



## Regional Update EW 41

**Influenza**  
(October 25, 2011 - 17 h GMT; 12 h EST)

PAHO interactive influenza data: [http://ais.paho.org/phip/viz/ed\\_flu.asp](http://ais.paho.org/phip/viz/ed_flu.asp)  
Influenza Regional Reports: [www.paho.org/influenzareports](http://www.paho.org/influenzareports)

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, influenza activity remained low.
- In Central America and the Caribbean, the predominance of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) continued (Cuba, Costa Rica). Among influenza viruses, influenza A/H3N2 (Cuba, Honduras and Nicaragua) and influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 predominated in some countries (Dominican Republic and Nicaragua) and in lesser quantity in others (Costa Rica and Panama) with variable co-circulation of influenza B (Honduras and Guatemala).
- In the Southern Cone, the circulation of parainfluenza surpassed that of RSV, which continued to decrease (Chile and Argentina). Variable co-circulation of influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 and influenza A/H3 (Chile and Bolivia) was reported.

### Epidemiologic and virologic influenza update

#### *North America*

In Canada<sup>1</sup>, in epidemiological week (EW) 41, influenza activity continued at inter-seasonal levels. The influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was 11.2 (EW 41) per 1,000 consultations, remaining below the expected levels for this time of year. Compared to other age groups, a higher ILI consultation rate was observed among children less than 5 years old in EW 41. Few influenza detections were reported in EW 41, and the percentage of samples positive for influenza was less than 1%, as was observed in previous EWs. The influenza viruses detected were untyped influenza A and influenza A/H3N2.

In the United States<sup>2</sup>, in EW 41, at the national level, the proportion of ILI consultations (~1%) remained below the national baseline (2.4%). The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza for EW 41 was lower than the epidemic threshold for this time of year (6.5%). In EW 41, no pediatric deaths associated with influenza were reported. During EW 41, among all samples tested (n=1,286), the percentage of samples positive for influenza continued to remain low (<1%), with sporadic detections of untyped influenza A, influenza B, influenza A/H3 and influenza A(H1N1) pdm09.

In Mexico, in EW 41, according to laboratory data, of total samples tested, no samples were positive for respiratory viruses. Since EW 17, influenza and other respiratory virus activity has remained low.

#### *Caribbean*

CAREC<sup>\*</sup>, in EW 41, received epidemiological information from Barbados, Dominica, San Vincents and Tobago. The proportion of admissions for Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) among all hospitalizations (4.9%) increased slightly compared to the previous week (3.3%). No SARI deaths have been reported since EW 38. According to laboratory data, in EW 41 no samples were positive for respiratory viruses; however, in recent weeks, RSV and influenza A/H3 were the primary viruses identified.

\* Includes Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St Vincents and the Grenadines, St Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago

In Cuba, according to laboratory data, in EW 41, among all samples tested (n=96), ~60% were positive for respiratory viruses and ~2% of all samples tested were positive for influenza. In EW 41, among respiratory viruses, RSV has been decreasing since its peak in EW 39. Concerning influenza viruses, influenza A/H3 predominated since EW 29, and has been decreasing since its peak in EW 37.

In the Dominican Republic, according to laboratory data, in EW 42, among all samples tested (n=32), the percentage of samples positive for respiratory viruses was 25%, which was lower than the previous week. The primary virus in circulation was influenza A(H1N1) pmd09.

In Jamaica, in EW 41, the proportion of consultations for Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI) was 6.4%, which was higher than the previous week (5.8%), but remained within the expected levels for this time of year. The proportion of SARI admissions was <2% and was slightly higher than the previous week. In EW 41, no SARI related death were reported. According to laboratory data, no samples positive for influenza have been detected since EW 20.

### *Central America*

In Costa Rica, in EW 42, among all samples tested (n=90), the percentage of samples positive for respiratory viruses (~55%) increased compared to the previous week. RSV has been the predominant virus since EW 28, followed by parainfluenza in EW 42. Among the influenza viruses, in EW 42, one case of influenza A(H1N1) pmd09 was detected.

In Guatemala, in EW 41, according to laboratory data, of all samples tested (n=19), the percentage of samples positive for respiratory viruses was ~30%, and RSV was the primary virus detected, which has decreased compared to the previous week. Among influenza viruses, influenza A/H3 and influenza B were detected.

In Honduras<sup>3</sup>, in EW 40, the proportions of ILI consultations and SARI hospitalizations were higher than the previous week, and remained slightly above the expected levels as compared to the previous year. One SARI death was reported in EW 40. According to laboratory data, in EW 41, among all samples tested (n=21), the percentage of samples positive for respiratory viruses was ~45% and was lower than previous the week. RSV has been the predominant virus detected since EW 35 and has continued to decrease since its peak in EW 39. Concerning to influenza viruses, in EWs 40 and 41, influenza A/H3 and influenza B circulated.

In Nicaragua, between EW 38 and 42 (though October 23<sup>rd</sup>) a total of 199 influenza A(H1N1) pmd09 cases were confirmed, ~85% of them in Managua Department. Of the total confirmed cases 10 were hospitalized, seven of them were pregnant, the three remaining confirmed cases had co-morbidities; most cases recovered with the exception of the child who is still hospitalized. According to laboratory data, through EW 41, with the circulation of influenza A(H1N1) pmd 09, the circulation of influenza A/H3 and RSV were also detected.

