

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
PRELIMINARY INFLUENZA ACTIVITY REPORT
For Week 22 (week ending June 6, 2009)**



An unprecedented high level of late season influenza activity continues to be observed in Connecticut and through much of the region ([see http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm)). This widespread level of activity has been documented by ongoing laboratory confirmation of the presence of the novel influenza A (H1N1) subtype (originally known as swine flu). A total of 5,535 laboratory confirmed test results have been received on clinical specimens collected through the week ending June 6, 2009 (week 22) that include reports from all 8 Connecticut counties (see Table 1, Figure 1). The DPH laboratory has confirmed the presence of influenza virus in 255 clinical specimens (2008-2009 season total = 1,057) collected through week 22. Characterization of these isolates reveals *novel* influenza A (H1N1) to be the predominate subtype in the region. In fact, only 2 isolates of the seasonal influenza A (H3N2) subtype have been recently identified (season total = 169). Moreover, no specimens of *seasonal* influenza A (H1N1) subtype (season total = 192) or influenza B (season total = 111) have been isolated in recent weeks (see Figure 2). Current weekly influenza activity can be compared with activity of the last 5 seasons (see Figures 3a & 3b).

Six additional indicators of flu activity are being monitored throughout the 2008-2009 flu season. Information on respiratory outbreaks and laboratory confirmed influenza cases in long-term care facilities are shown in Figure 4. Data on Connecticut residents presenting with influenza-like-illness (ILI) as reported by participants of the United States Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) (formerly known as the U.S. Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance Network) are shown in Figure 5. These reporting sites also include participants in the Connecticut Influenza Super Sentinel Surveillance Pilot Project organized this year to provide additional information on outpatient ILI activity and enhance pandemic preparedness.

Data on emergency department visits from our Hospital Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance (HEDSS) System are also analyzed. One category in particular, fever/flu, has been shown to correlate well with influenza activity. Recent HEDSS data have revealed the highest percentage of late season ED visits by patients presenting with ILI observed during the past three seasons (see Figure 6). Patients with more severe illness who are admitted into Connecticut hospitals are tracked by the Connecticut Hospital Admissions Syndromic Surveillance (HASS) System. Data on one category, total statewide pneumonia admissions, correlates with flu activity. Recent HASS data have revealed the highest number of late season statewide pneumonia admissions observed in recent years (see Figure 7). Finally, selected mortality data are monitored each week including pneumonia and influenza deaths from Connecticut cities that participate in the U.S. 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System (see Figure 8), and reports of influenza associated pediatric deaths (none reported to date this flu season). These various surveillance systems are providing additional evidence that Connecticut is experiencing an unprecedented high level of late season influenza activity as a result of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus circulating throughout the region and the world.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Alan Siniscalchi or Maria Andrews at the Department of Public Health, Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program, by calling 860-509-7994. Additional Information on novel influenza A (H1N1) including current case counts can be found at: <http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch/cwp/view.asp?a=2533&q=439092>.

**Table 1: Connecticut Department of Public Health 2008-2009
Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Testing
For Week 22 (week ending June 6, 2009)**

Results by		Previous	New	Total
TEST:	Culture/PCR	802	255	1,057
	Rapid Test	4,054	424	4,478
FLU TYPE:	Type A	2,897	632	3,529
	Type B	966	0	966
	Unknown	993	47	1,040
COUNTY:	Fairfield	1,865	339	2,204
	Hartford	589	60	649
	Litchfield	198	9	207
	Middlesex	269	10	279
	New Haven	1,532	223	1,755
	New London	134	8	142
	Tolland	119	27	146
	Windham	150	3	153
GENDER:	Female	2,530	332	2,862
	Male	2,326	347	2,673
Total		4,856	679	5,535

Age:	Previous	New	Total	Week	Dates - 2009	Total
0-4	531	52	583	1	January 4 - 10	41
5-24	2,759	472	3,231	2	January 11-17	116
25-64	1,316	149	1,465	3	January 18-24	204
≥65	250	6	256	4	January 25-31	382
Age Range: <1 – 101 Average Age: 21.9				5	February 1-7	615
				6	February 8-14	808
				7	February 15-21	603
				8	February 22-28	415
				9	March 1-7	302
				10	March 8-14	215
				11	March 15-21	133
				12	March 22-28	83
				13	March 29- April 4	59
				14	April 5-11	27
				15	April 12-18	9
				16	April 19-25	6
				17	April 26- May 2	119
				18	May 3- 9	77
				19	May 10-16	102
				20	May 17-23	249
				21	May 24-30	330
				22	May 31-June 6	551
				23	June 7-13	

