



**Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer**

**Communicable Diseases/Epidemiology  
Influenza Weekly Report  
Arkansas 2015-2016**

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**Week Ending Saturday 03/05/2016**

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During flu season the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) produces this Weekly Influenza Report for clinicians. The report provides information on flu activity in the state. The report also compares influenza-like illness (ILI) in Arkansas to activity in the US. ADH receives detailed reports of only a small fraction of flu cases. Therefore, it is important to understand that the information in the weekly update is representative of the timing and location of activity, but it does not reflect the overall burden of disease. It is presumed that there are many more people actually affected than the report shows.

### **Report Key points:**

- Arkansas reported “Widespread” activity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Week 9.
- Since October 4, 2015, over 3300 positive influenza antigen tests have been reported to ADH by health care providers. Week 9 reports were received from 52 counties, majority of the reports came from Benton, Washington, Craighead, Pulaski, Boone, Saline, Faulkner, Garland, Searcy, Arkansas, Poinsett, and Johnson.
- Among flu antigen tests that can distinguish between Influenza A and B strains, 48 percent were A, and 52 percent were B.
- Thirty two positive flu tests confirmed by PCR last week, eight from ADH, four were H1N1, three B Victoria and one B not specified. Twenty four from other labs, nine of them were A, and fifteen B.
- About 8 percent of patients visiting emergency rooms last week were there for ILI. About 4 percent were of outpatient visits were for ILI.
- The average school absenteeism rate last week was 6.4 percent.
- To date five influenza-related deaths have been reported in Arkansas this flu season. These flu deaths occurred in adults.
- For Week 8, the geographic spread of influenza in Puerto Rico and 33 states was reported as widespread; Guam and 14 states reported regional activity; the District of Columbia and one state reported local activity; and the U.S. Virgin Islands and two states reported sporadic activity.
- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below their system-specific epidemic threshold in the NCHS Mortality Surveillance System and above the system-specific epidemic threshold in the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System.
- You can view the weekly influenza report during the influenza season at:  
<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsServices/infectiousDisease/Immunizations/SeasonalFlu/Pages/FluReport.aspx>
- **Now you can report influenza electronically at:** <https://FluReport.ADH.Arkansas.gov>

### **For Additional National and International Influenza Surveillance Information:**

**World Health Organization (WHO):** [http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs\\_laboratory/flunet/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/flunet/en/index.html).

**CDC - Seasonal Influenza (Flu) - Weekly Report:** <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

**Flu near you:** <https://flunearyou.org/>. Please sign up and forward to your staff!

# 2015-2016 Influenza CD/Epi Weekly Report (Week 9: 02/28/16 - 03/05/16)

## Death Report for Week 9

- Deaths from all causes: 841
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 86
- PCR confirmed Flu Deaths: 0
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 0

## Cumulative Flu Deaths since 10/04/2015

- PCR confirmed Flu deaths: 1
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 4
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 5

## ER Visits\*

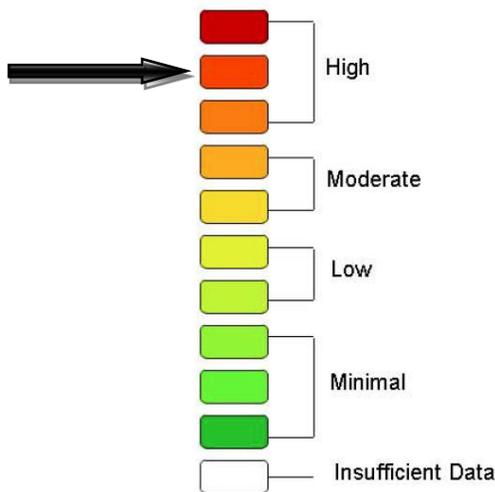
- **Week Ending: 03/05/2016**  
Weighted Average: 8.0% (35 Hospitals)  
– Total Visits: 13,432  
– Visits with ILI: 1,073
- **Previous Week**  
Weighted Average: 7.2% (38 Hospitals)  
– Total Visits: 16,478  
– Visits with ILI: 1,193

\*% is the number of ILI visits\*100/Total Visits

## Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions

- **PCR Confirmed:**  
– Cumulative: 20  
– Week ending 03/05/2016: 5
- **ILI or Antigen Tested (Provisional):**  
– Cumulative: 451  
– Week ending 03/05/2016: 37

## Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level Reported by Sentinel Providers



## PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza

- Total Cases since 10/4/2015: 68
- Week Ending 03/05/2016: 32

PCR Tests	ADH Lab Week 9	Other Labs Week 9	Cumulative Cases Since 10/4/2015
A+	0	9	13
B+	1	15	27
B/Victoria	3	0	6
B/Yamagata	0	0	1
H1N1+	4	0	14
H3+	0	0	7
Unsubtypable	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>68</b>
Negative	0	--	