In Panama, according to laboratory data, in EW 42, parainfluenza and influenza A(H1N1) pmd09 were detected.

### *South America – Andean*

In Bolivia, through EW 40<sup>4</sup>, at the national level, of a total of 2,956 suspected cases of influenza A(H1N1) pmd09, 629 cases were confirmed, ~80% of which were confirmed between EWs 36-39 in Santa Cruz. Through EW 40, a total of 4 deaths associated with influenza A(H1N1) pdm2009 were reported. By age group, the most affected age group by influenza A(H1N1) pmd09 was the 0-29 year age group (72%).

In Ecuador, in EW 41, at the national level the percentage of SARI hospitalizations, SARI ICU admissions and SARI deaths remained below 15%. According to laboratory data, in EW 41, of all samples tested (n=54), the percentage of samples positive for respiratory viruses slightly decreased to ~10%, compared to the previous week (~15%). Among influenza viruses, in EW 41, co-circulation of influenza A(H1N1) pmd09 was reported.

In Peru<sup>5</sup>, in EW 40, at the national level, the number of ARI and pneumonia cases in children less than 5 years old decreased, as compared to the previous week and has remained below expected level for this time

of year since ~EW29. Through EW 40 of 2011, 294 pneumonia deaths were reported in children less than 5 years old (43% of which were between 2-11 months age group), which represents 19% less than the average reported in the last three years (2008-2010).

### *South America – Southern Cone*

In Argentina, according to national laboratory data, for EW 41, among all samples tested (n=446), the percentage of samples positive for respiratory viruses was 15%, and the circulation of RSV continued with a decreasing trend since its peak in EW 26. Concerning influenza viruses, a decreasing trend of influenza A cases has been reported since its peak in EW 26. In EW 41 no samples positive for influenza were detected.

In Chile, according to the laboratory data, in EW 41, among samples tested at national level, the percent positivity for respiratory viruses was 13% and for influenza was 1%. Parainfluenza has predominated in the last two EWs; and among influenza viruses, influenza A/H3, influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 and influenza B were detected in low quantities. Concerning SARI surveillance, in EW 41, according to laboratory data, parainfluenza was the only virus detected.

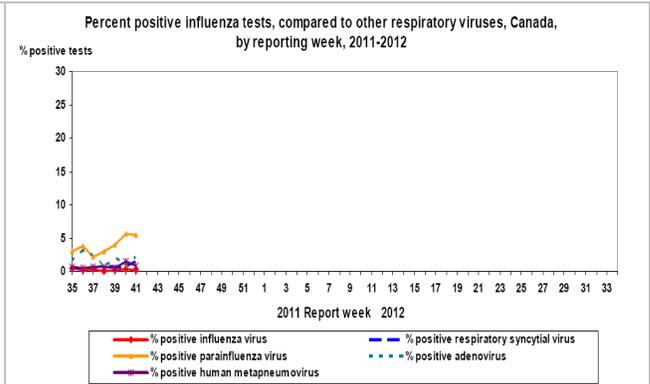
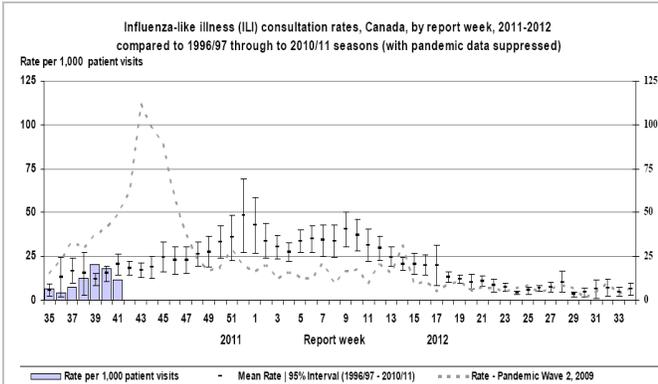
In Paraguay<sup>6</sup>, in EW 41, the proportion of ILI consultations was lower than the previous week. The proportion of SARI hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths remained below 15%. According to laboratory data, in EW 41, of all samples tested, no samples positive for respiratory viruses were detected. The activity of respiratory and influenza viruses remained low since EW 34.

In Uruguay<sup>7</sup>, in EW 41, the proportion of SARI hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths remained <5%. These proportions have continued to decrease trend since peaking in EW 31.

