

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
PRELIMINARY INFLUENZA ACTIVITY REPORT
For Week 5 (week ending February 7, 2009)**



Preliminary influenza data reviewed from the week ending February 7th revealed that a rapidly increasing level of activity was observed during the 19th week of the official 2008-2009 influenza season. These data include a total of 1,342 laboratory confirmed test results from various Connecticut hospitals that reveal the presence of both type A and type B flu viruses, and include reports from all 8 (Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, and Windham) Connecticut counties (see Table 1, Figure 1). Our national flu activity classification changed from “regional” to “widespread” as a result of the increasing activity statewide. The DPH laboratory has culture-confirmed the presence of influenza virus in 36 clinical specimens. Characterization of these isolates reveals the presence of the influenza A (H1N1) subtype in 20 specimens, the influenza A (H3N2) subtype in 7 specimens, and influenza B in 9 specimens (see Figure 2). Clinicians should be aware of oseltamivir resistance among many flu A (H1N1) strains. Weekly influenza activity has now increased to a level that exceeds activity observed during the equivalent weeks in all of the last 5 seasons (see Figures 3a & 3b).

Six additional indicators of flu activity are being monitored throughout these initial weeks of 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.

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 (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 (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 surveillance systems are providing additional evidence that Connecticut is currently experiencing a rapidly increasing level of flu activity as compared with recent influenza seasons.

The CDC has posted its 20th national influenza activity map showing initial “sporadic” flu activity in 2 states, “local” flu activity in 11 states, a higher “regional” level of activity in 13 states, and the highest “widespread” level of activity in 24 states. The most recent CDC weekly influenza activity map can be viewed at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>

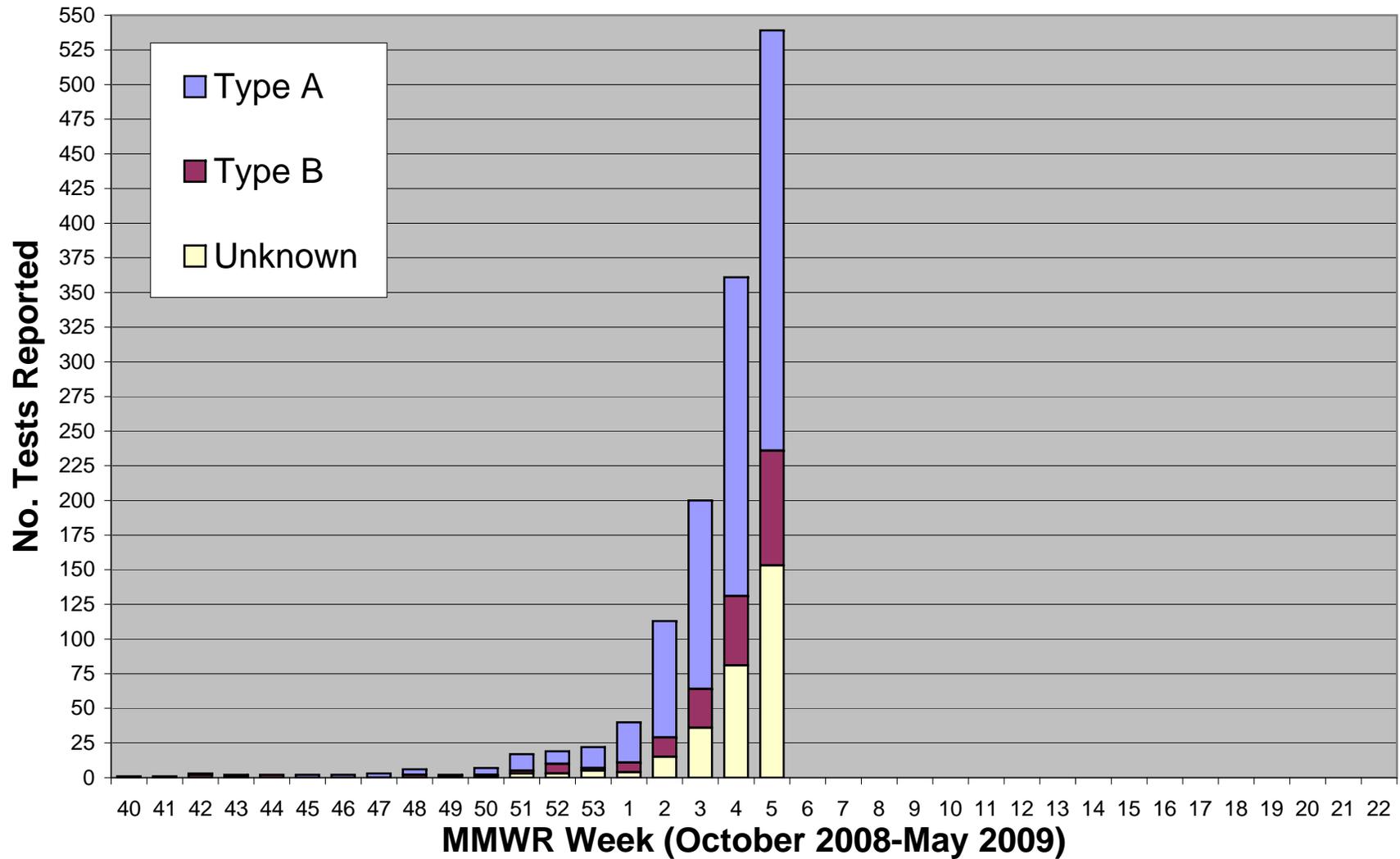
If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Alan Siniscalchi or Maria Andrews at the Department of Public Health, Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program, by calling 860-509-7994.