## PCR Confirmed Influenza Cases since 10/4/2015

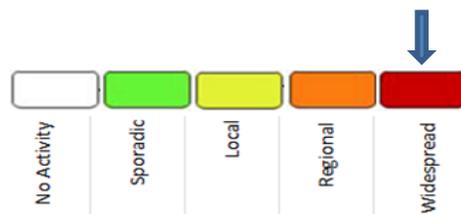
Age Groups	PCR+	Hospitalized	Deaths
0-4 yr.	12	4	0
5-18 yr.	18	3	0
19-24 yr.	5	1	0
25-49 yr.	16	4	0
50-64 yr.	8	4	0
>= 65 yr.	9	4	1
Unknown	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>

## School Absenteeism\*

- Week Ending: 03/05/2016  
– Percent Absent: 6.4%  
– Previous week: 6.9%

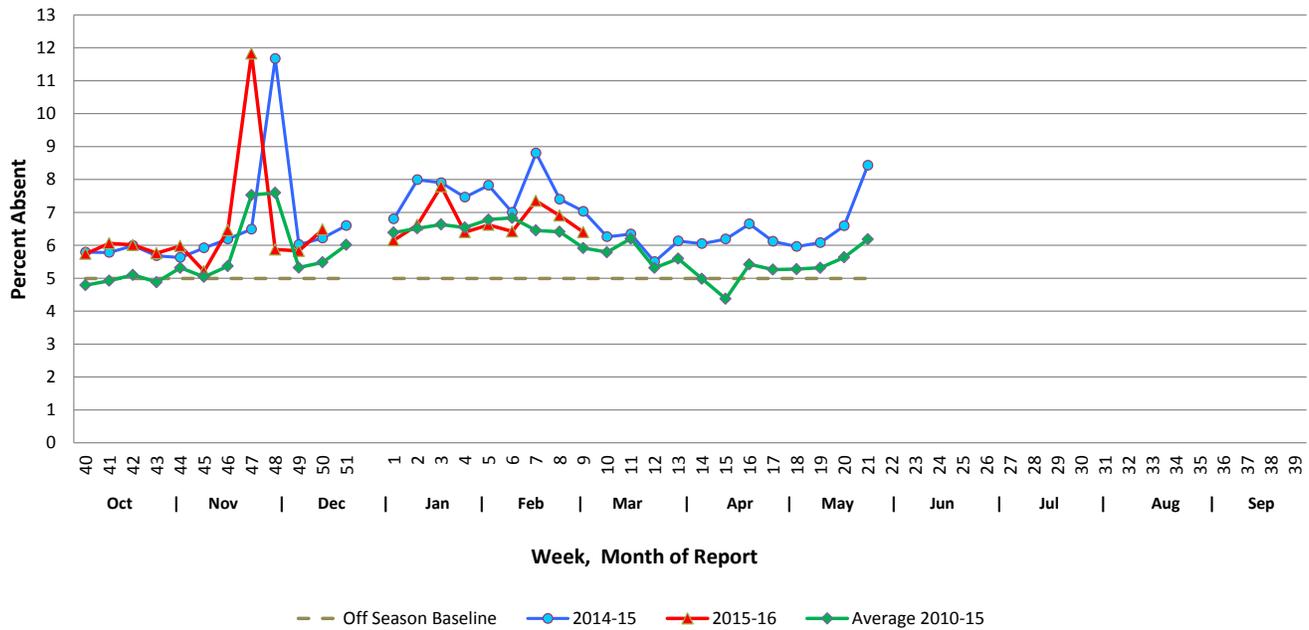
\* Average daily absenteeism for all public schools during this reporting week.