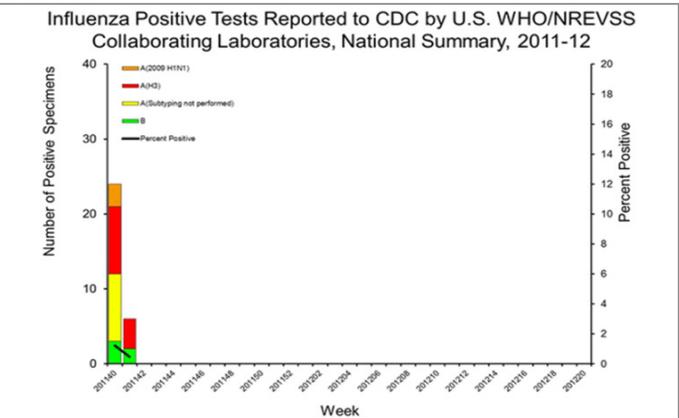
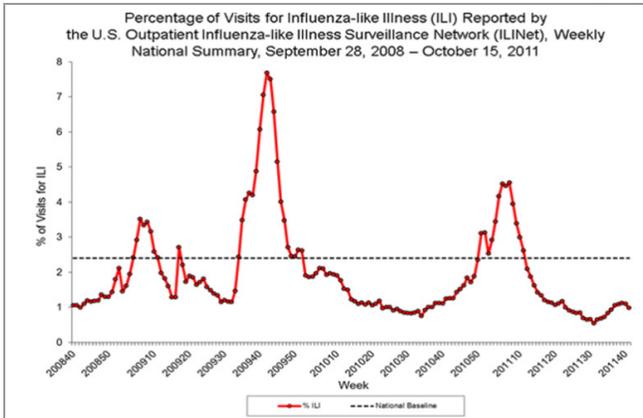
Graphs

North America

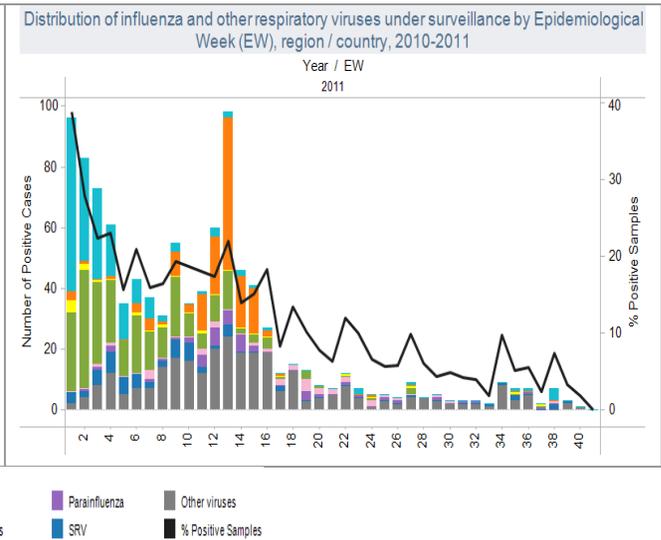
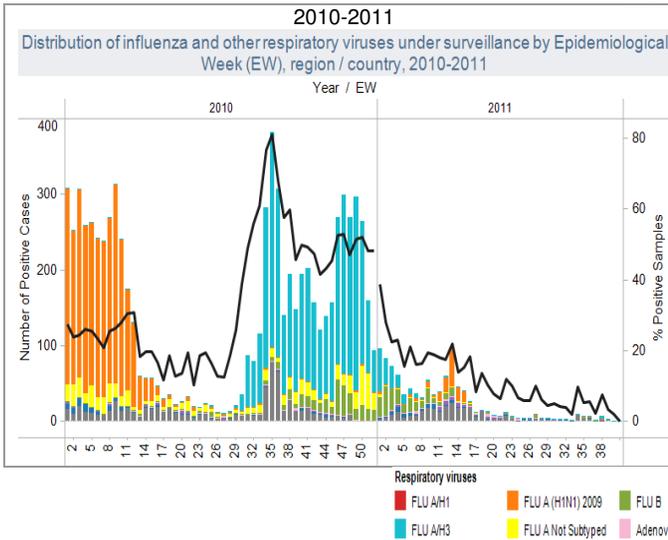
Canada



United States

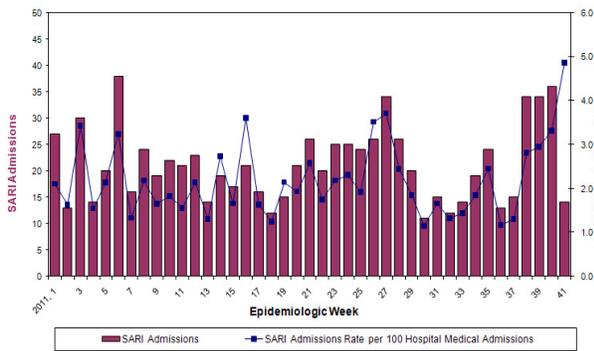


México



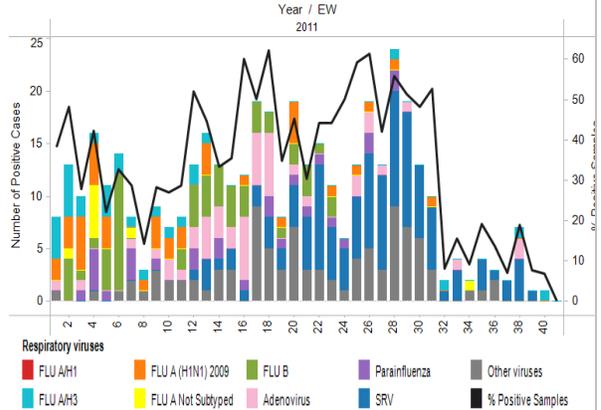
CAREC

Graph A: SARI Admissions and SARI Admissions Rate per 100 Hospital Medical Admissions from Sentinel Sites in Select CAREC Member Countries, 2011\*



