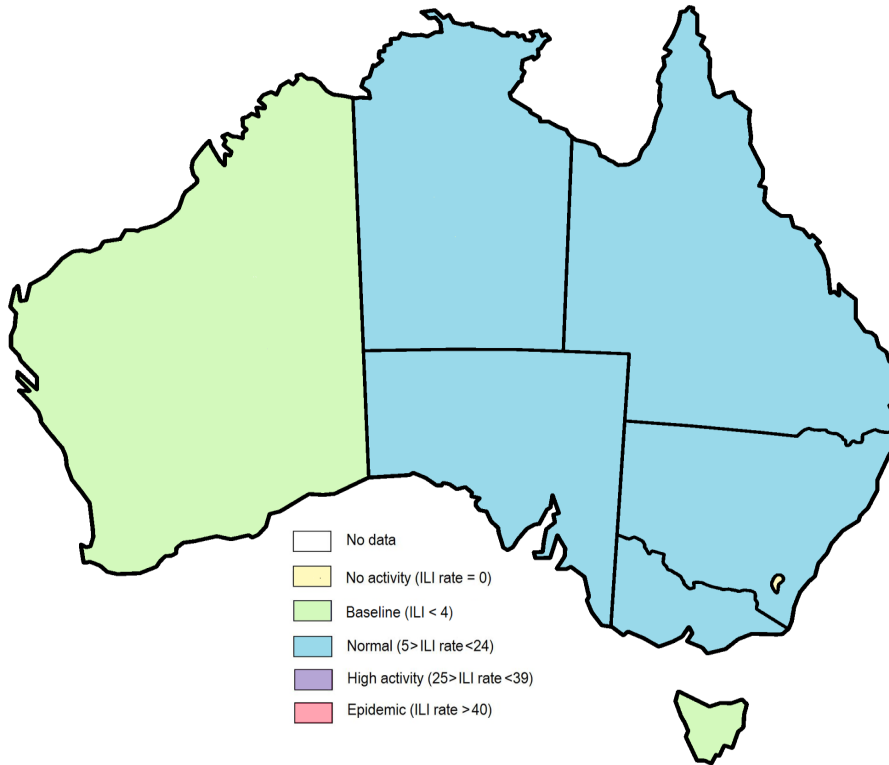


Figure 1. Map of ILI activity by jurisdiction, weeks 29 - 30, 2023.

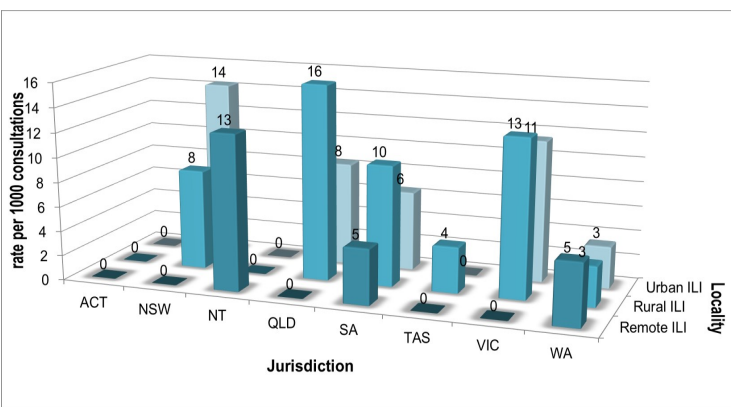


Figure 2. ASPREN rate of ILI by locality and jurisdiction, weeks 29 - 30, 2023.

