



Regional Update EW 25

Influenza
(July 6, 2011 - 17 h GMT; 12 h EST)

PAHO interactive influenza data: http://ais.paho.org/phis/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 North America, most of the regions from these countries reported the absence of influenza activity. The detection of influenza in laboratories is low and/or continues to decrease.
- In Central America and the Caribbean, even though in the Dominican Republic the circulation of influenza A/H1N1 2009 persists; in most countries the detection of influenza is none or low.
- In South America, even though the activity of influenza remains at a low level for this time of year in comparison to previous years, some Andean countries present circulation of influenza (influenza A/H3 in Bolivia and co-circulation of A/H1N1 2009 and influenza A/H3 in Colombia). In the Southern Cone, the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) continues to be the primary virus in circulation, with low influenza activity as compared to what is expected.

Epidemiologic and virologic influenza update

North America

In the United States¹, in EW 25, at the national level, the proportion of consultations of ambulatory Influenza-like Illness (ILI) patients (1%) was below the national baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was below its epidemiologic threshold. This week, two pediatric deaths associated to influenza were reported. During EW 25 the percentage of positive samples to influenza (n=2) among those analyzed was the lowest to present date this year (0.2%).

In Mexico, in EW 24, among all analyzed samples, the percentage of samples positive to influenza (n=3) among those tested was low (4.2%).

Caribbean

CAREC^{*}, in EW 25, reported that the proportion of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) admissions (~1.5%) was slightly lower compared to the previous week. No SARI deaths have been reported in the last EW. The highest SARI hospitalization rate by age group was observed in children between 6-48 months (4.3 per 100 hospitalizations-week). In laboratory results, RSV continued being the primary virus in circulation since EW 21.

In the Dominican Republic, in EW 26, among all samples tested, the percentage of samples positive to respiratory viruses decreased slightly to ~35%, where influenza A/H1N1 2009 continues to be the primary virus in circulation since EW 13; with progressive increase of influenza B.

In Jamaica, in EW 25, the proportion of consultations for Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) remained similar to the previous week (3.9%). The proportion of SARI admissions was less than 1% and remained stable compared to the previous week. In EW 25, no deaths associated to SARI have been reported. According to laboratory data, no influenza cases were identified between EWs 21-26.

^{*} Países miembros de CAREC que participan en esta evaluación conjunta: Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, San Vicente y las Granadinas, Santa Lucía y Trinidad y Tobago

Central America

In Costa Rica, in EW 25, among samples tested, the percentage of positive samples for respiratory viruses remained at ~30%; adenovirus being the primary virus in circulation, followed by RSV and parainfluenza. No samples positive to influenza were detected since EW 21.

In Honduras², in EW 25, at the national level, the proportion of admissions for ILI was 4.9% (701/11.771), slightly higher than observed during EW 23 (3.7%). The proportion of admissions for SARI was 2.5% (10/393) slightly less than observed in EW 24 (3.7%). According to national laboratory data, in EW 25, no respiratory virus was detected.

In Nicaragua, in EW 25, no respiratory viruses were detected and there has been no influenza detection since EW 9.

In Panama, in EW 25, no respiratory viruses were detected and there has been no influenza detection since EW 23.

South America – Andean

In Bolivia, in EW 25, in the department of La Paz (west of the country), the percentage of samples positive to influenza was similar to the previous week (~60%), with absolute circulation predominance of influenza A/H3N2. In the department of Santa Cruz (east of the country), in EW 25, no influenza virus was detected.

In Colombia, according to national laboratory data, in EW 25, the positivity percentage for respiratory viruses remained at ~20%; with co-circulation of influenza A/H1N1 2009 and influenza A/H3N2. Among other respiratory viruses, RSV circulation was detected.

South America – Southern Cone

In Argentina, by EW 23, ILI endemic channels showed a decreasing trend compared to the previous weeks and lower than observed in 2010. Pneumonia cases presented a national accumulated rate lower than in 2010 and similar to the 2009 rate; however, at the regional level, the southern and northeastern regions showed the highest rates. Both ILI and pneumonia activities, children less than 2 years old presented the highest rates. According to laboratory data, in EW 25, the predominance of RSV as respiratory virus continued; however, the number of positive cases to respiratory viruses was less than observed the previous week. Concerning influenza, between EW 18 and 25, 206 influenza cases were detected of which 65% corresponded to untyped influenza A, 24% to influenza A/H1N1 2009, 8% to influenza A/H3N2 and 3% to influenza B. At the regional level, cases with influenza A/H1N1 2009 were present in Mendoza and Neuquen.