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

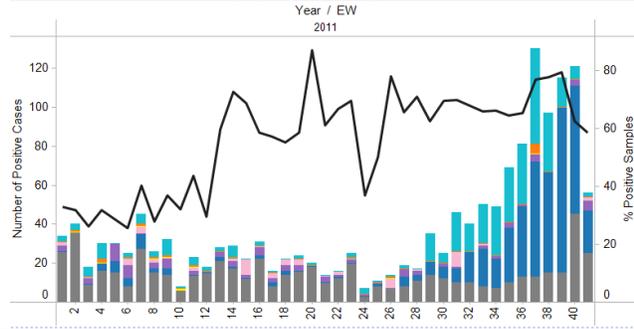
Distribution of influenza and other respiratory viruses under surveillance by Epidemiological Week (EW), region / country, 2010-2011



Cuba and Dominican Republic

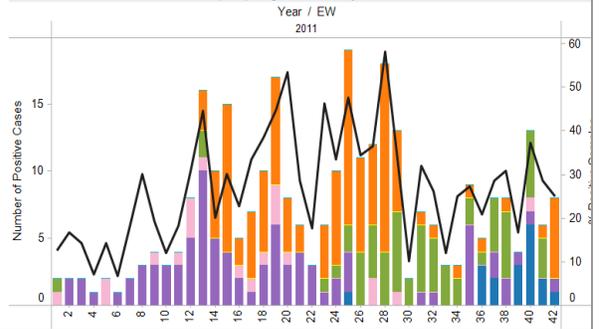
Cuba

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



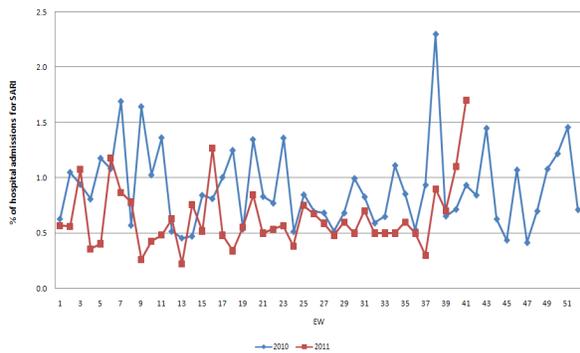
Dominican Republic

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

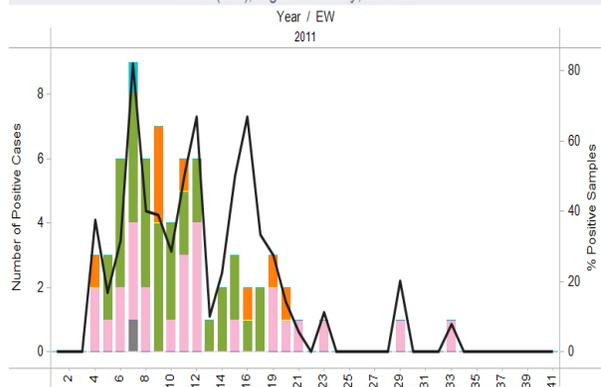


Jamaica

Percentage of Hospital Admissions for Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI), Jamaica, 2010-2011