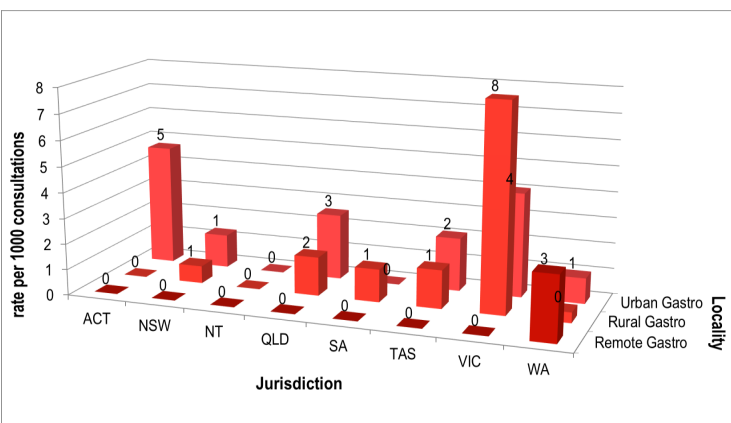


Figure 3. ASPREN rate of gastroenteritis by locality and jurisdiction, weeks 29 - 30, 2023.

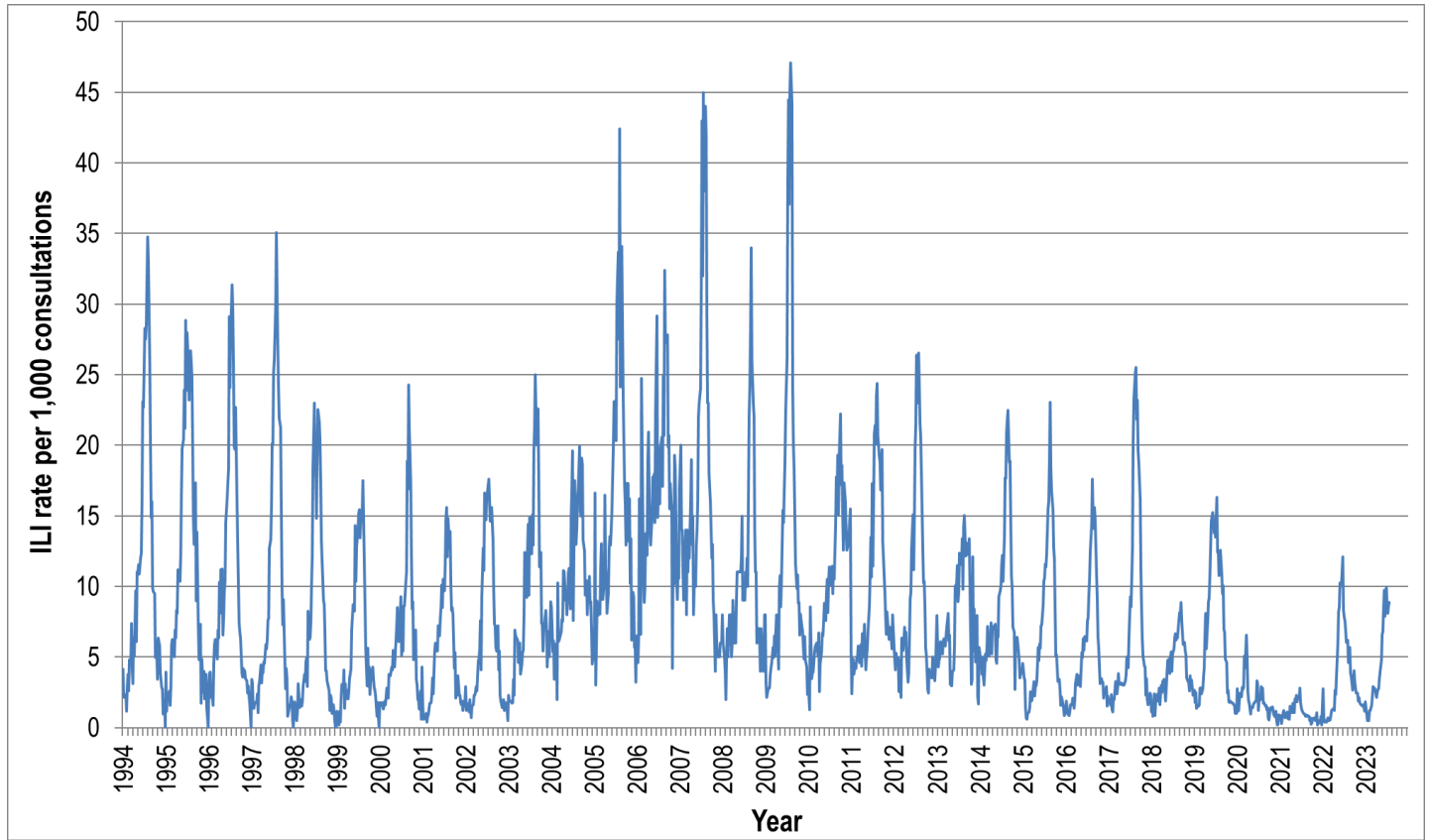


Figure 4. ASPREN ILI rates 1994 - 2023.