In Chile³, in EW 25, ILI activity (6.2 consultations per 100,000 inhabitants) at the national level, was less than the previous week (11.2 per 100,000 inhabitants) and remained within the expected levels for this time of year and less than that observed during 2009 and 2010. This week the percentage of emergency department admissions for respiratory cases in children less than 15 years old (48%) remained similar to the previous week. In EW 25, no deaths associated to influenza have been reported. The number of cases positive to respiratory viruses was slightly less compared to EW 24, after an increasing trend between EW 13-24. RSV continued to be the primary virus in circulation, followed by adenovirus and parainfluenza. Influenza circulation remained in a very low proportion.

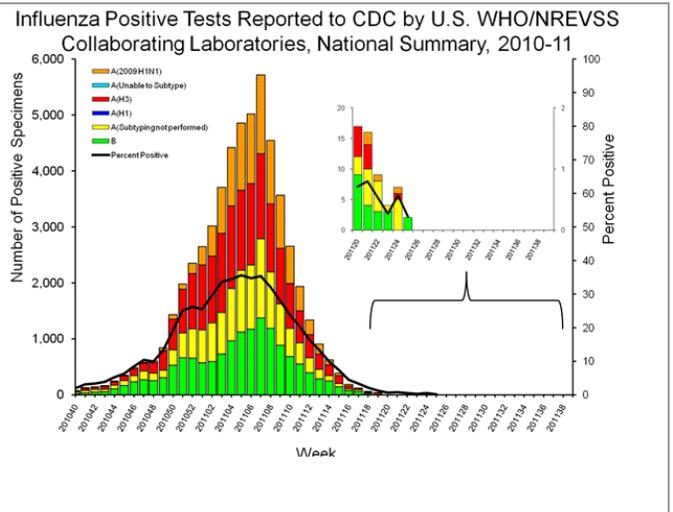
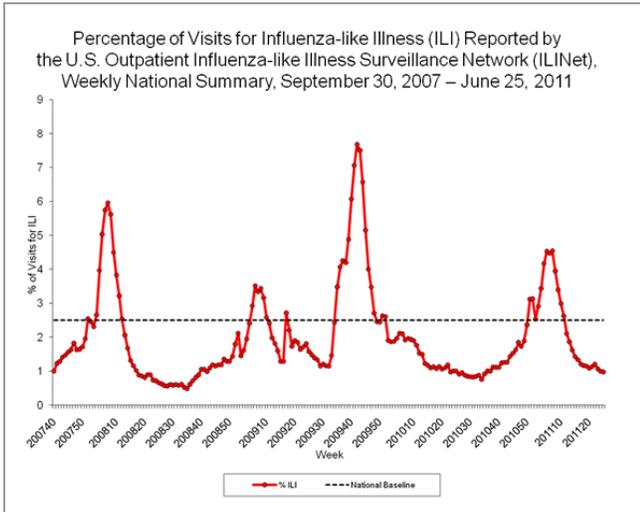
In Paraguay⁴, in EW 25, the proportion of ILI consultations among all consultations showed a fluctuating trend during 2011, but it remained <10%. In SARI surveillance, the proportion of: (1) SARI admissions among all admissions, (2) the proportion of SARI ICU admissions among all admissions and (3) the proportion of SARI deaths among deaths for all causes, remained similar to the previous week and below 15%. According to laboratory data at the national level in EW 25, the percentage of positive samples to respiratory viruses remained similar to the previous week, RSV being the predominant virus followed by parainfluenza. There has been no influenza detection since EW 13.

In Uruguay⁵, in EWs 26 and 27, in SARI surveillance the proportion of SARI hospitalizations among all hospitalizations and the proportion of SARI ICU admissions among all ICU admissions showed an increasing trend in the last weeks, even though they remained below 10%. In laboratory, in EW 23, the detection of other virus (RSV, followed by parainfluenza and adenovirus) predominated, with few sporadic detections of influenza B.