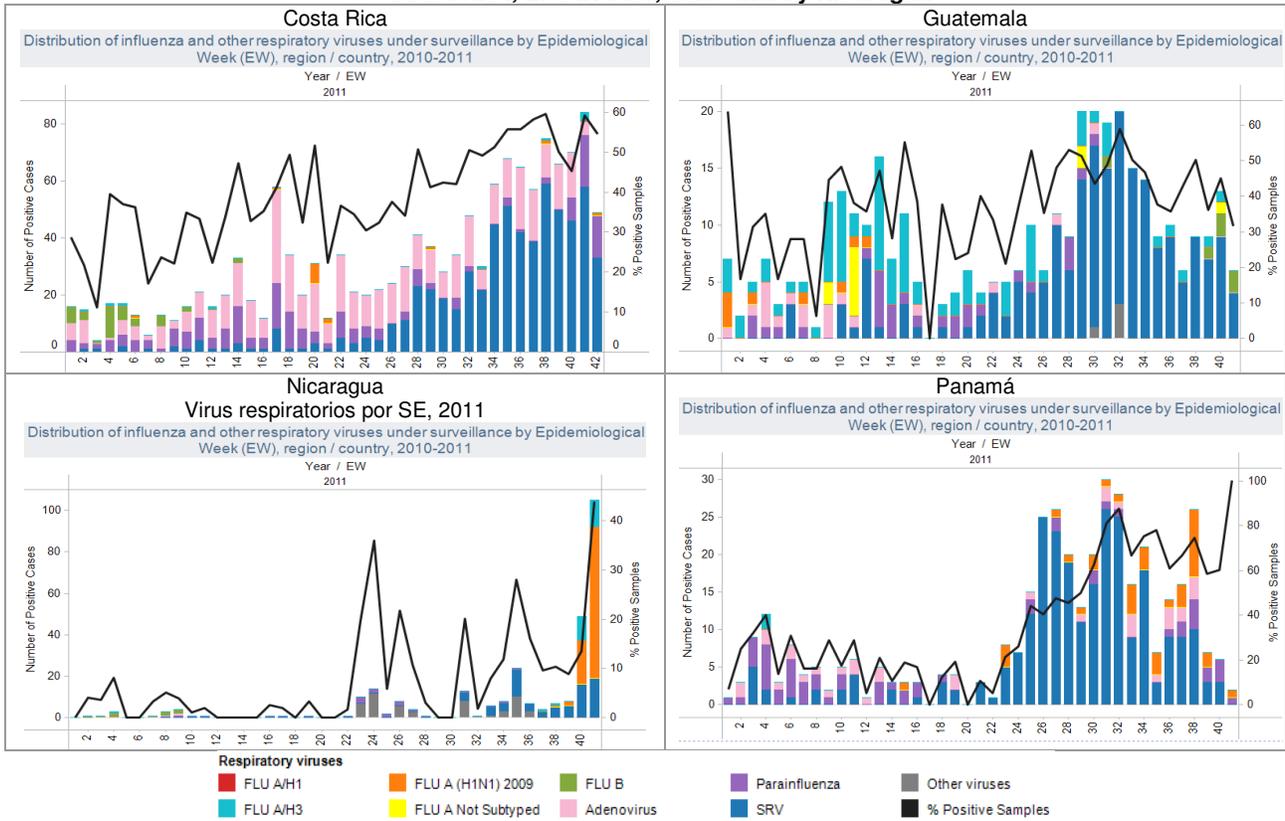


Distribution of influenza and other respiratory viruses under surveillance by Epidemiological Week (EW), region / country, 2010-2011