## Geographic ILI Activity Level Reported for Week 9:

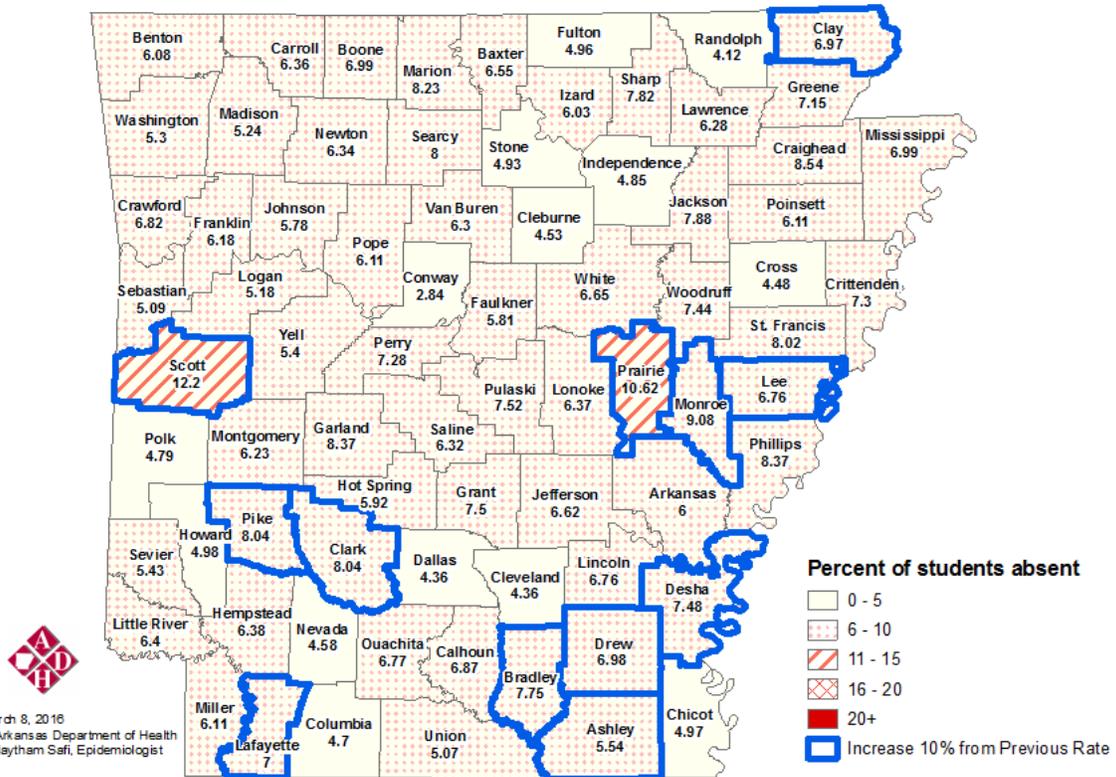


# Schools Absenteeism Report:

## Weekly School Absenteeism Rates, Arkansas Public Schools



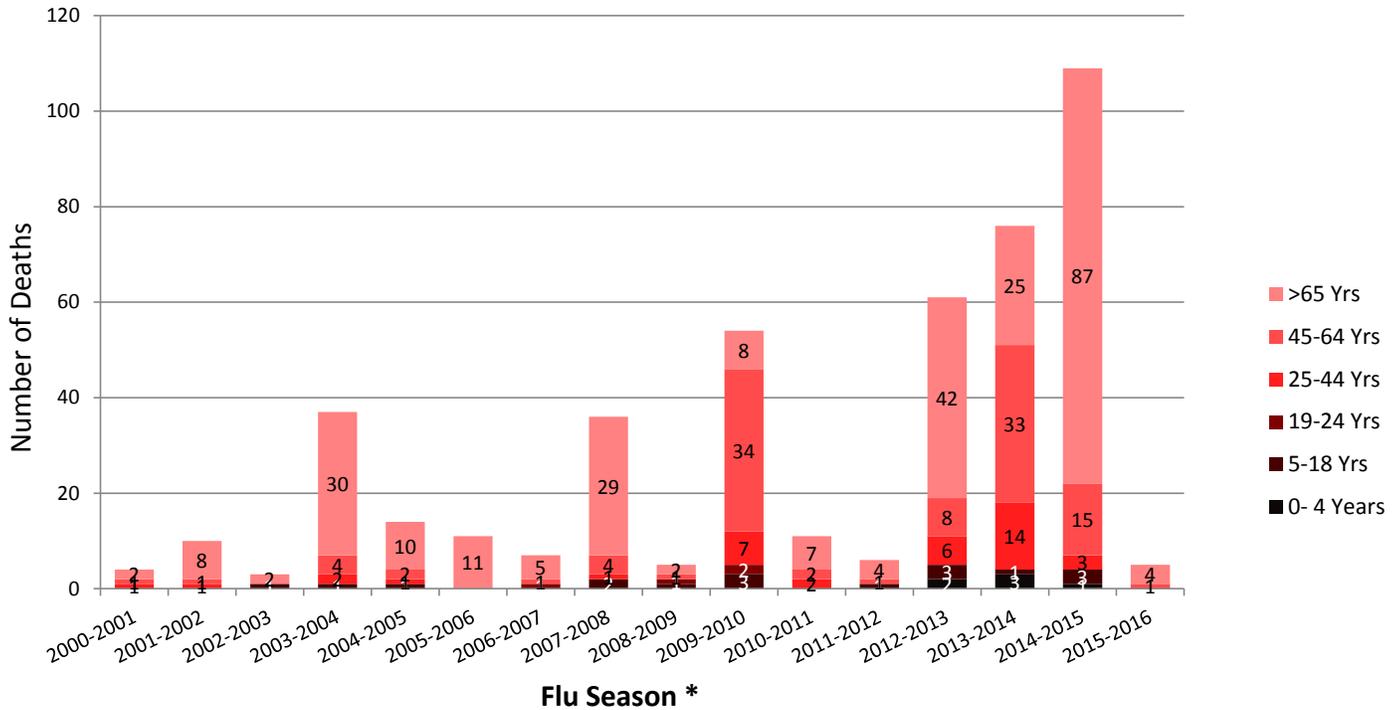
## School Absenteeism Rate per County, Arkansas 2015-2016 Percent Absent for Week Ending 3/5/2015