Figure 1. Laboratory Confirmed Tests by Flu Type, Connecticut, 2008-2009 Influenza Season

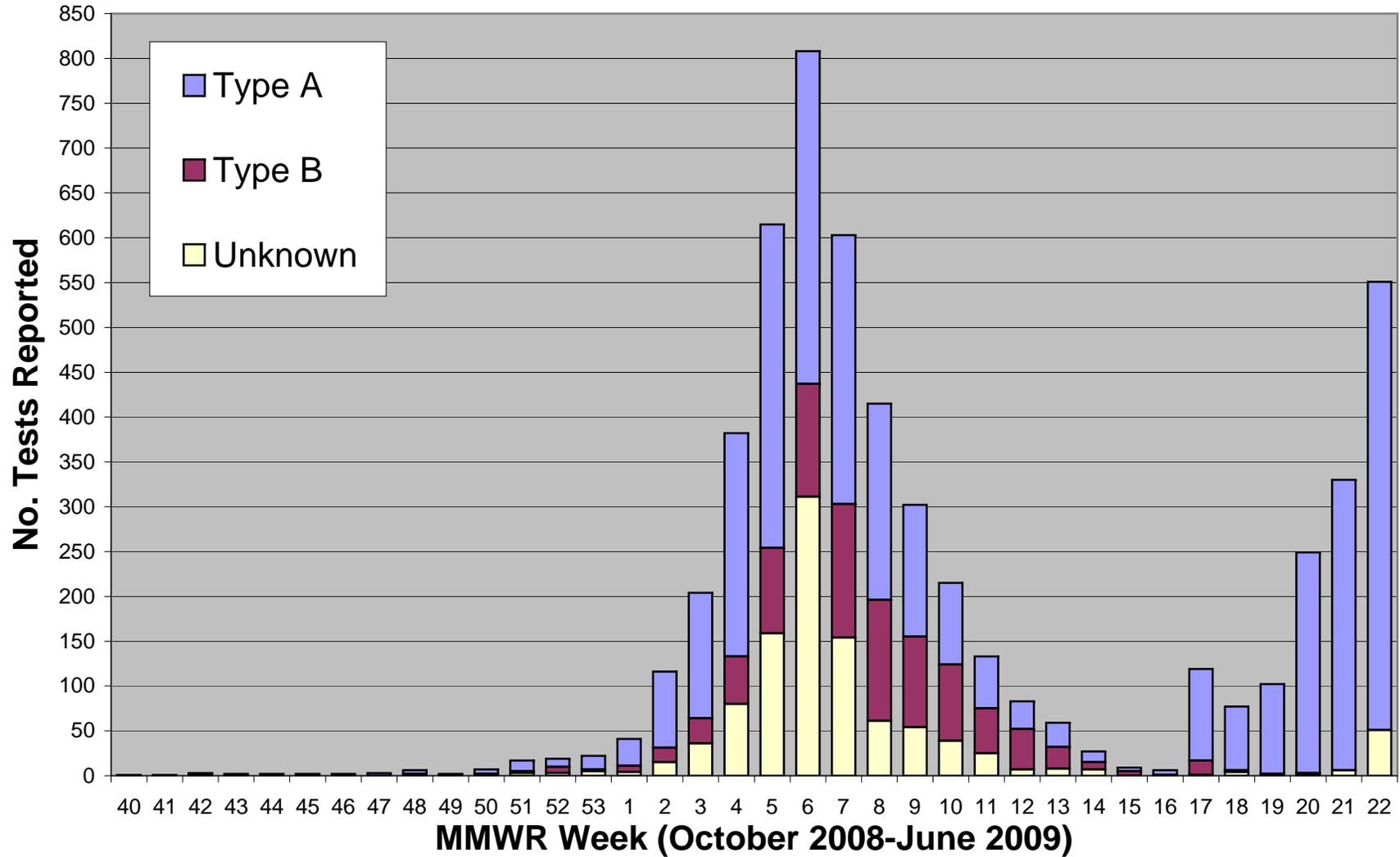
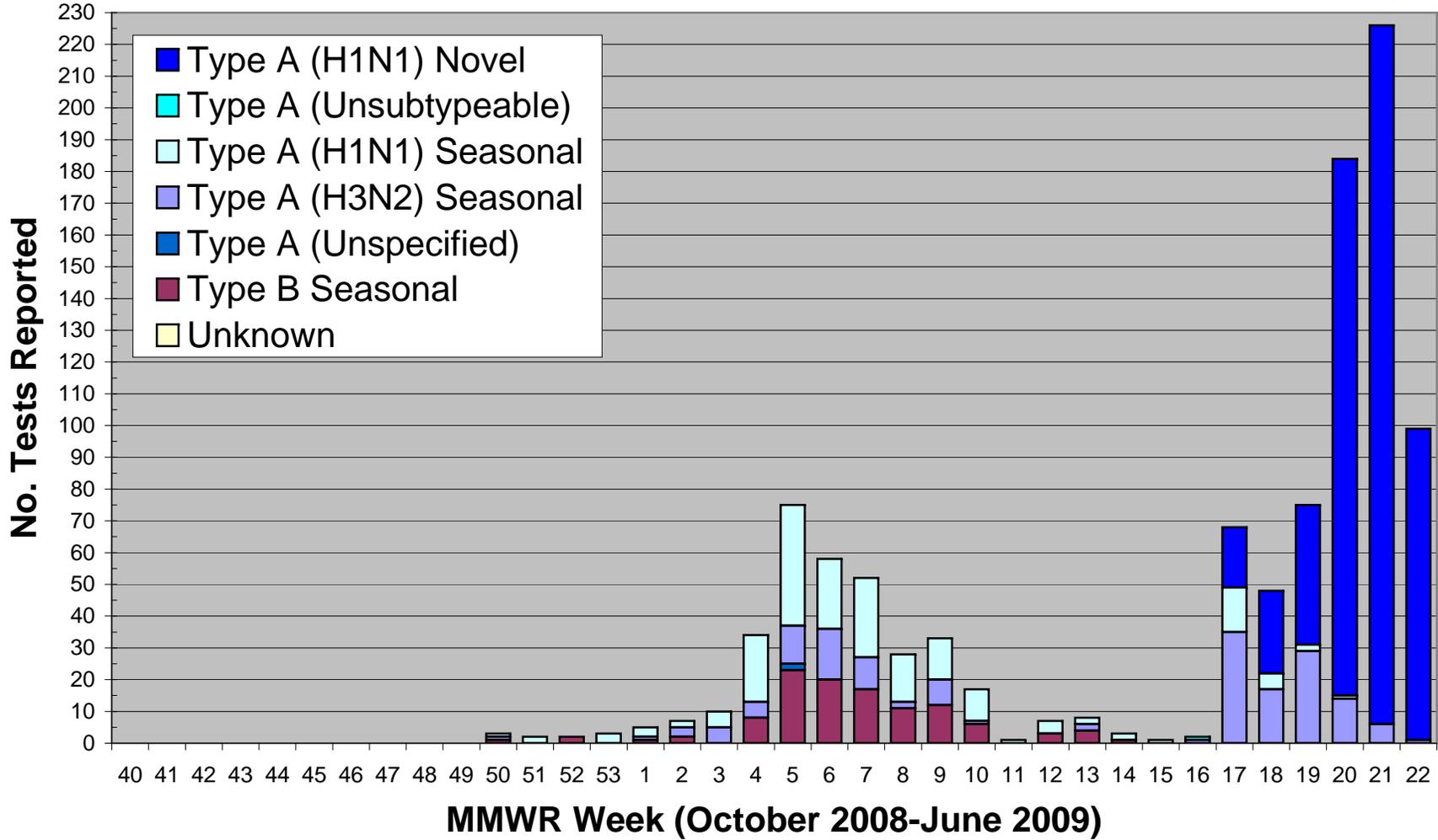
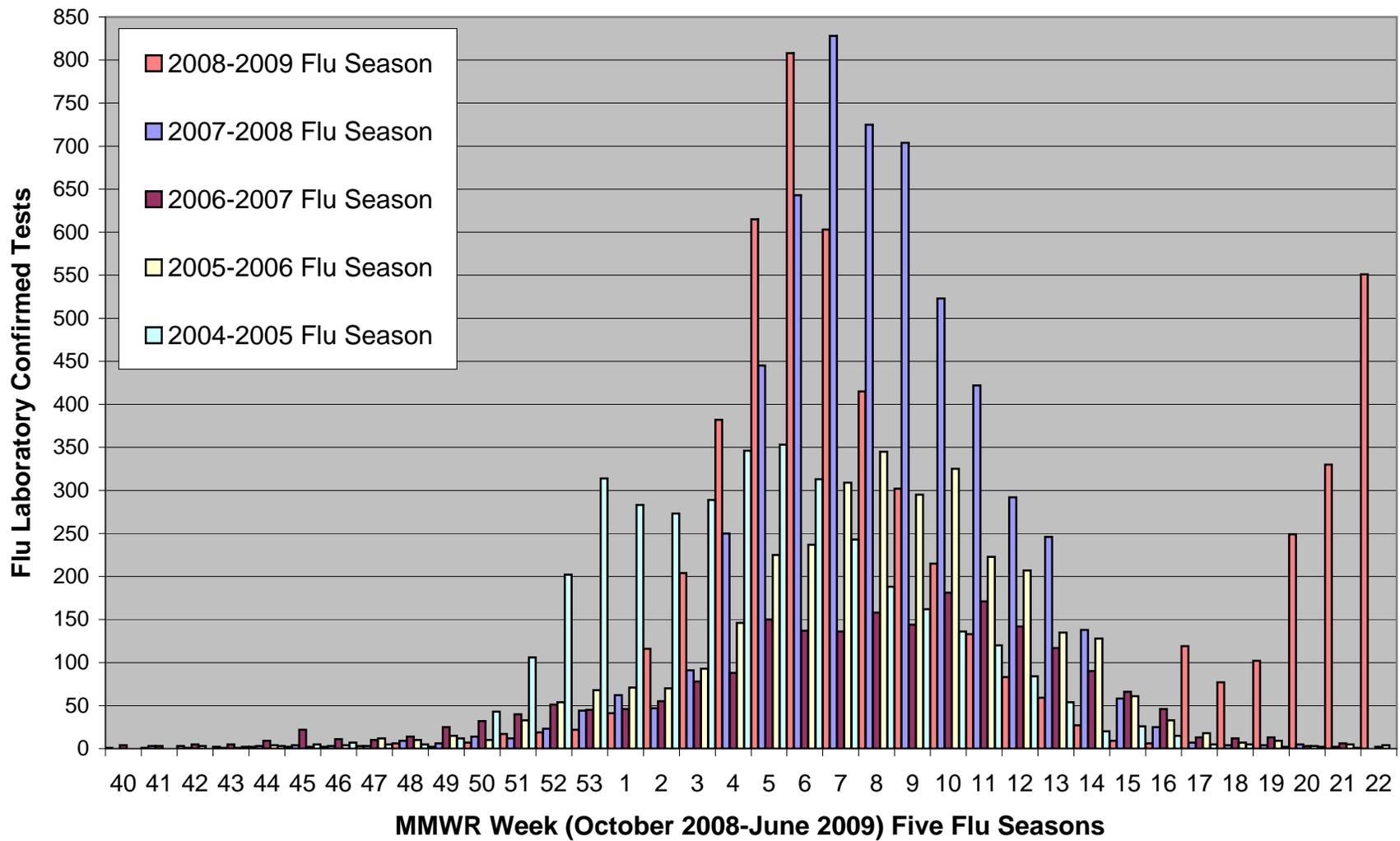