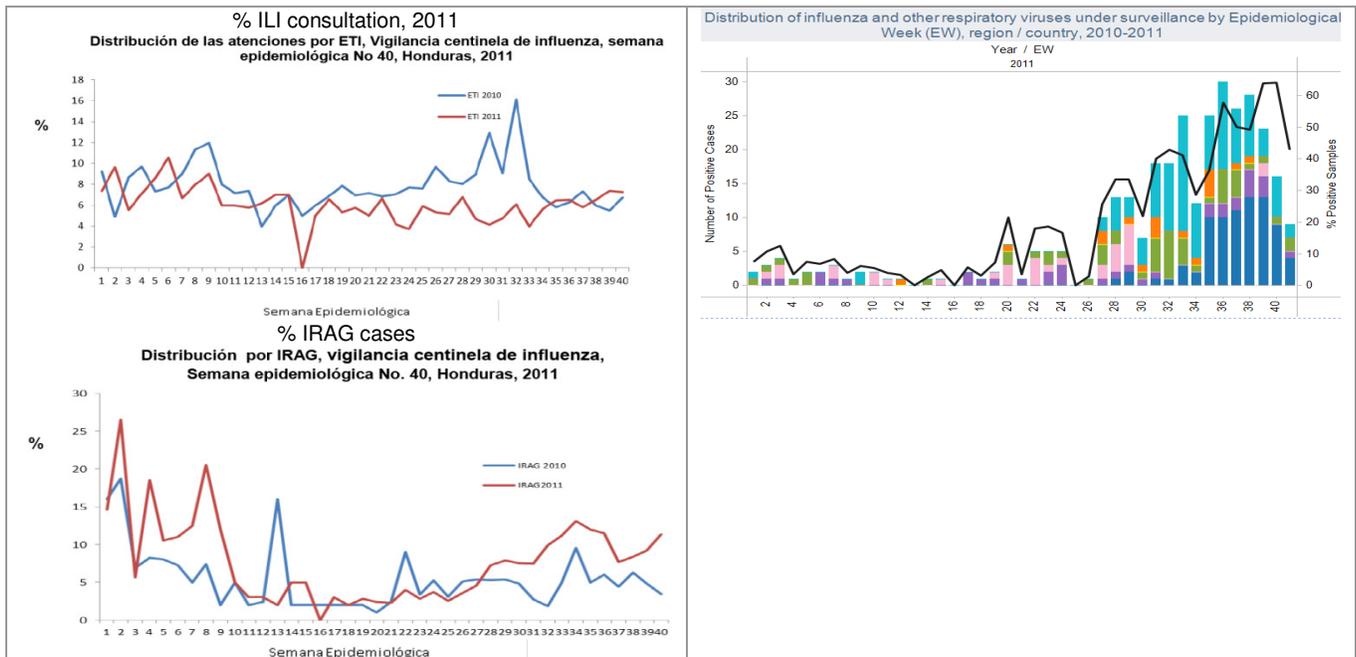


# Central America

## Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala y Nicaragua

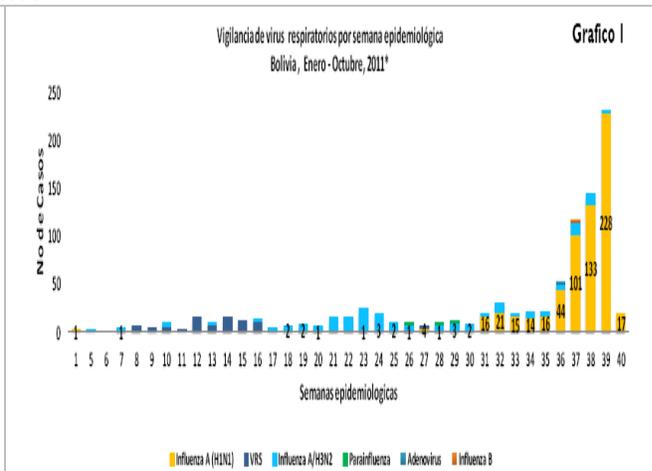
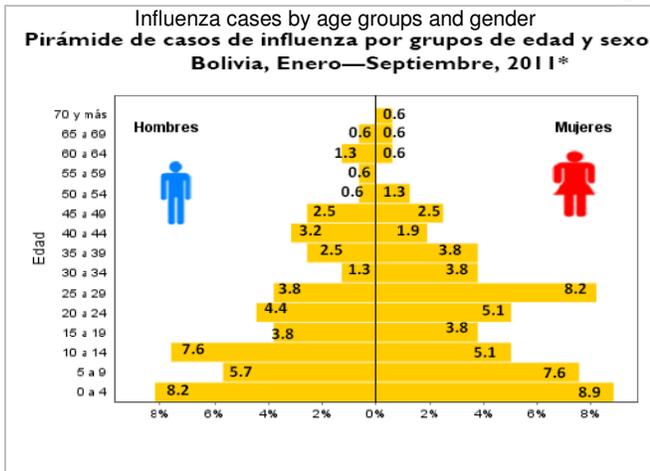


## Honduras

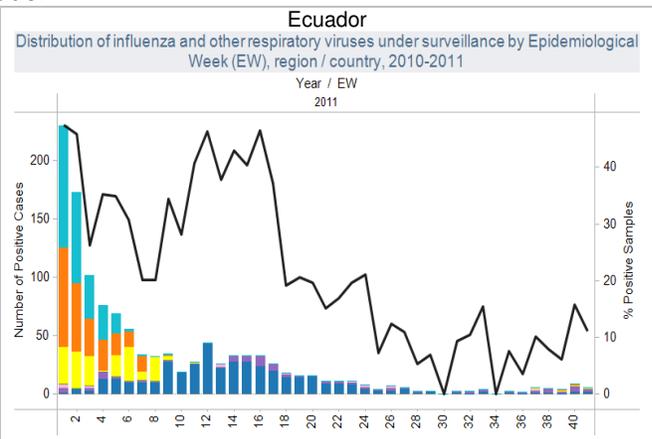
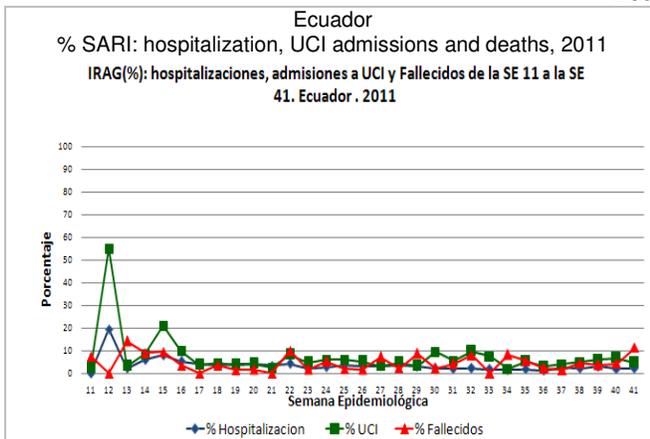


# South America - Andean

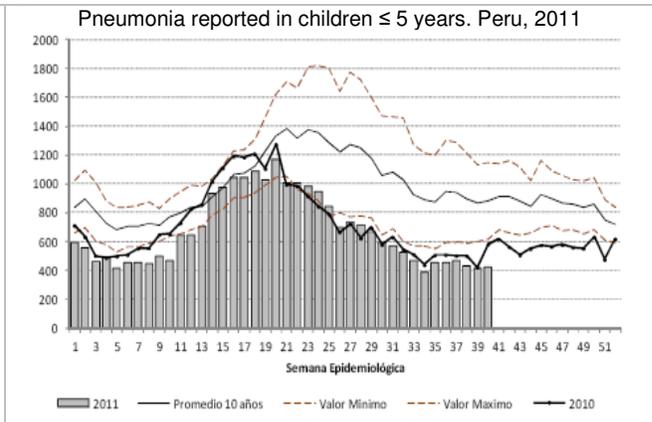
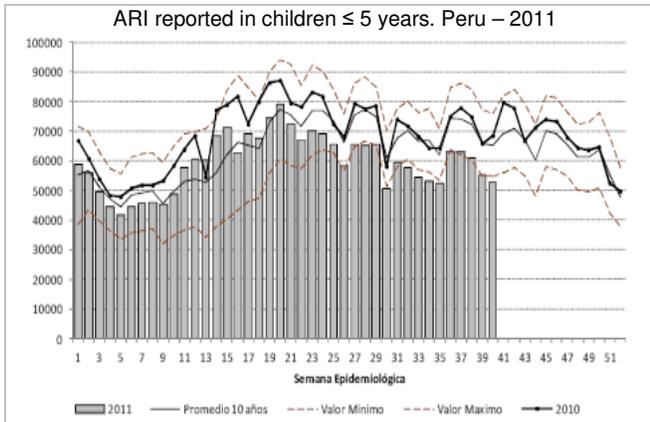
## Bolivia