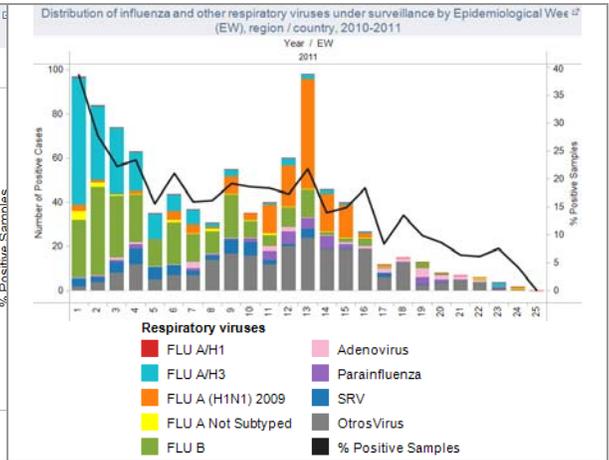
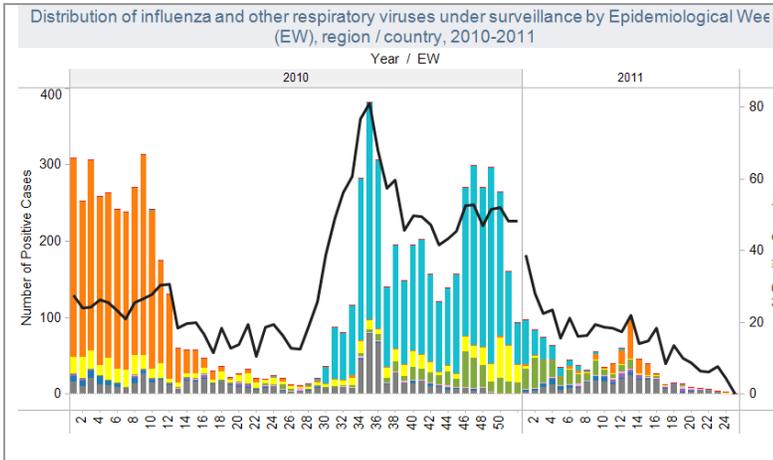
Graphs