Figure 2. Department of Public Health Laboratory Culture Confirmed Tests by Flu Type and Subtype, Connecticut, 2008-2009 Flu Season



**Figure 3a. Laboratory Confirmed Tests by Flu Season
Connecticut, 2004-2009**



**Figure 3b. Laboratory Confirmed Tests by Flu Season
Connecticut, 2003-2009**

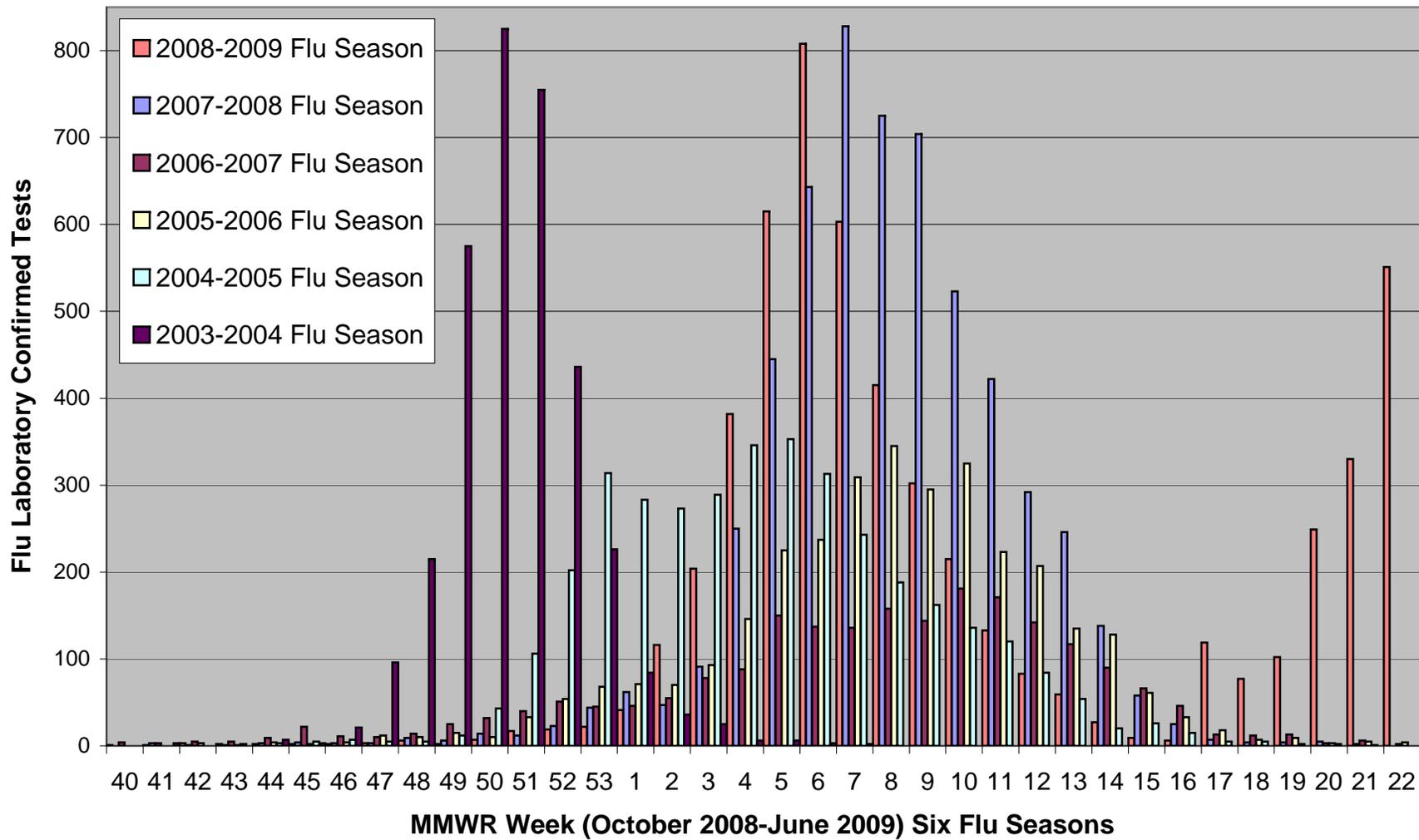
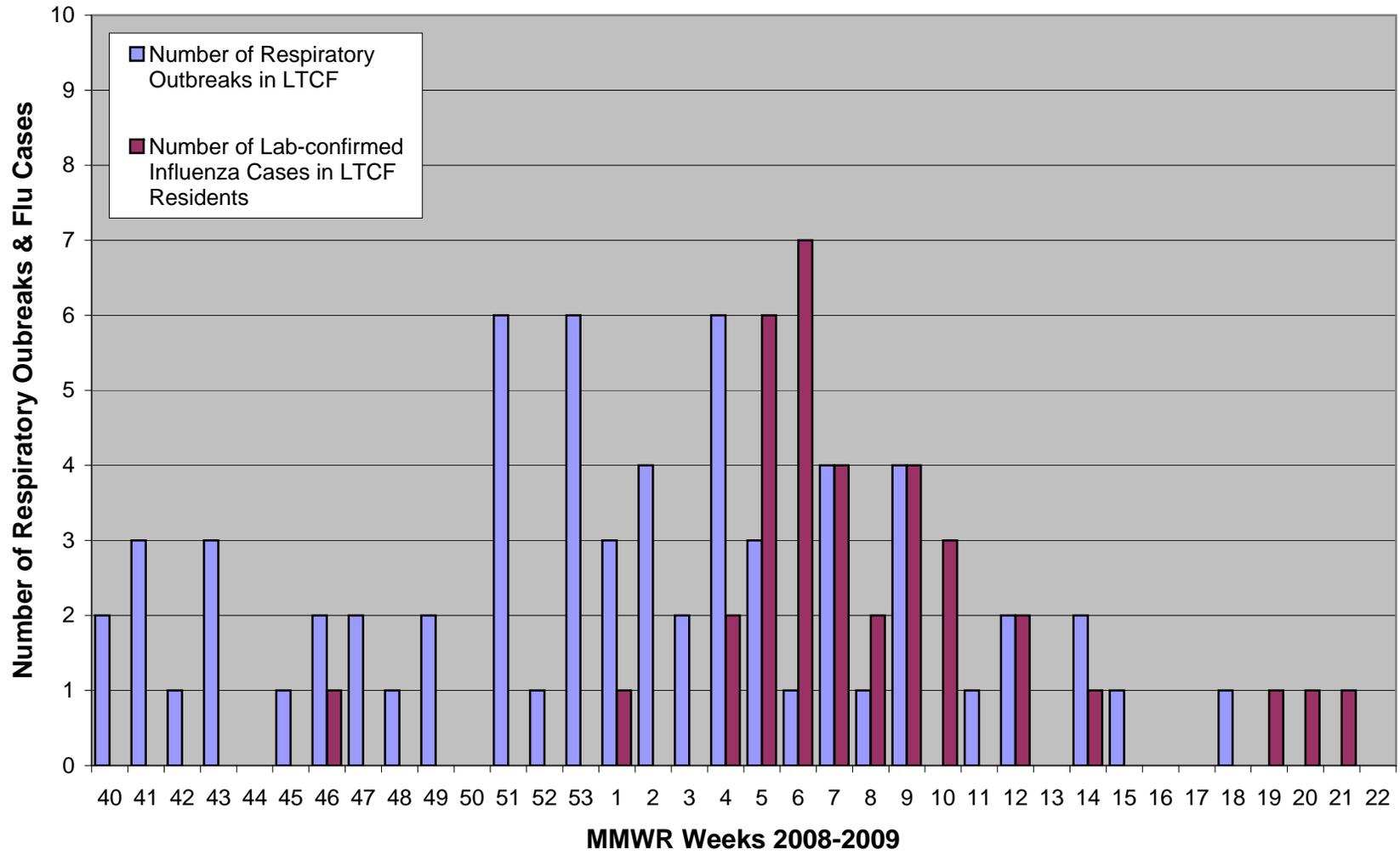