Date: March 8, 2016  
 Source: Arkansas Department of Health  
 Author: Haytham Safi, Epidemiologist

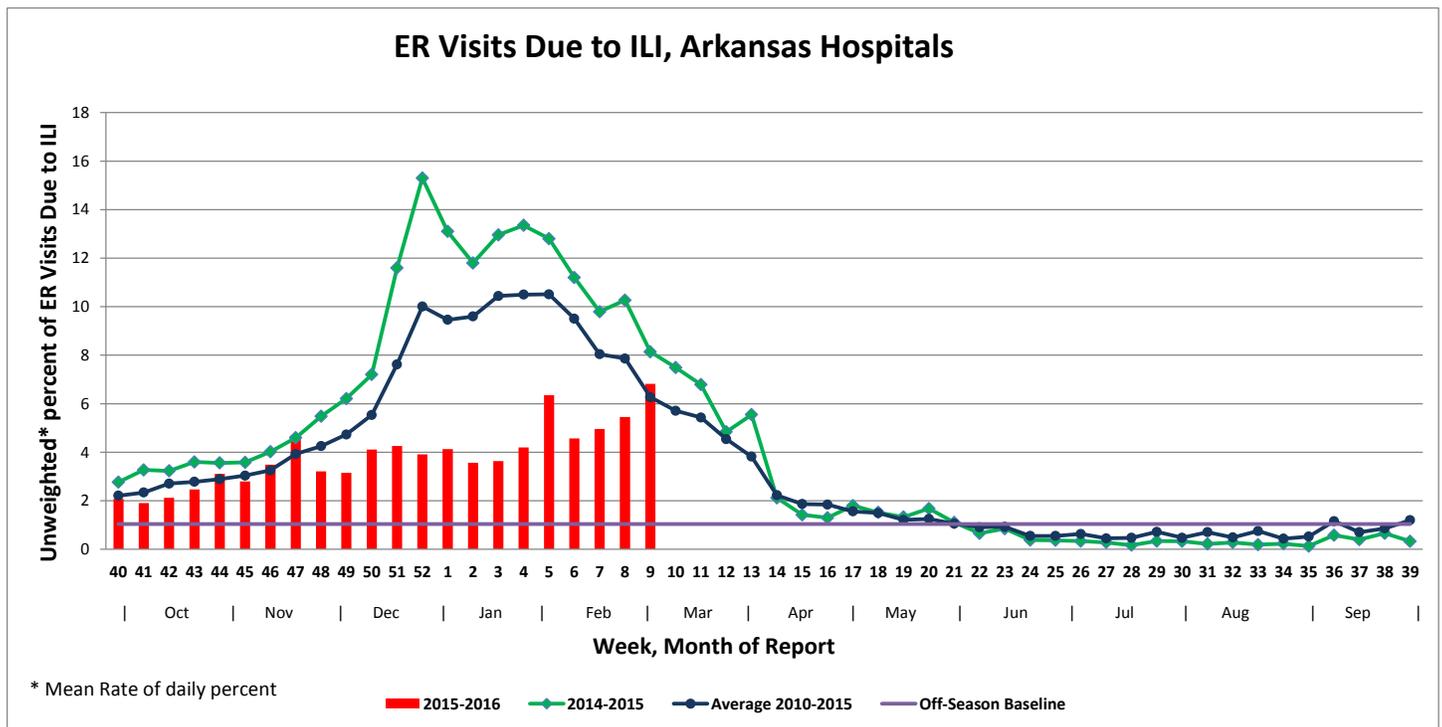
# Influenza Mortality by Age Group, Arkansas 2000-2016 (Provisional)