North America

United States

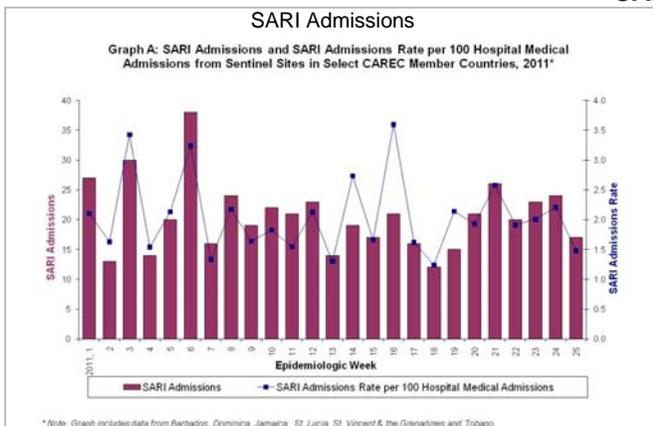


Mexico

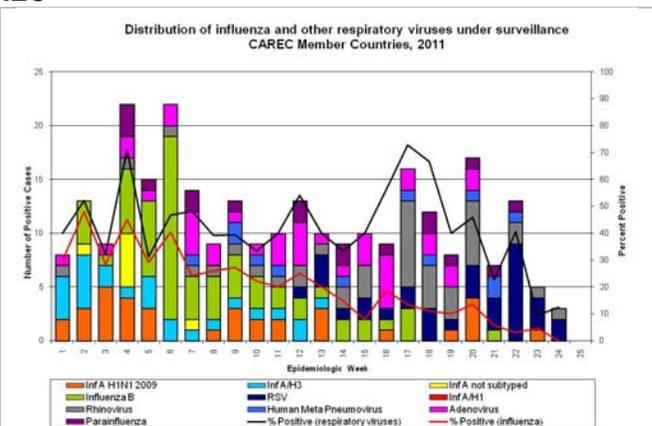


Caribbean

CAREC

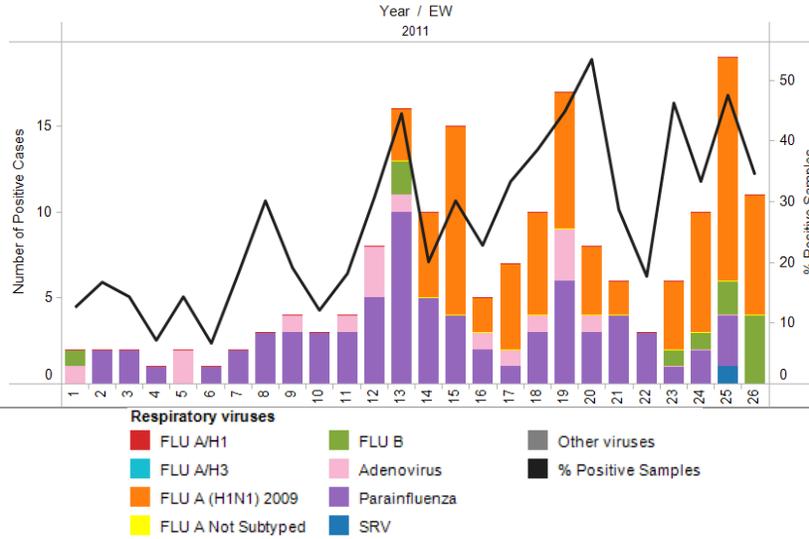


*Note: Graph includes data from Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Tobago.



Dominican Republic

Distribution of influenza and other respiratory viruses under surveillance by Epidemiological Week (EW), region / country, 2010-2011

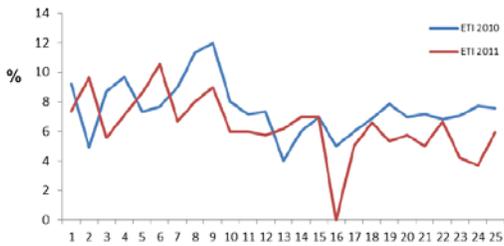


Central America

Honduras

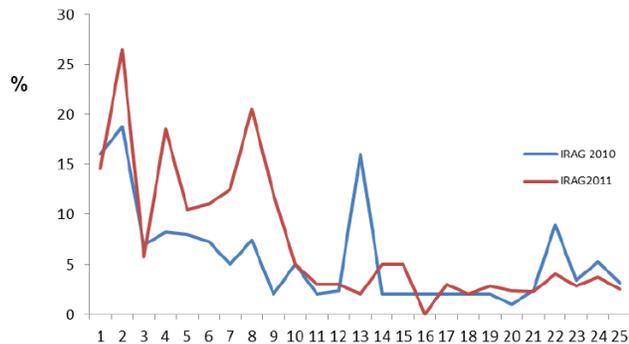
% of ILI consultations

Distribución de las atenciones por ETI, Vigilancia centinela de influenza, semana epidemiológica No 25, Honduras, 2011

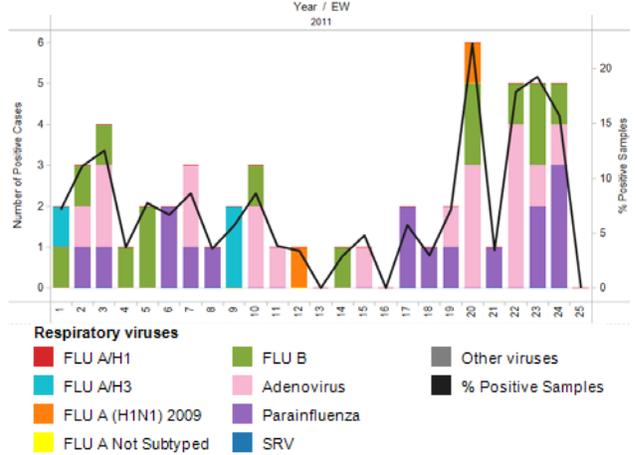


% of SARI hospitalizations

Distribución por IRAG, vigilancia centinela de influenza, Semana epidemiológica No. 25, Honduras, 2011