Figure 4. Respiratory Outbreaks & Influenza in Long-term Care Facilities (LTCF), Connecticut, 2008-2009 Influenza Season



**Figure 5. Outpatient Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet),
Statewide Visits of Patients with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), Connecticut,
2007-2009**

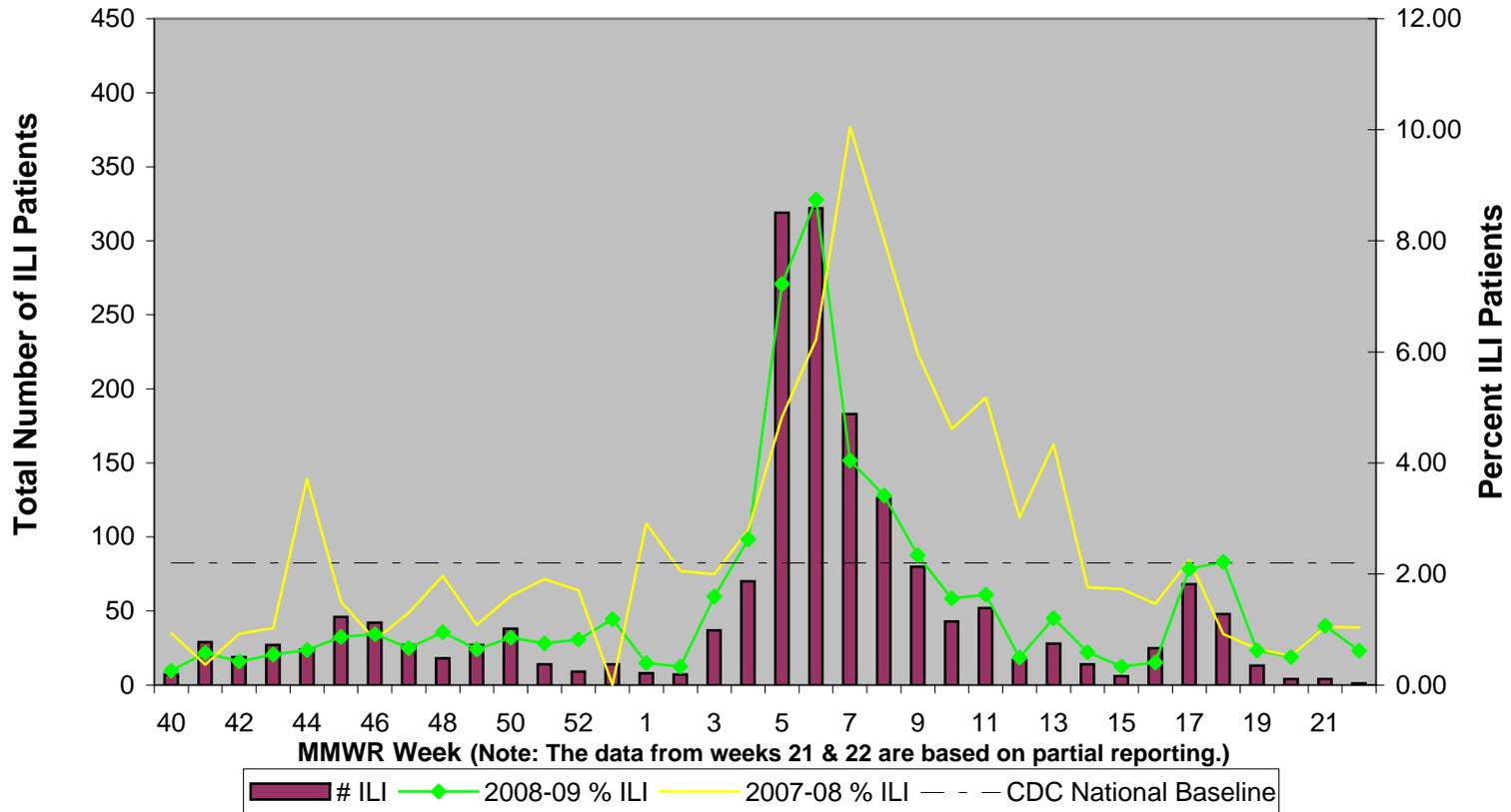