**Connecticut Department of Public Health
2008-2009 Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Testing
For Week 5 (week ending February 7, 2009)**

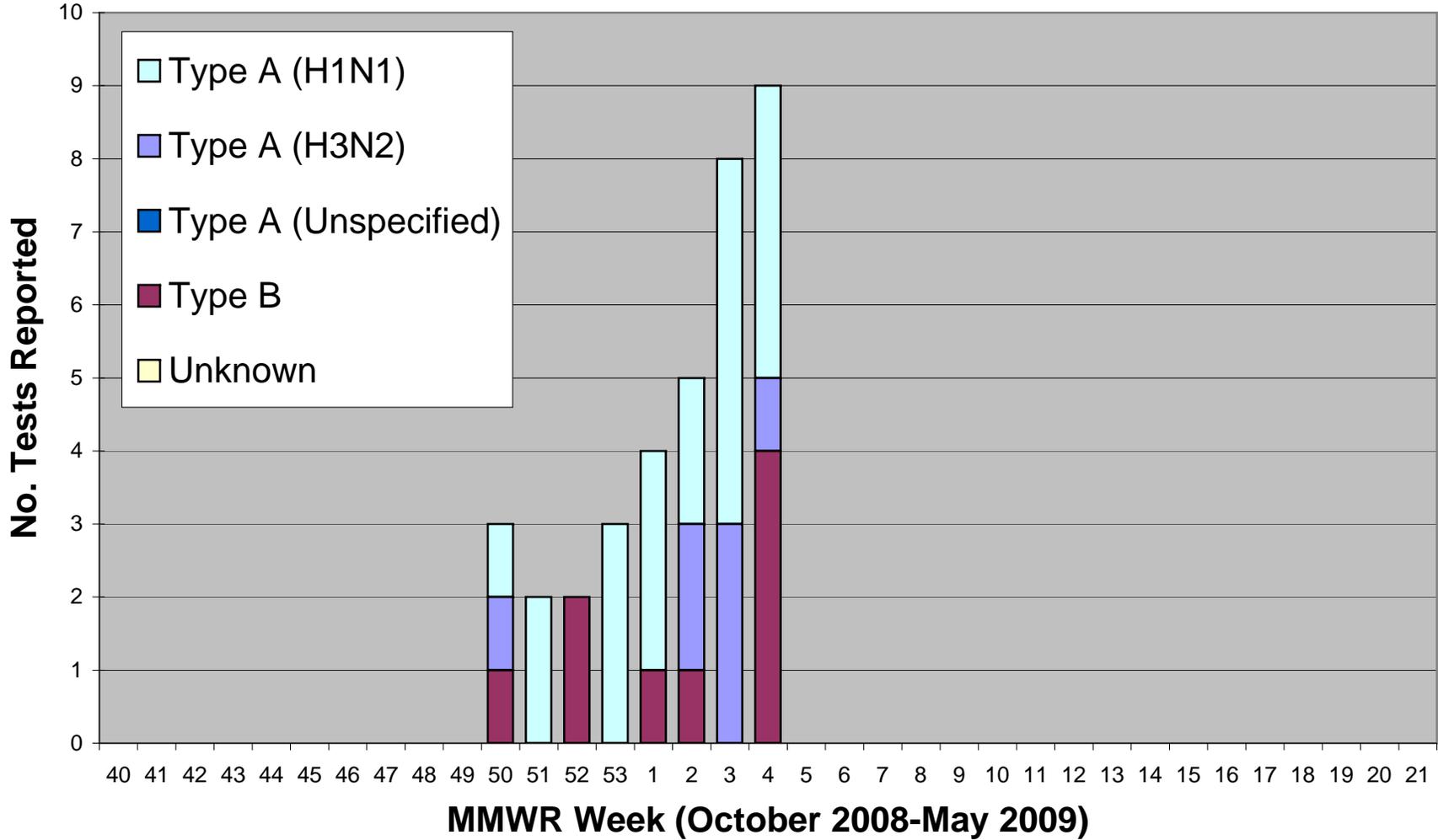
Results by		Previous	New	Total
TEST:	Culture	29	7	36
	Rapid Test	693	613	1,306
FLU TYPE:	Type A	494	344	838
	Type B	102	99	201
	Unknown	126	177	303
COUNTY:	Fairfield	264	248	512
	Hartford	52	61	113
	Litchfield	32	25	57
	Middlesex	66	41	107
	New Haven	269	200	469
	New London	11	19	30
	Tolland	8	14	22
	Windham	20	12	32
GENDER:	Female	376	306	682
	Male	346	314	660
Total		722	620	1,342

Age:	Previous	New	Total	Week	Dates - 2009	Total
0-4	60	51	111	1	January 4 - 10	40
5-24	374	392	766	2	January 11-17	113
25-64	241	154	395	3	January 18-24	200
≥65	47	23	70	4	January 25-31	361
Age Range: <1 – 97				5	February 1-7	539
Average Age: 23.8				6	February 8-14	
				7	February 15-21	
				8	February 22-28	
				9	March 1-7	
Week	Dates - 2008	Total		10	March 8-14	
40	Sept. 28 - Oct. 4	1		11	March 15-21	
41	October 5-11	1		12	March 22-28	
42	October 12-18	3		13	March 29- April 4	
43	October 19-25	2		14	April 5-11	
44	Oct. 26 - Nov. 1	2		15	April 12-18	
45	November 2-8	2		16	April 19-25	
46	November 9-15	2		17	April 26- May 2	
47	November 16-22	3		18	May 3- 9	
48	November 23 -29	6		19	May 10-16	
49	Nov. 30 – Dec. 6	2		20	May 17-23	
50	December 7-13	7		21	May 24-30	
51	December 14-20	17		22	May 31- June 6	
52	December 21-27	19				
53	Dec. 28- Jan. 3	22				