Report Updated: 03/01/2016

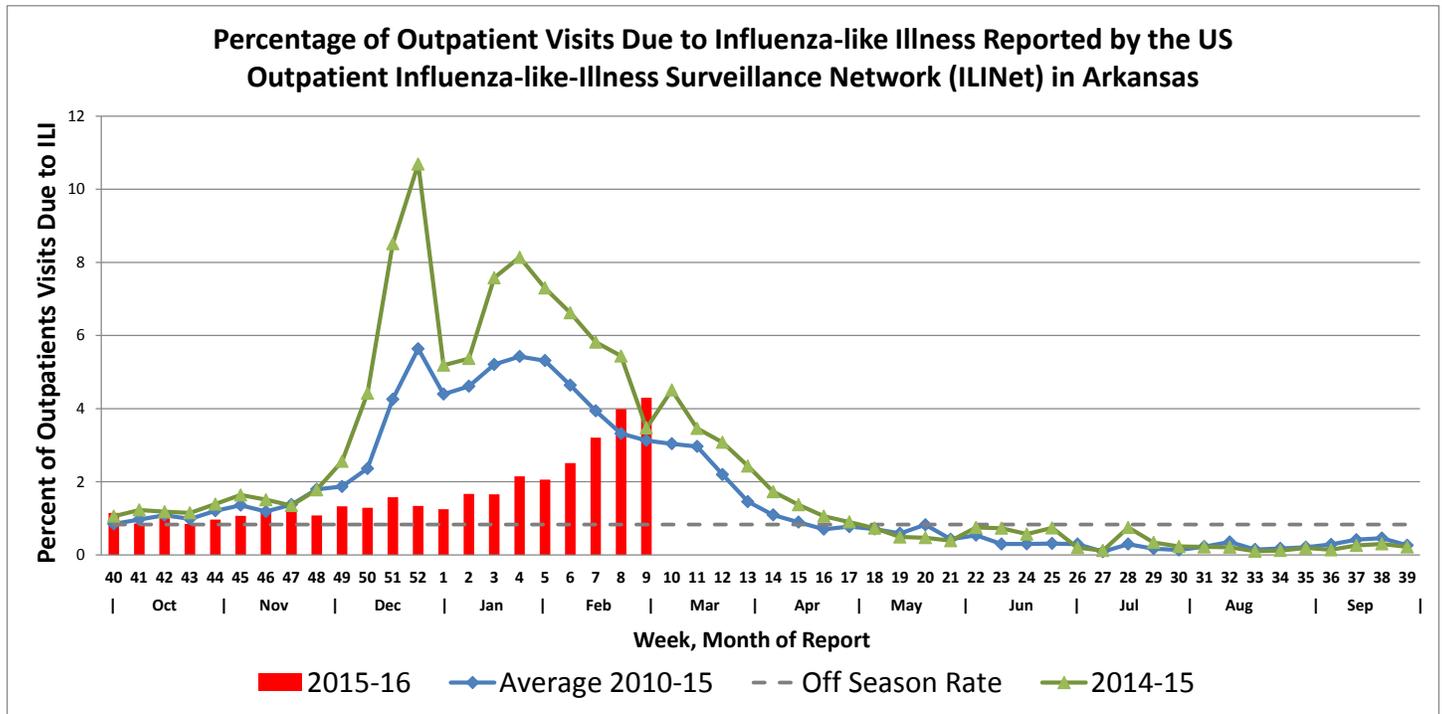


\* All seasons range from week 40 to week 39 except 2009-2010 started week 36  
 Source: ADH Immunization Section, Center for Health Statistics