## Ecuador

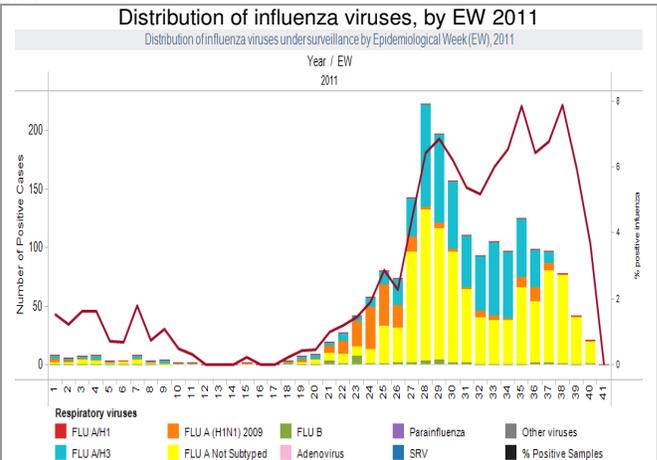
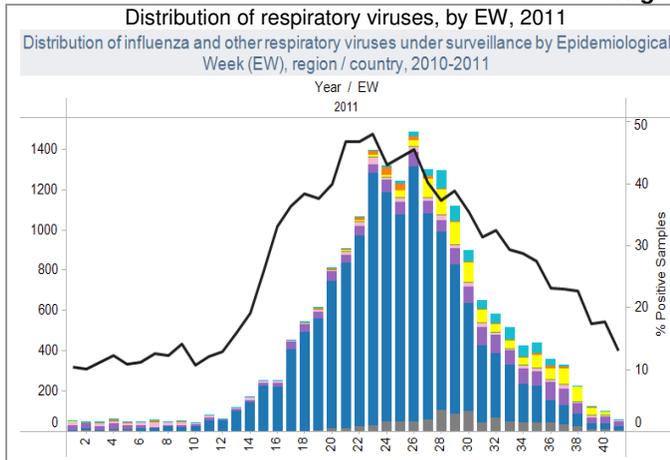


## Peru

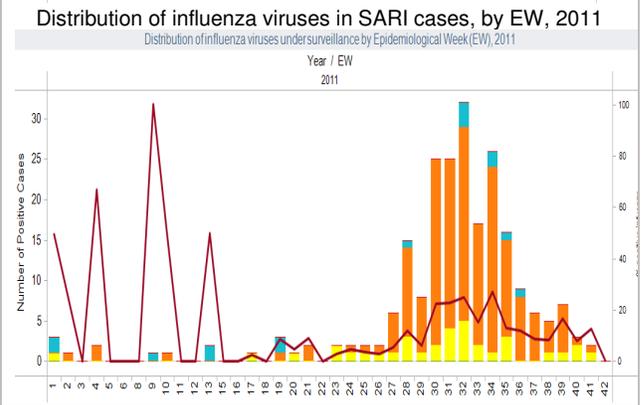
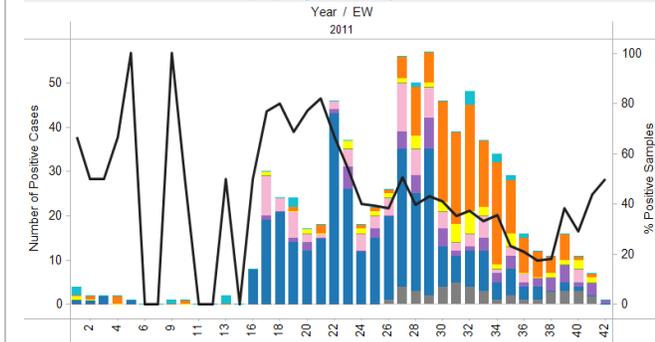
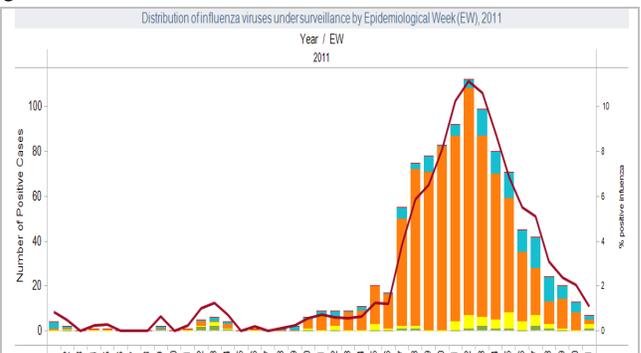
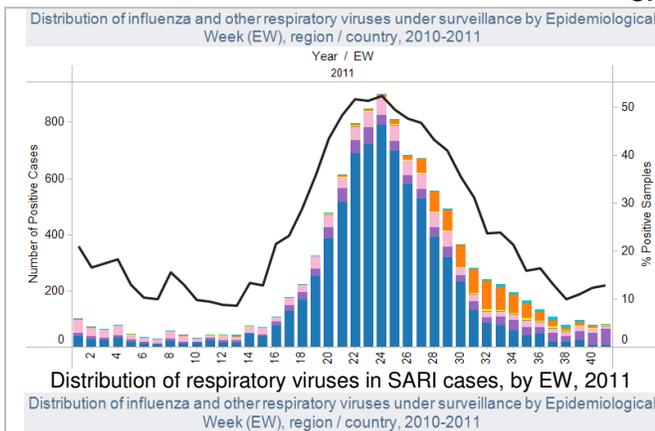