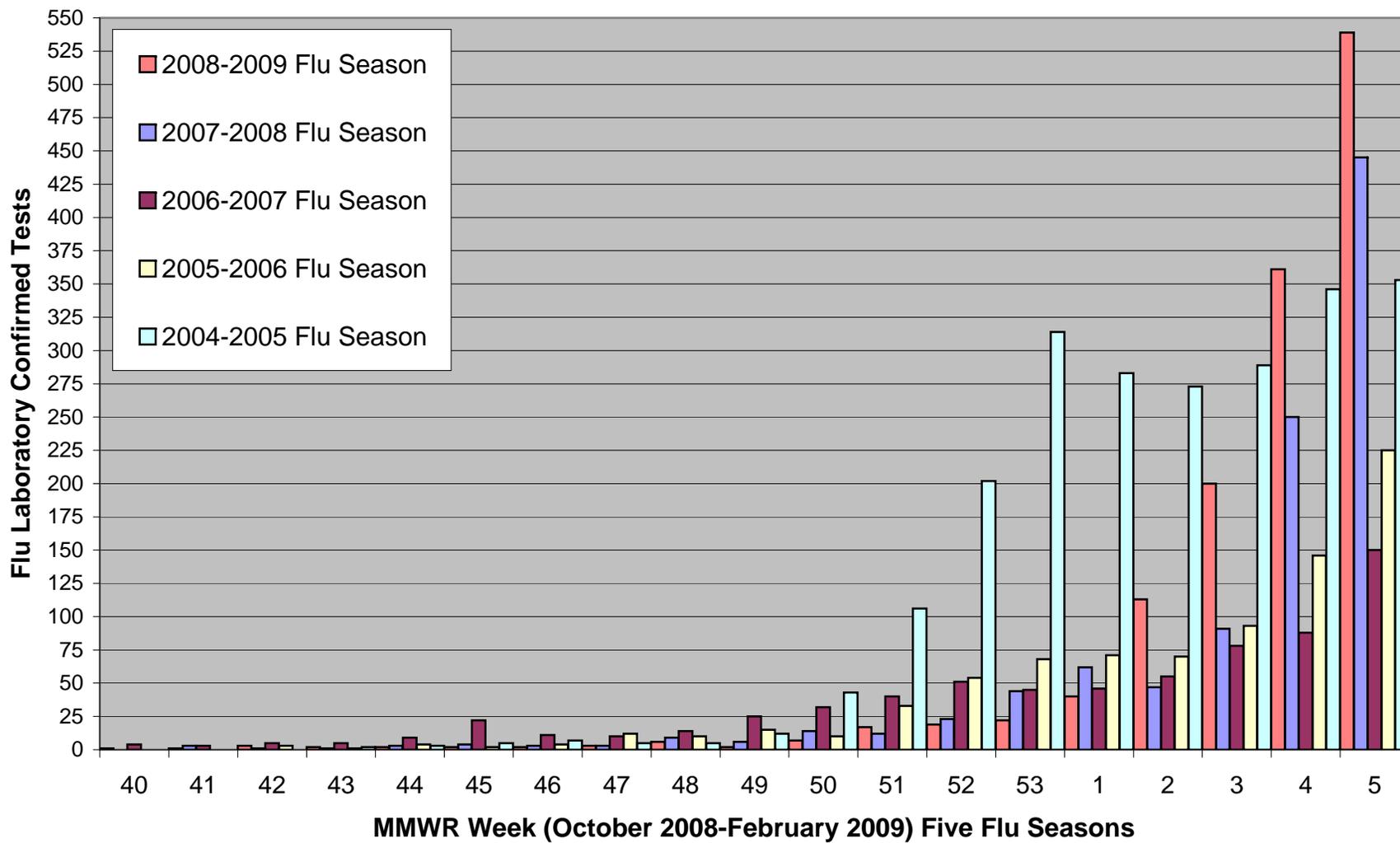
Figure 1. Laboratory Confirmed Tests by Flu Type, Connecticut, 2008-2009 Influenza Season



**Figure 2. Department of Public Health Laboratory Culture
Confirmed Tests by Flu Type,
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**