Distribution of influenza and other respiratory viruses under surveillance by Epidemiological Week (EW), region / country, 2010-2011

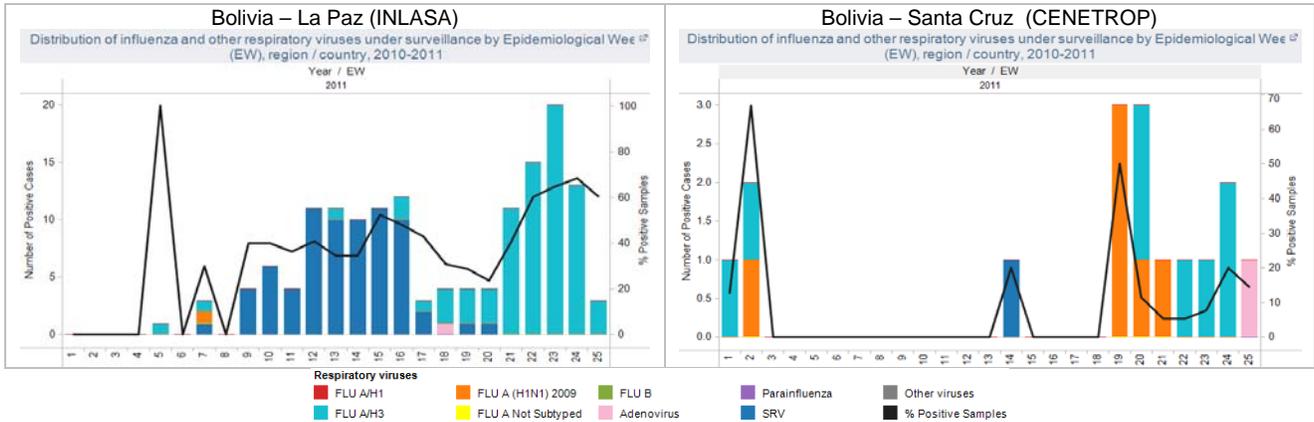