## Hospital Report – ER Visits With Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI)

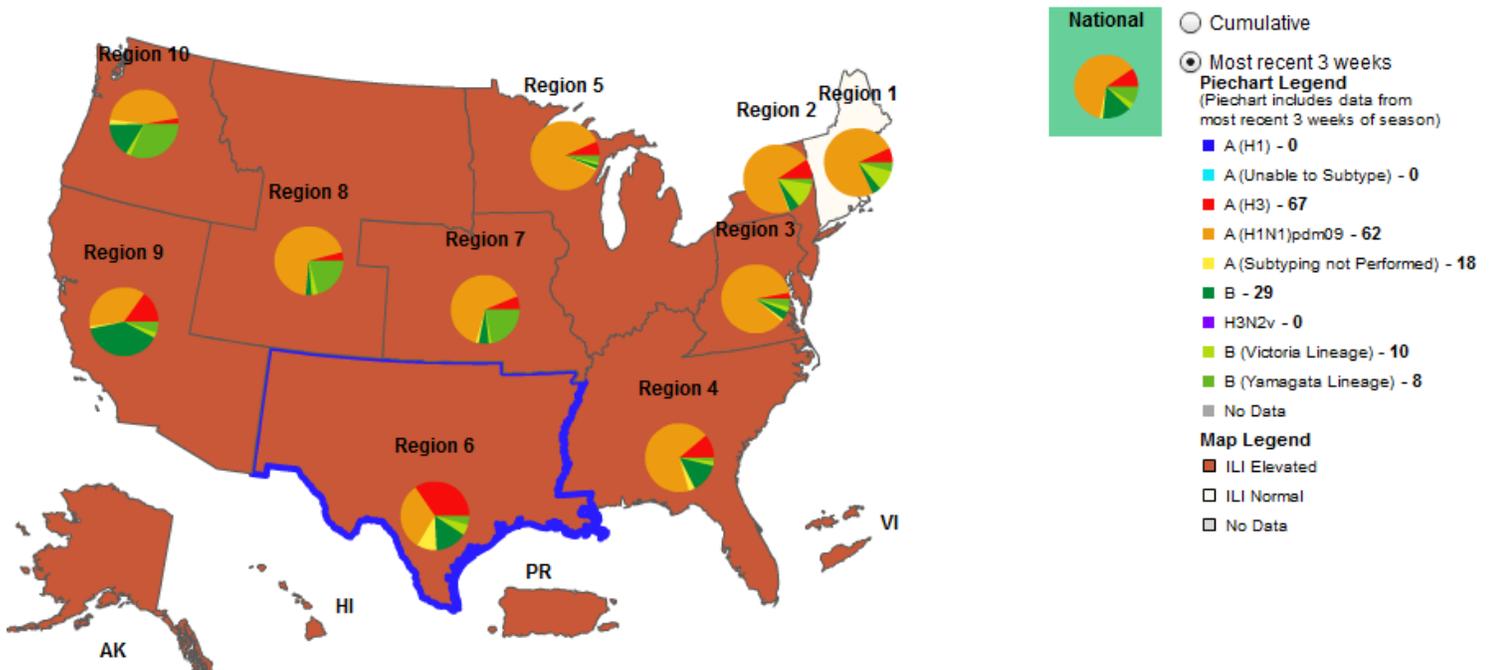


# US Outpatients Influenza Surveillance (ILINET)



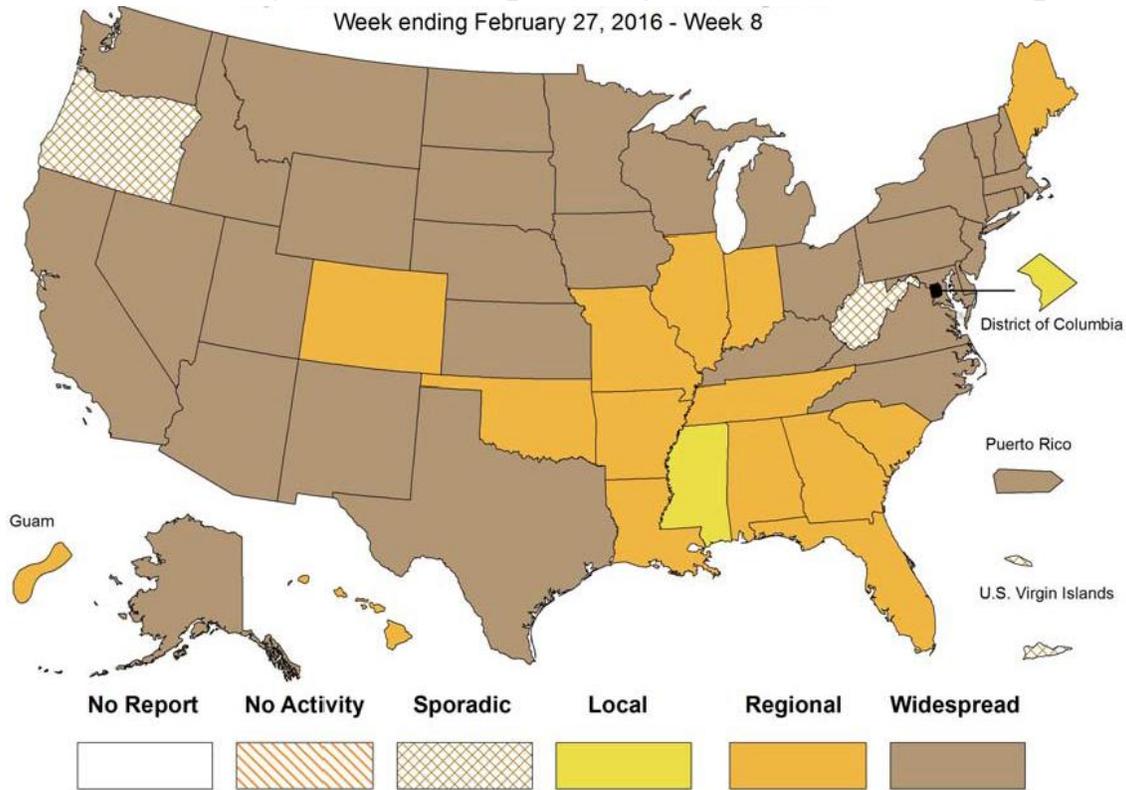
## Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC and ILI Activity, by HHS Region, 2015-2016 Season, Week Ending Feb 27, 2016

Values in legend is for the highlighted HHS region (Region 6)