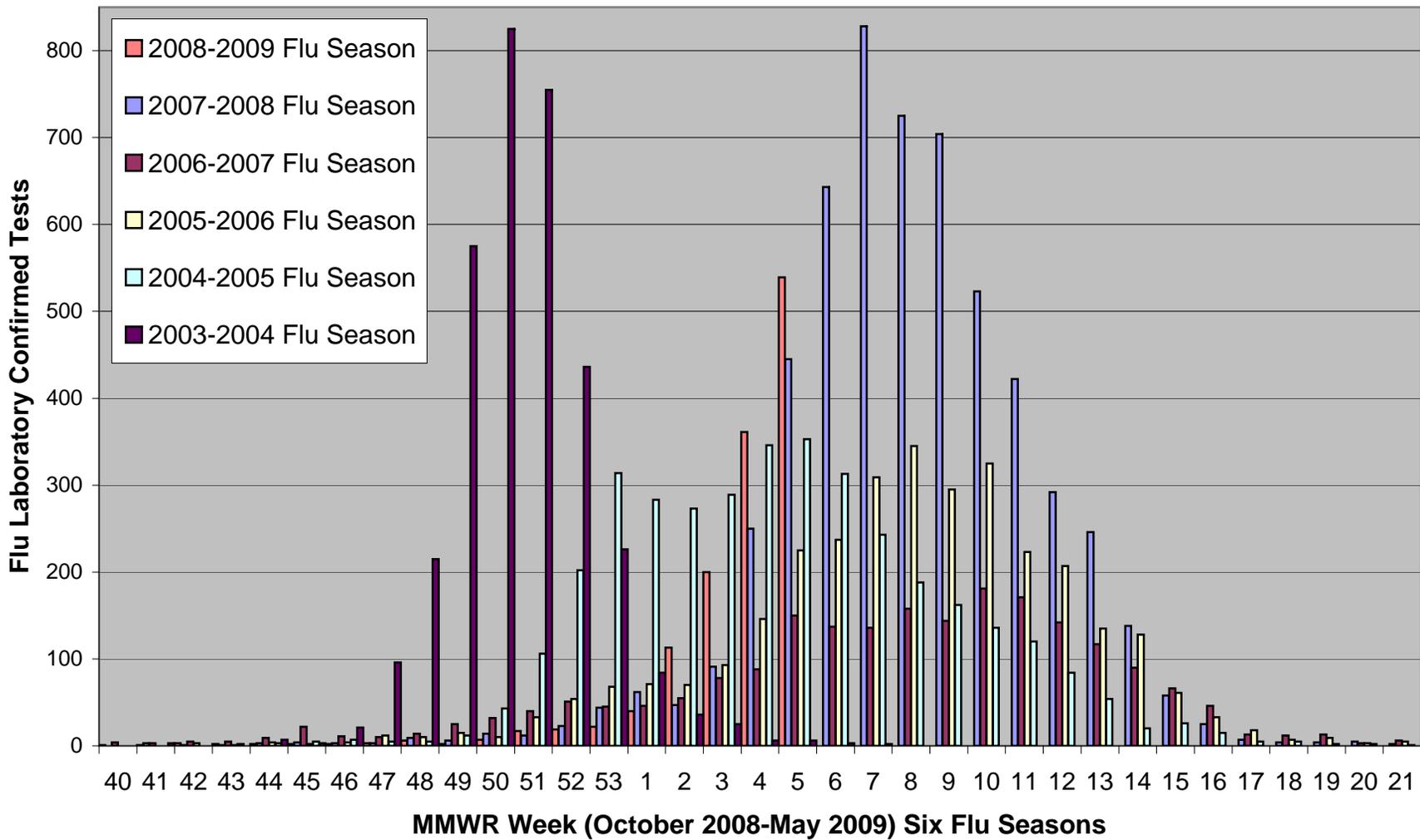