Costa Rica, Nicaragua y Panama

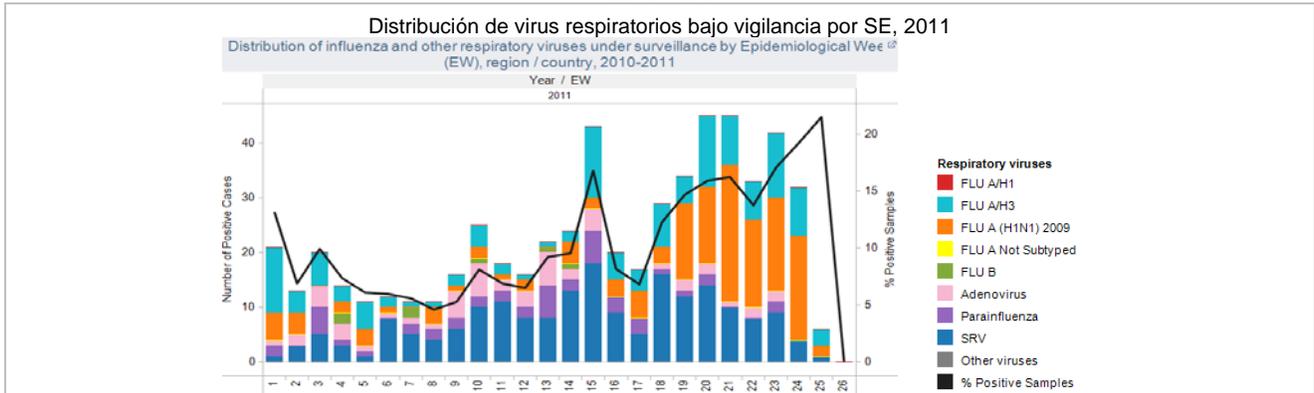


South America - Andean

Bolivia

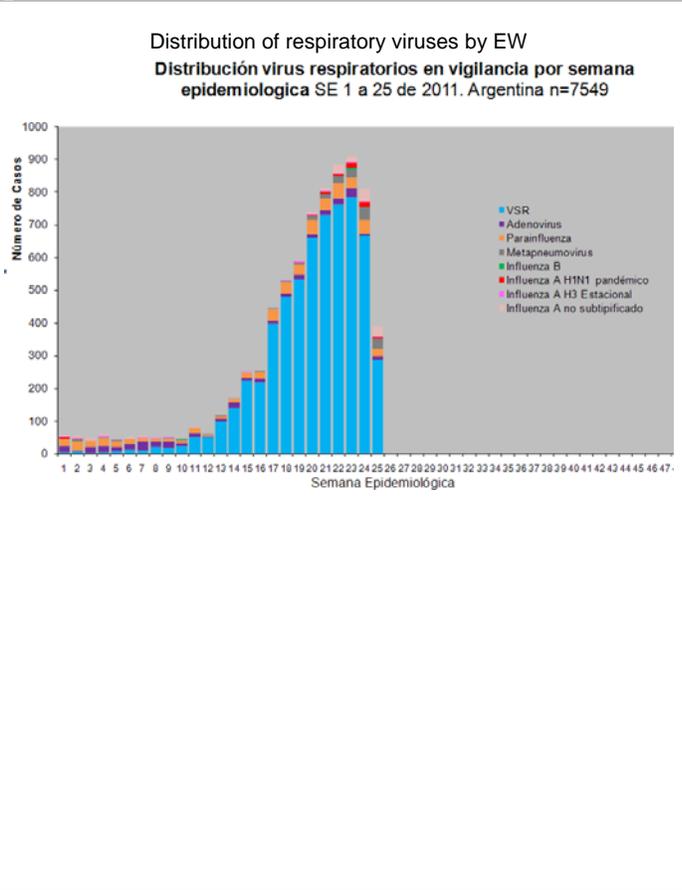
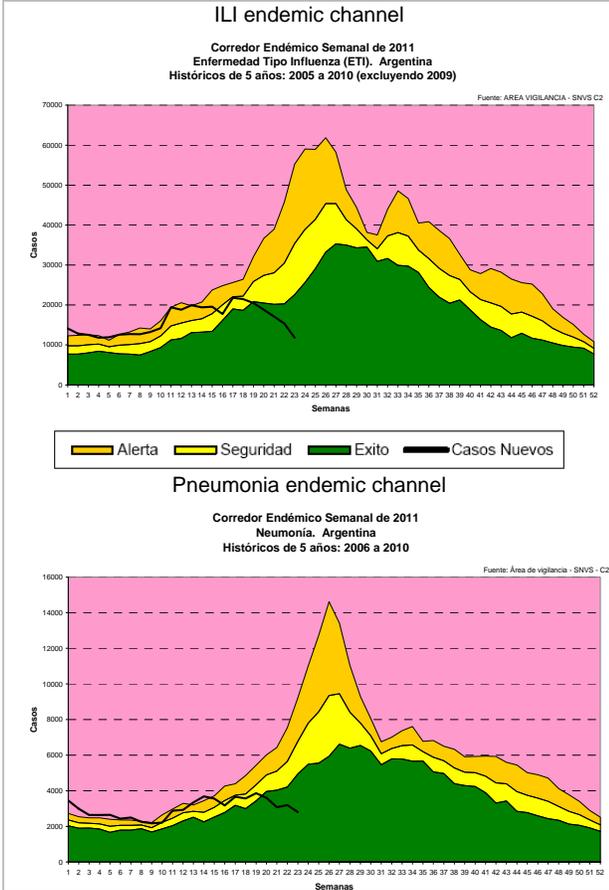