# South America – Southern Cone

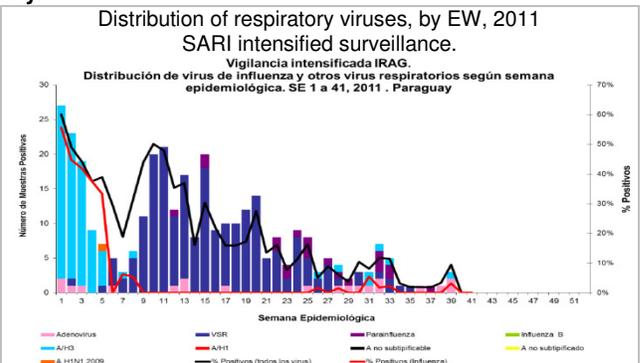
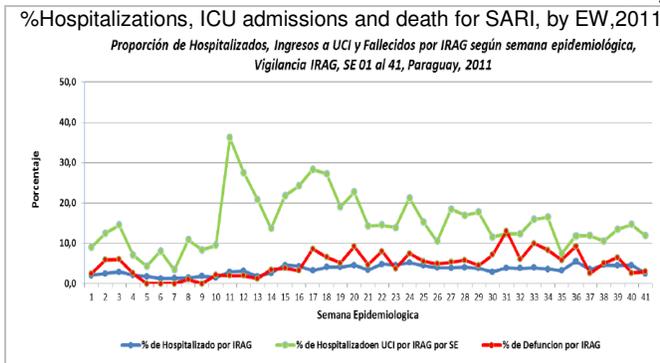
## Argentina



## Chile

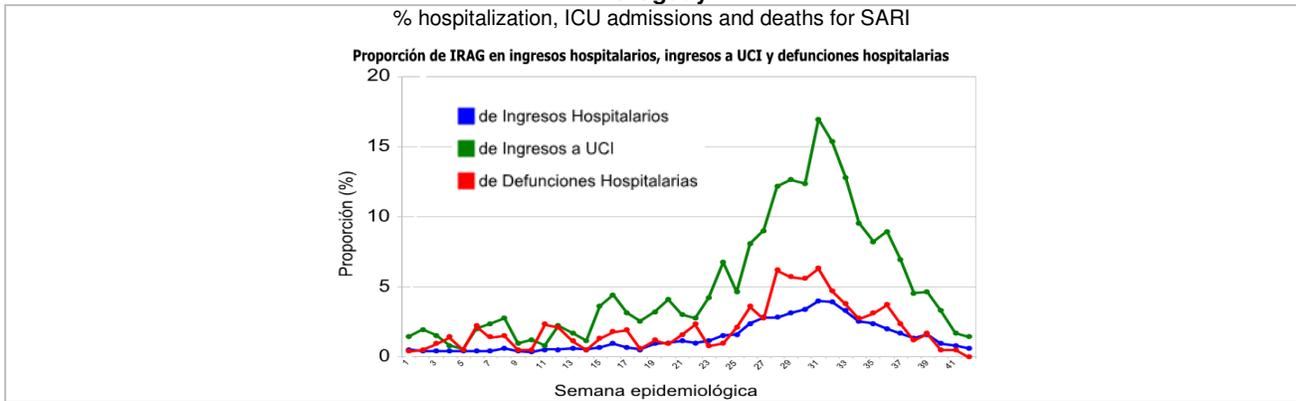


## Paraguay



## Uruguay

% hospitalization, ICU admissions and deaths for SARI



<sup>1</sup> FluWatch Report. EWs 41. Available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

<sup>2</sup> US Surveillance Summary. Week 41. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<sup>3</sup> Honduras. Vigilancia centinela de Tegucigalpa y San Pedro Sula. SE 40

<sup>4</sup> Bolivia. Ministerio de Salud y Deportes. Parte Epidemiológico. No. 123. 10 de Octubre 2011. Available at: <http://www.sns.gob.bo/index.php?ID=PublicacionEpidemiologia>

<sup>5</sup> Perú. Sala de Situación de Salud. SE 40. Ministerio de Salud. Dirección General de Epidemiología.

<sup>6</sup> Paraguay. Boletín epidemiológico semanal. SE 42. Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social.

<sup>7</sup> Uruguay. Dirección General de la Salud. División Epidemiología. SE 42. Available at: <https://trantor.msp.gub.uy/epidemiologia/servlet/iraggrafmenu>