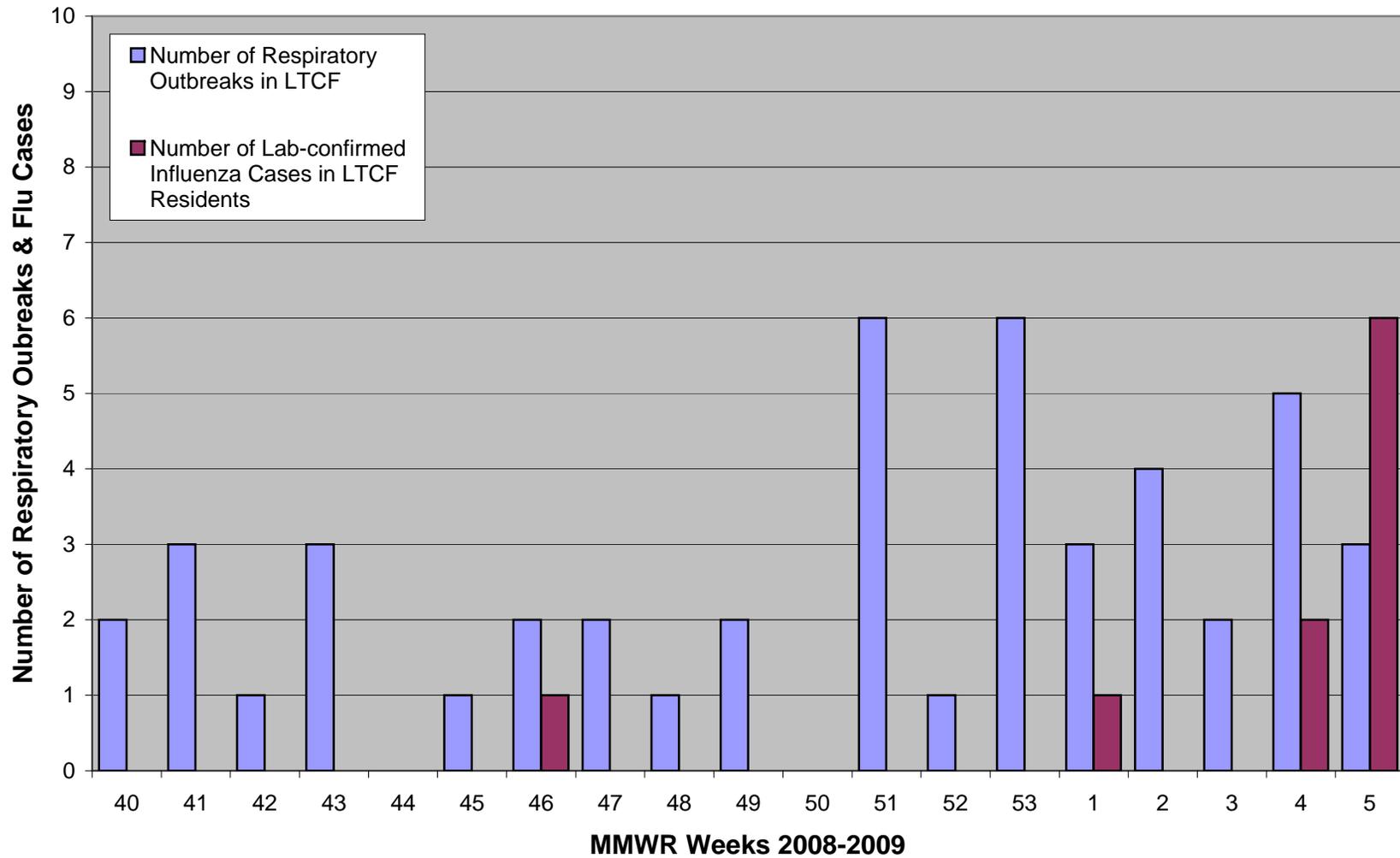