Figure 6. Hospital Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance (HEDSS) System, Statewide "Fever/Flu" Visits through Week 22 (the week ending June 6, 2009), Connecticut, 2006-2009

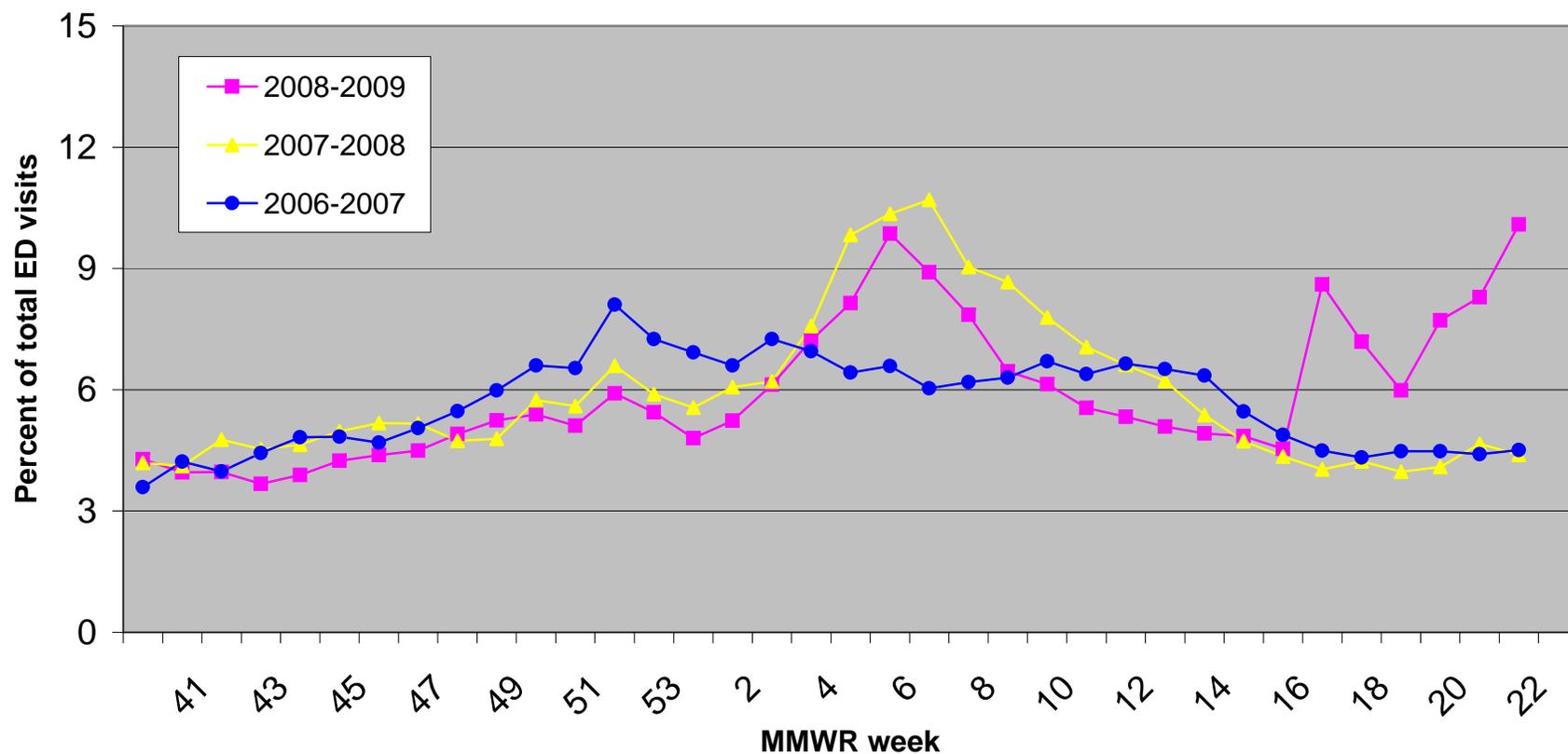


Figure 7. Hospital Admissions Syndromic Surveillance (HASS) System, Connecticut Statewide Pneumonia Admissions by Flu Season; 2005-2009