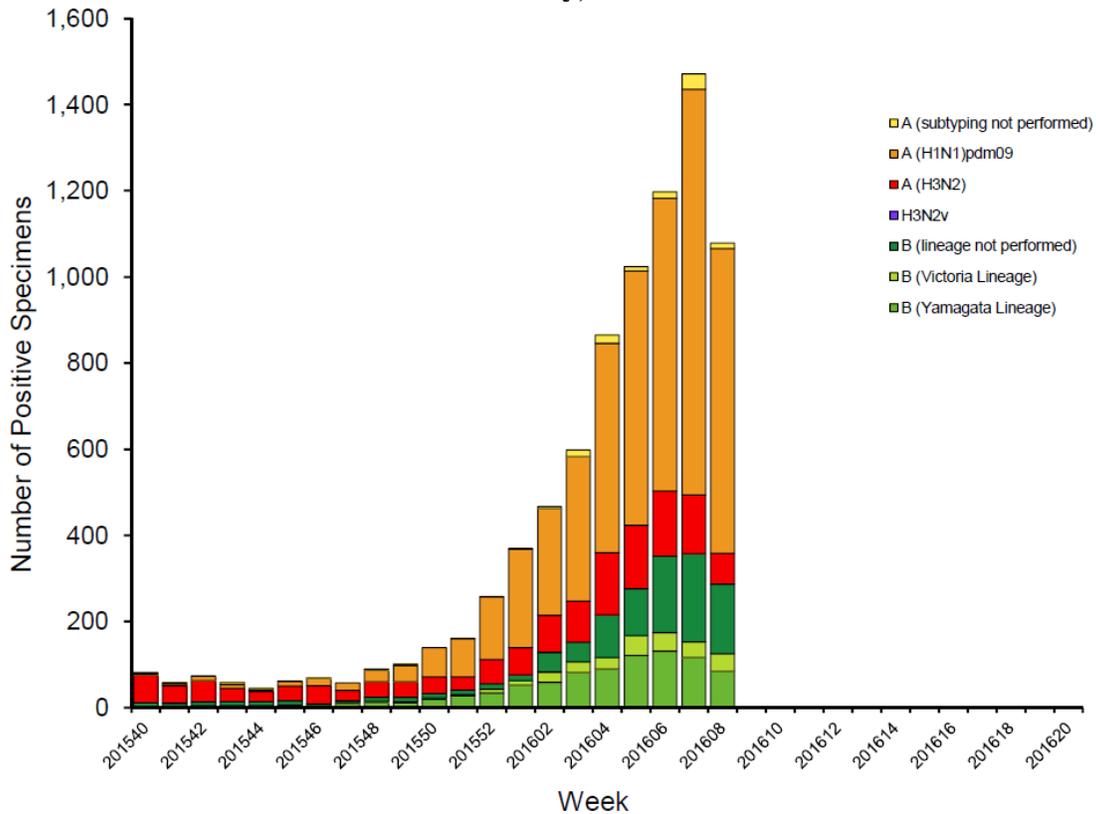
# Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending February 27, 2016 - Week 8