Figure 4. Respiratory Outbreaks & Influenza in Long-term Care Facilities (LTCF), Connecticut, 2008-2009 Influenza Season



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

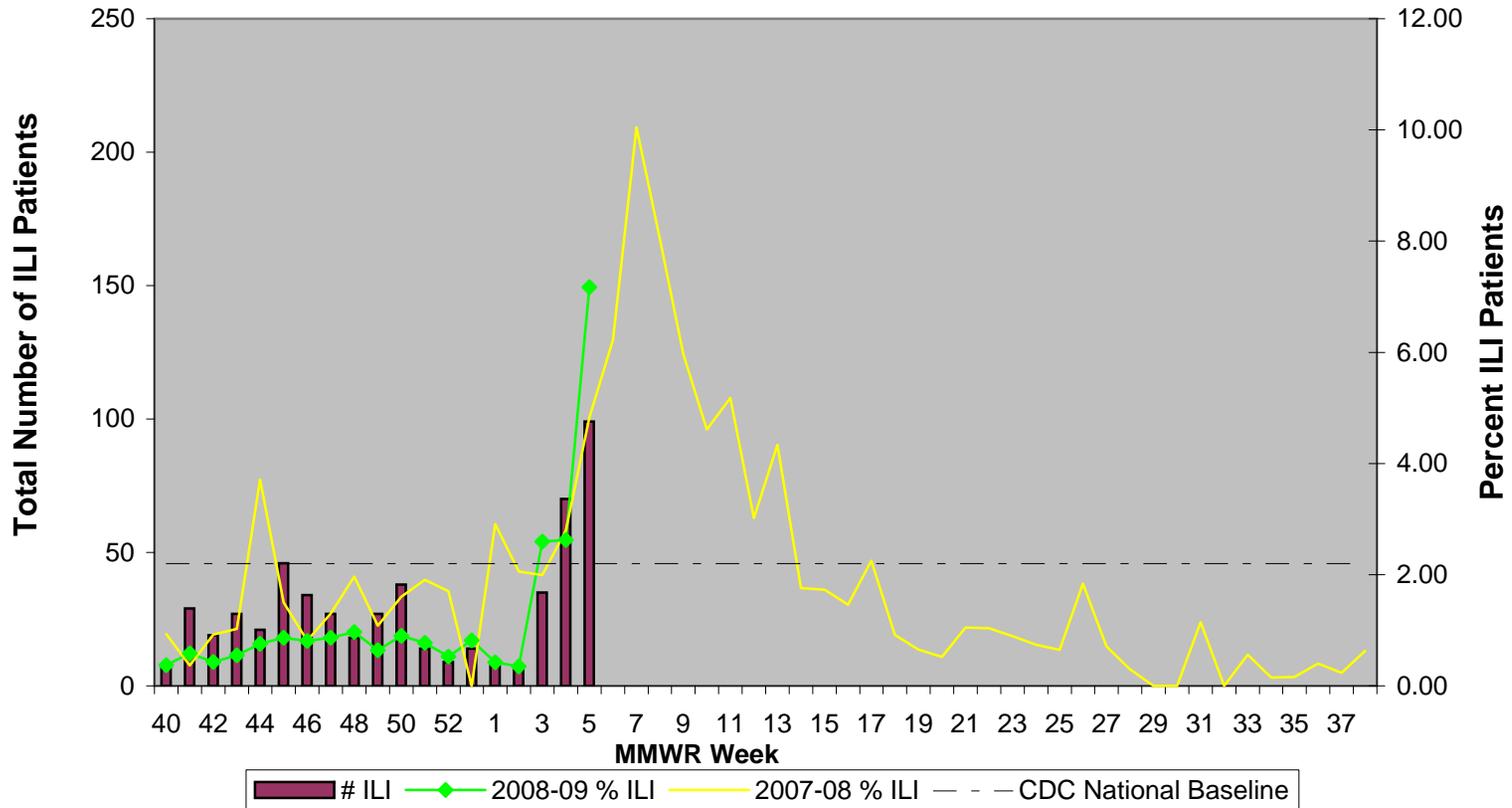


Figure 6. Hospital Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance (HEDSS) System, Statewide "Fever/Flu" Visits by Flu Season, Connecticut, 2006-2009