Colombia

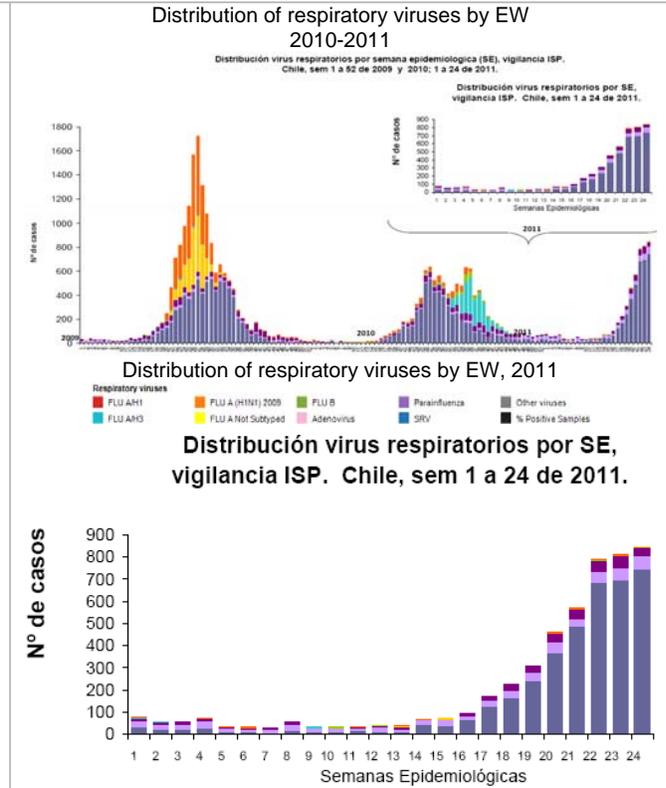
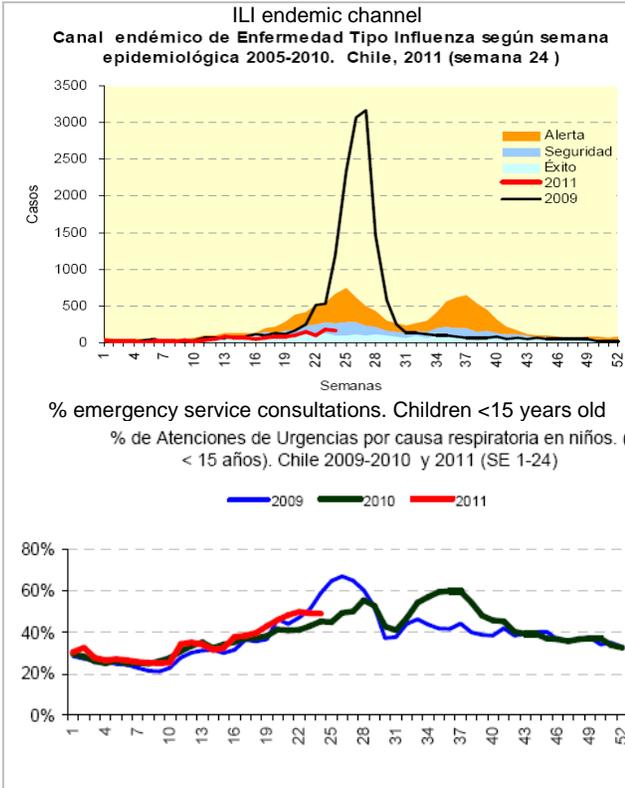