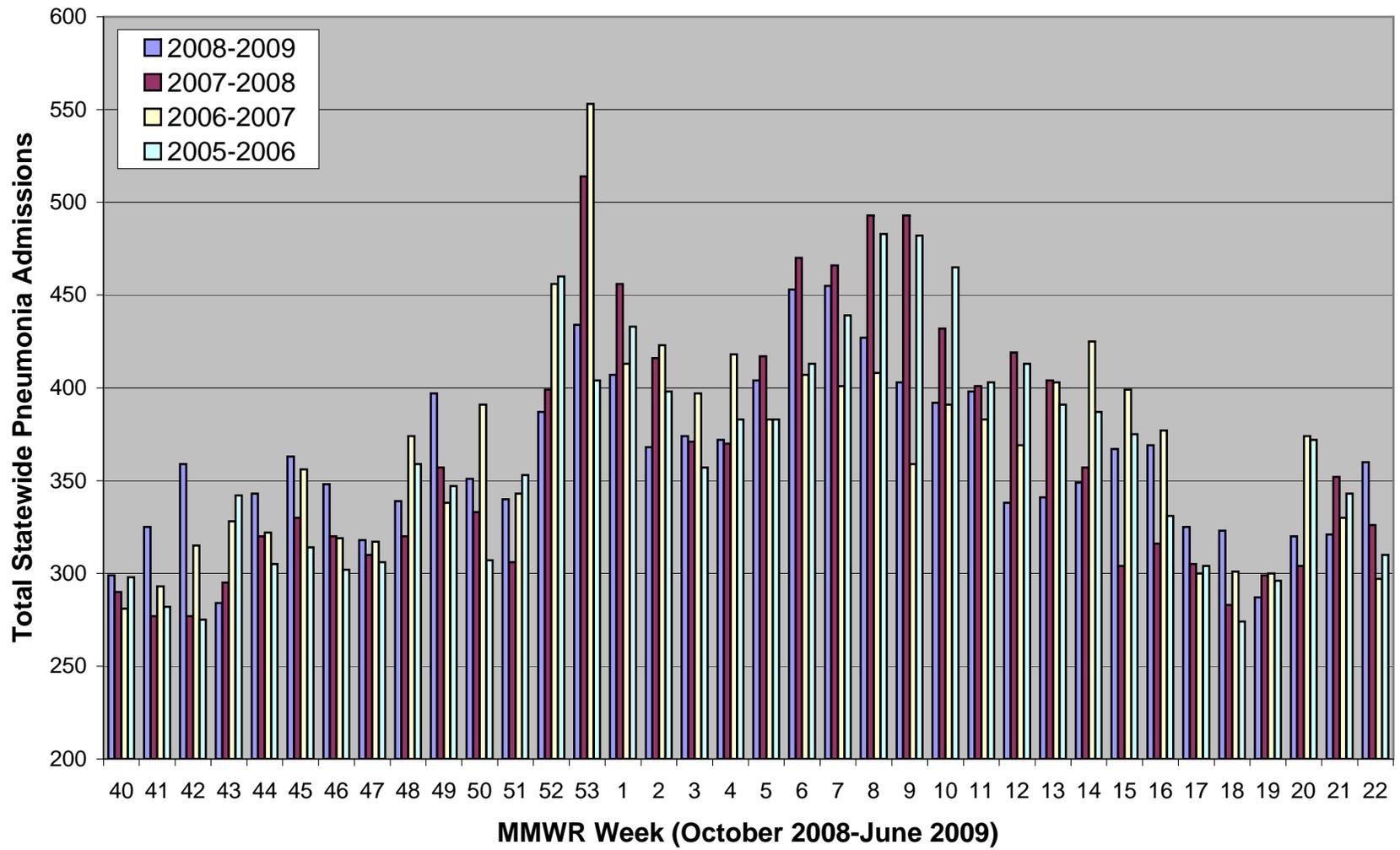


Figure 8. CDC 122 Cities Surveillance: Pneumonia & influenza Deaths in Selected Connecticut Cities, 2007-2008 & 2008-2009 Flu Seasons