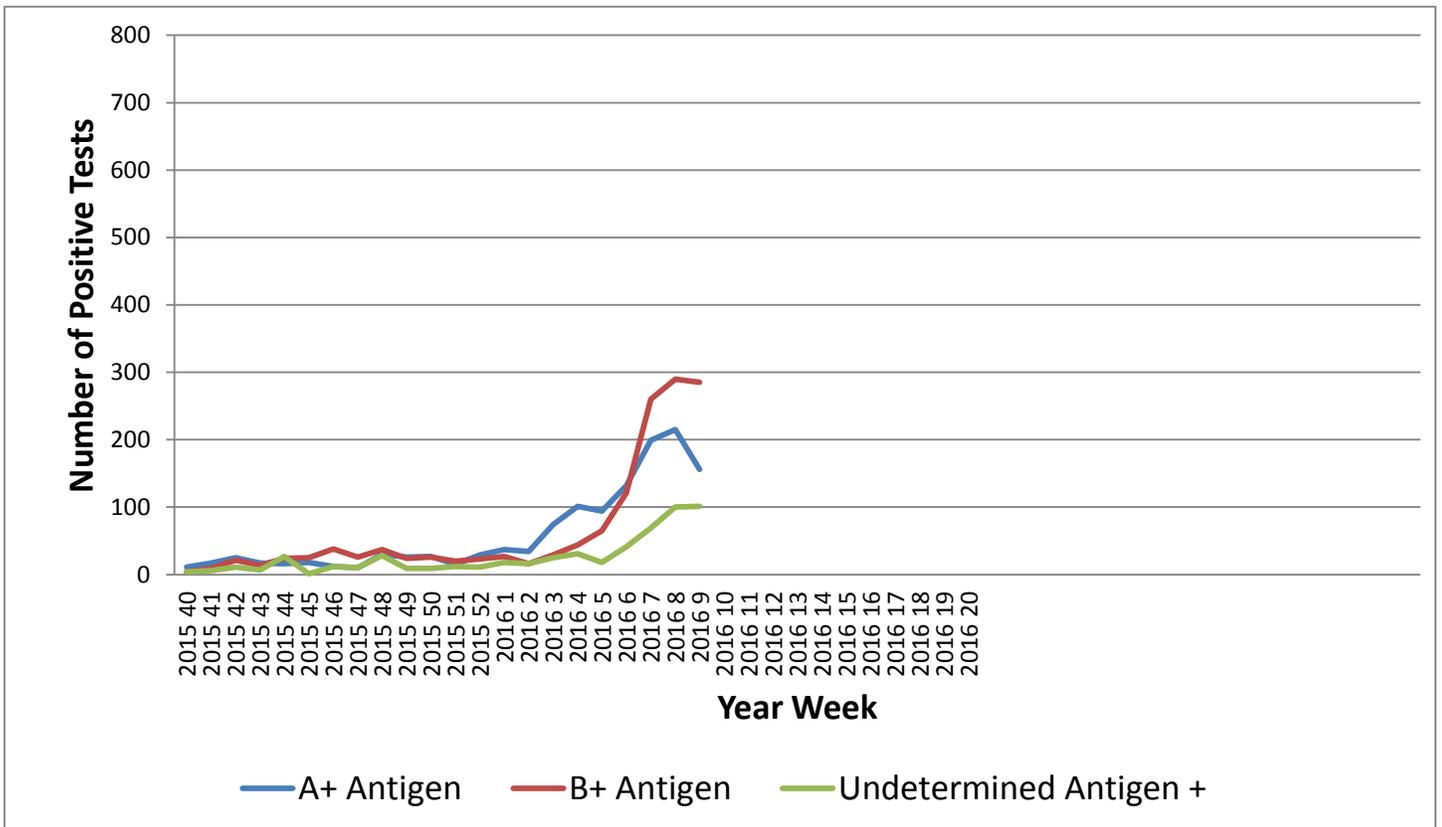
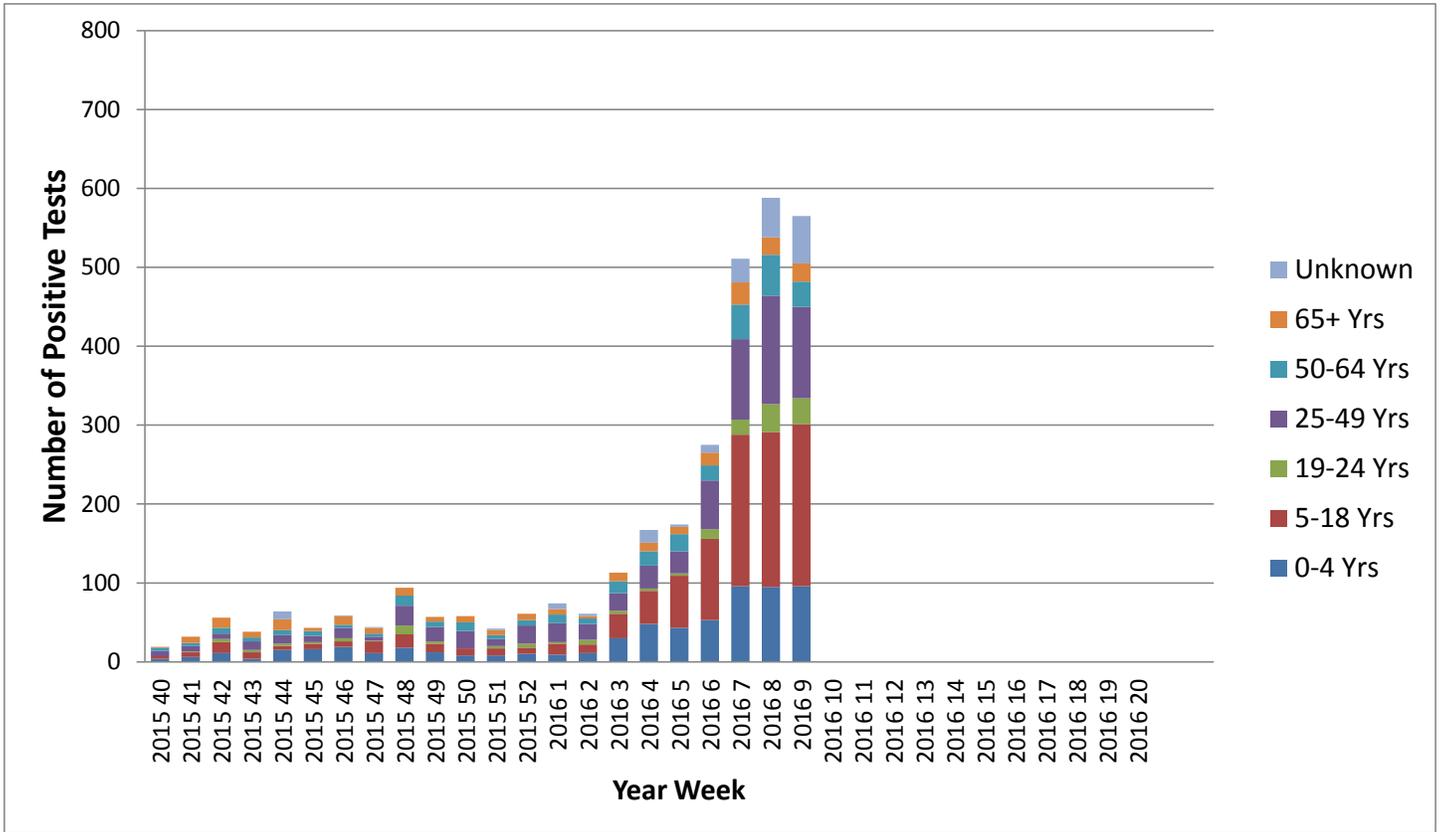


## Arkansas Flu Activity Level Reported for Week 9: Widespread

### Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, 2015-16 Season



# Antigen Report:



# Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality for 122 U.S. Cities Week ending February 27, 2016