South America – Southern Cone

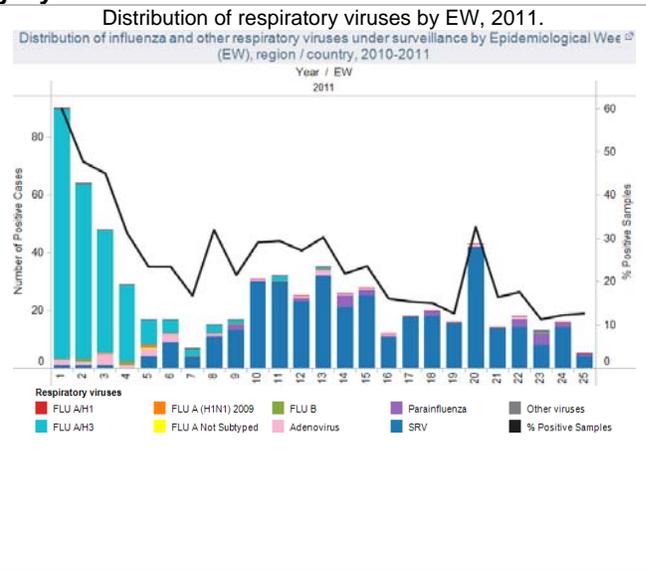
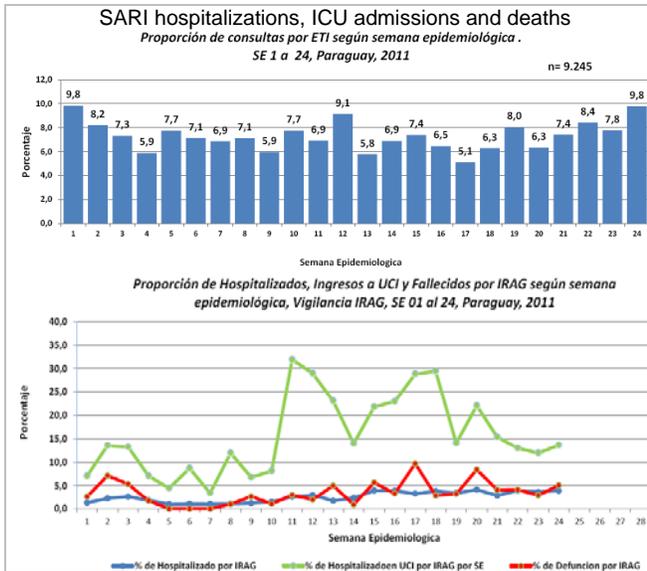
Argentina



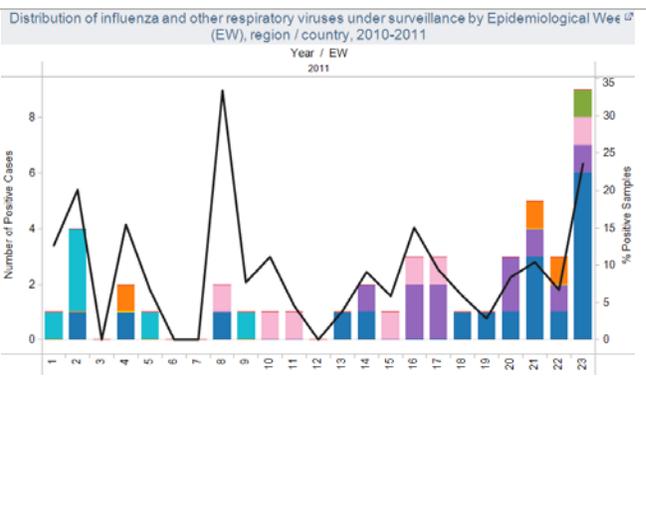
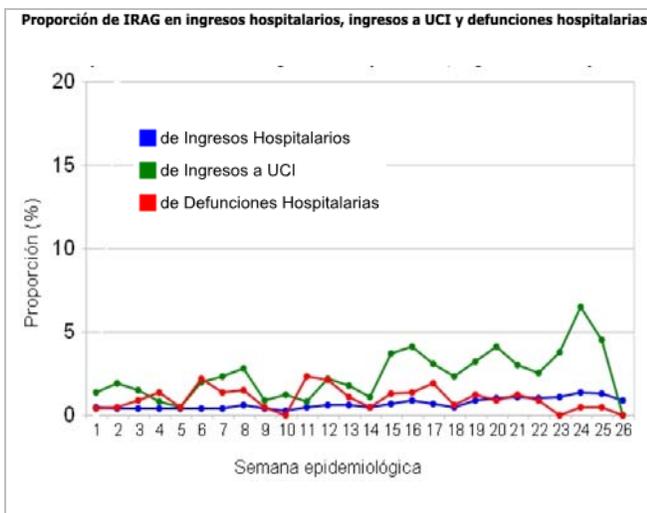
Chile



Paraguay



Uruguay



¹ USA. Surveillance Summary. Week 25. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

² Honduras. Vigilancia centinela de Tegucigalpa y San Pedro Sula. SE 25.

³ Chile. Informe de situación. SE 25. www.pandemia.cl

⁴ Paraguay. Boletín epidemiológico semanal. SE 26. Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social

⁵ Uruguay. Dirección General de la Salud. División Epidemiología.

<https://trantor.msp.gub.uy/epidemiologia/servlet/iraggrafmenu>