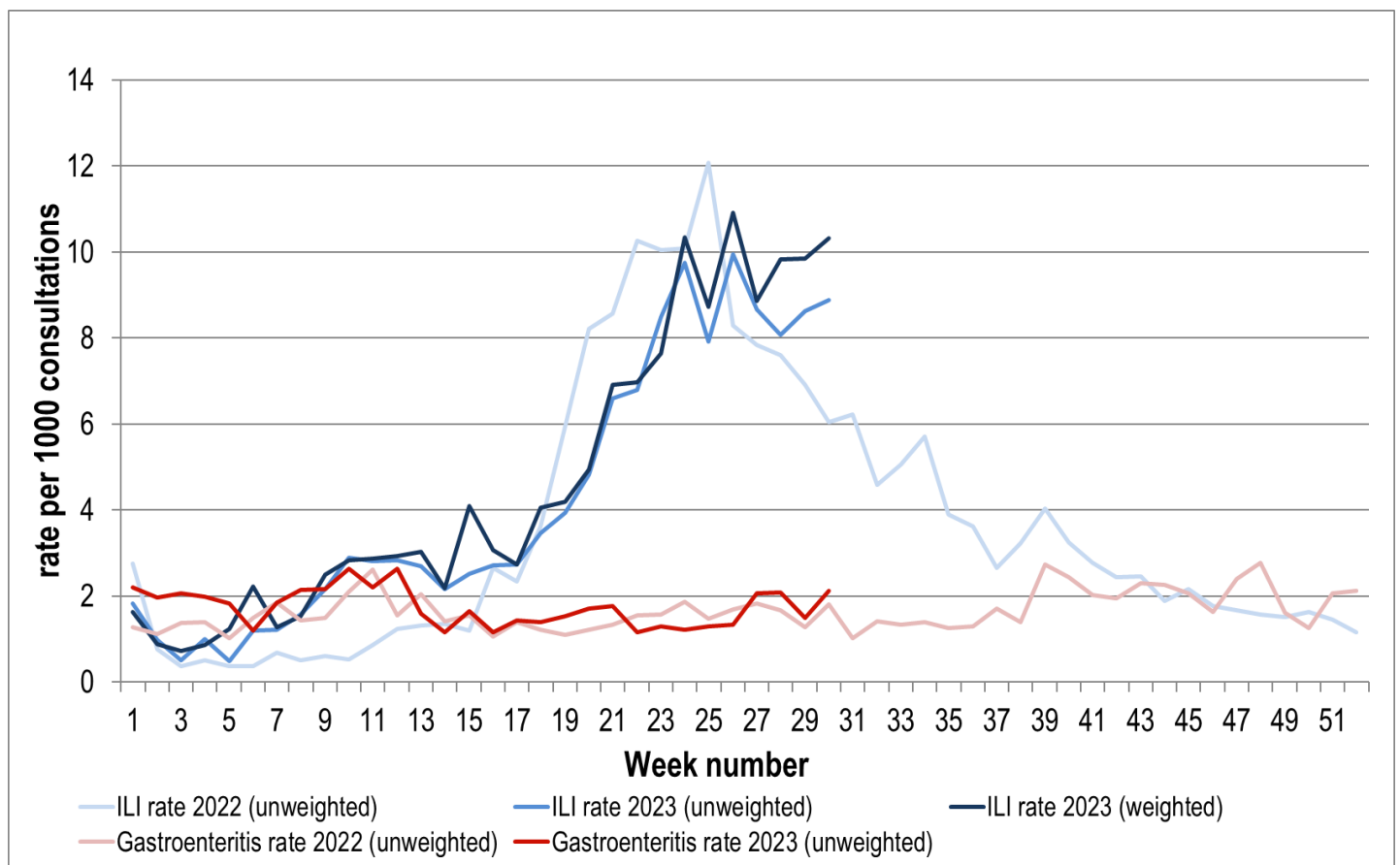


Figure 5. ASPREN ILI and gastroenteritis rates 2022-23. Weighted rates are weighted to account for population size differences between jurisdictions, using population estimates from the 2011 Australian Census.

**VIROLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE**

35% of all ILI patients were swab tested during weeks 29 and 30 (see Figure 6).

9 cases of Influenza A, 12 cases of Influenza B were detected during this period. There were 29 cases of Rhinovirus detected making it the most common respiratory virus circulating the nation at present (see figure 8).

# Viral laboratory data is provided by SA Pathology laboratory.

	Reporting Period 17 July - 30 July 2023	YTD 1 Jan - 30 July 2023
Total number of ILI notifications	372	2159
Number of swab tests performed	131	861
% ILI patients tested	35%	40%
% of swab tests positive for influenza	16%	23%

Figure 6. ASPREN virological surveillance results overview for 2023 #

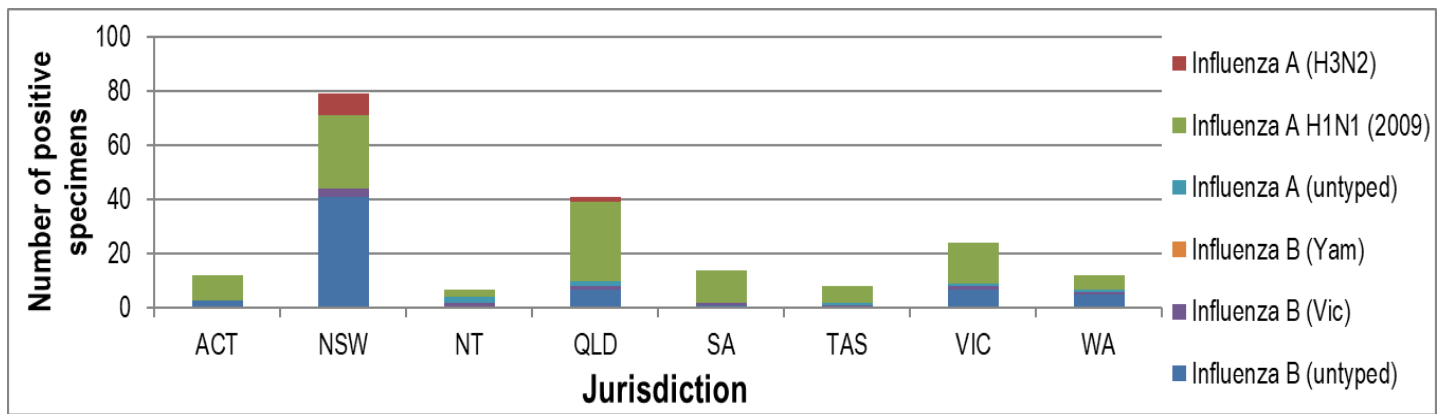


Figure 7. ASPREN influenza subtype analysis by jurisdiction for 2023 #

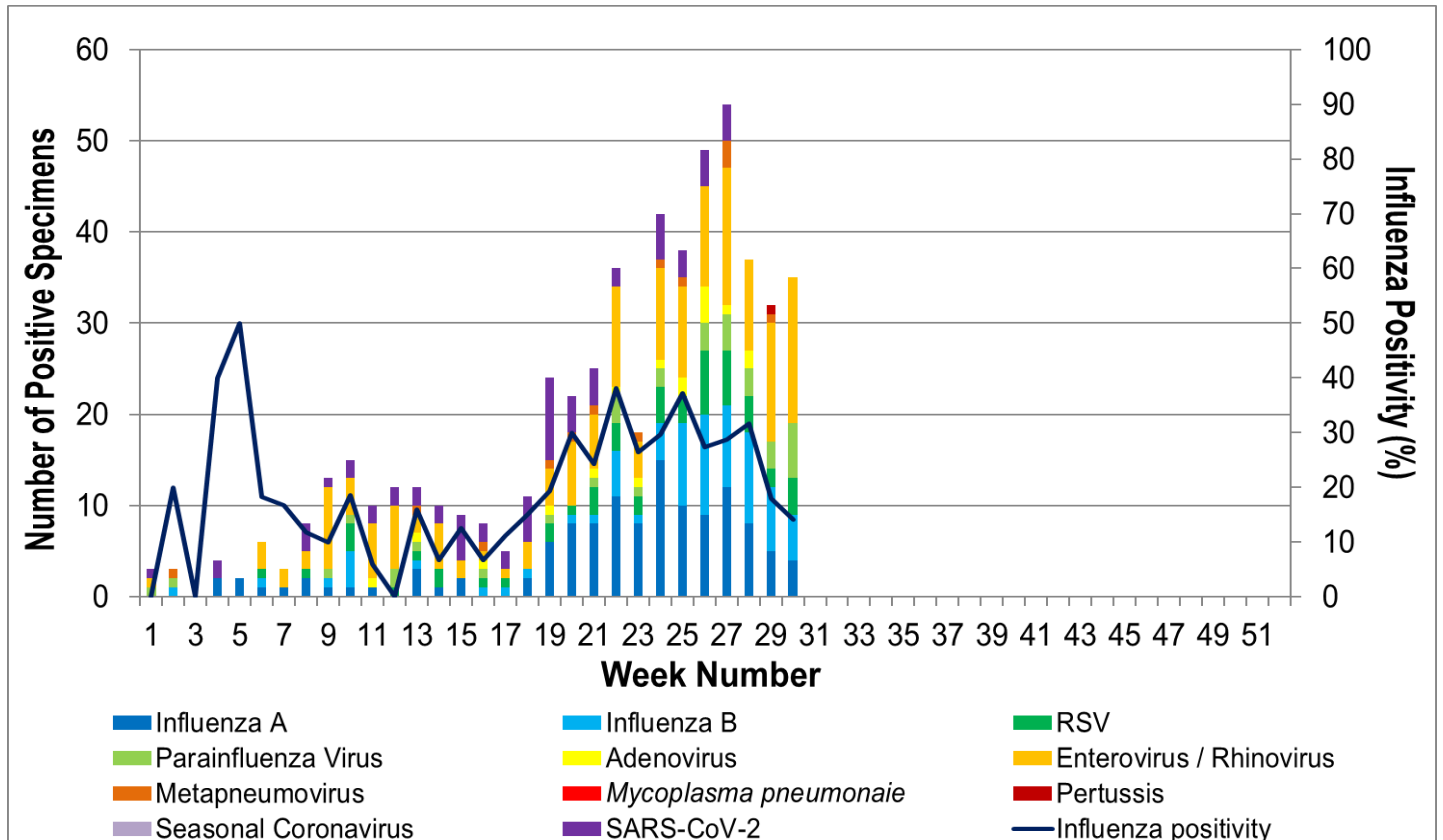


Figure 8. ASPREN, laboratory detection of influenza and other respiratory viruses for 2023 #

The Australian Sentinel Practices Research Network is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health (the Department). The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department.

Please note: This report is based on data available as at 3 August 2023. Delays in the reporting of data may cause data to change retrospectively.