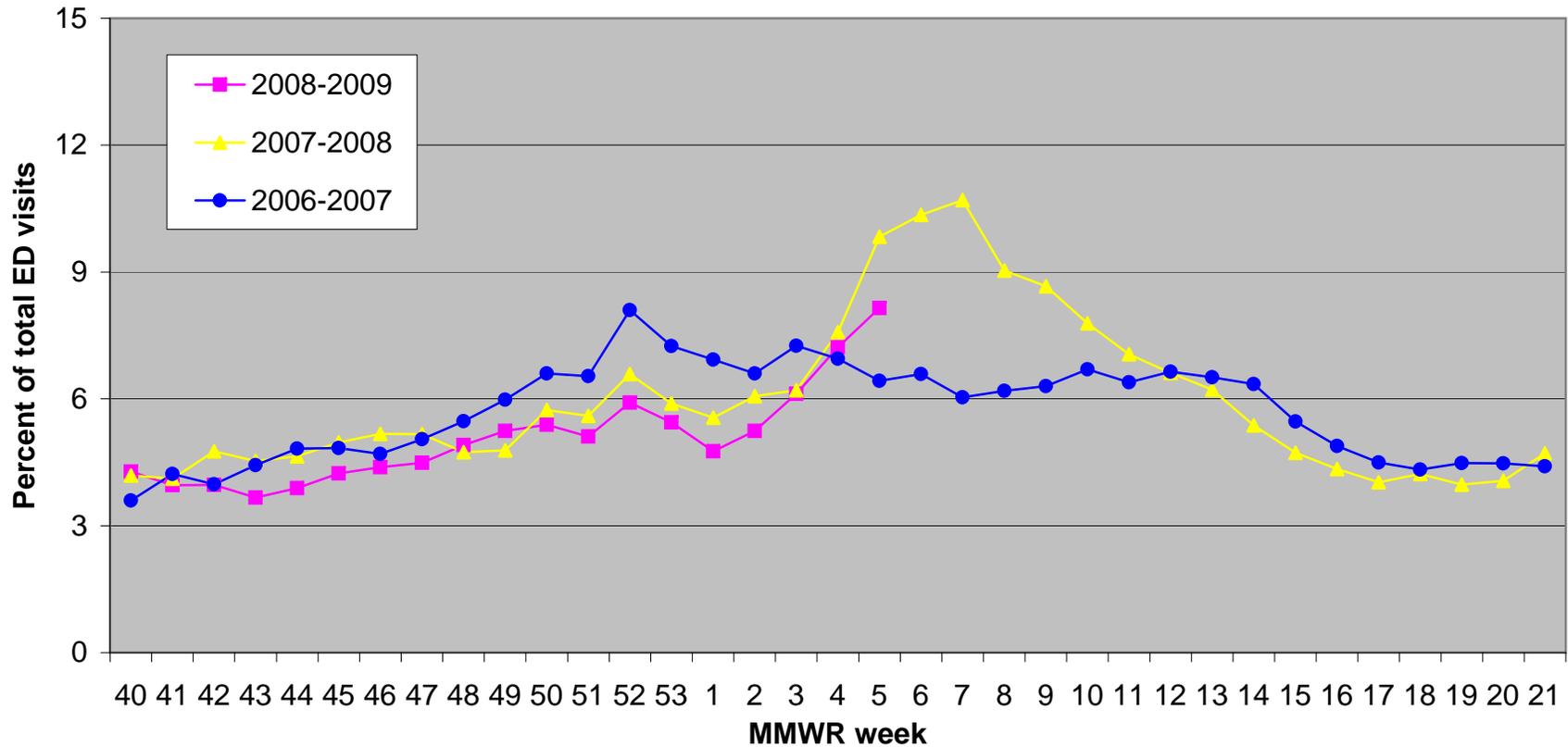


Figure 7. Hospital Admissions Syndromic Surveillance (HASS) System, Connecticut Statewide Pneumonia Admissions by Flu Season; 2005-2009

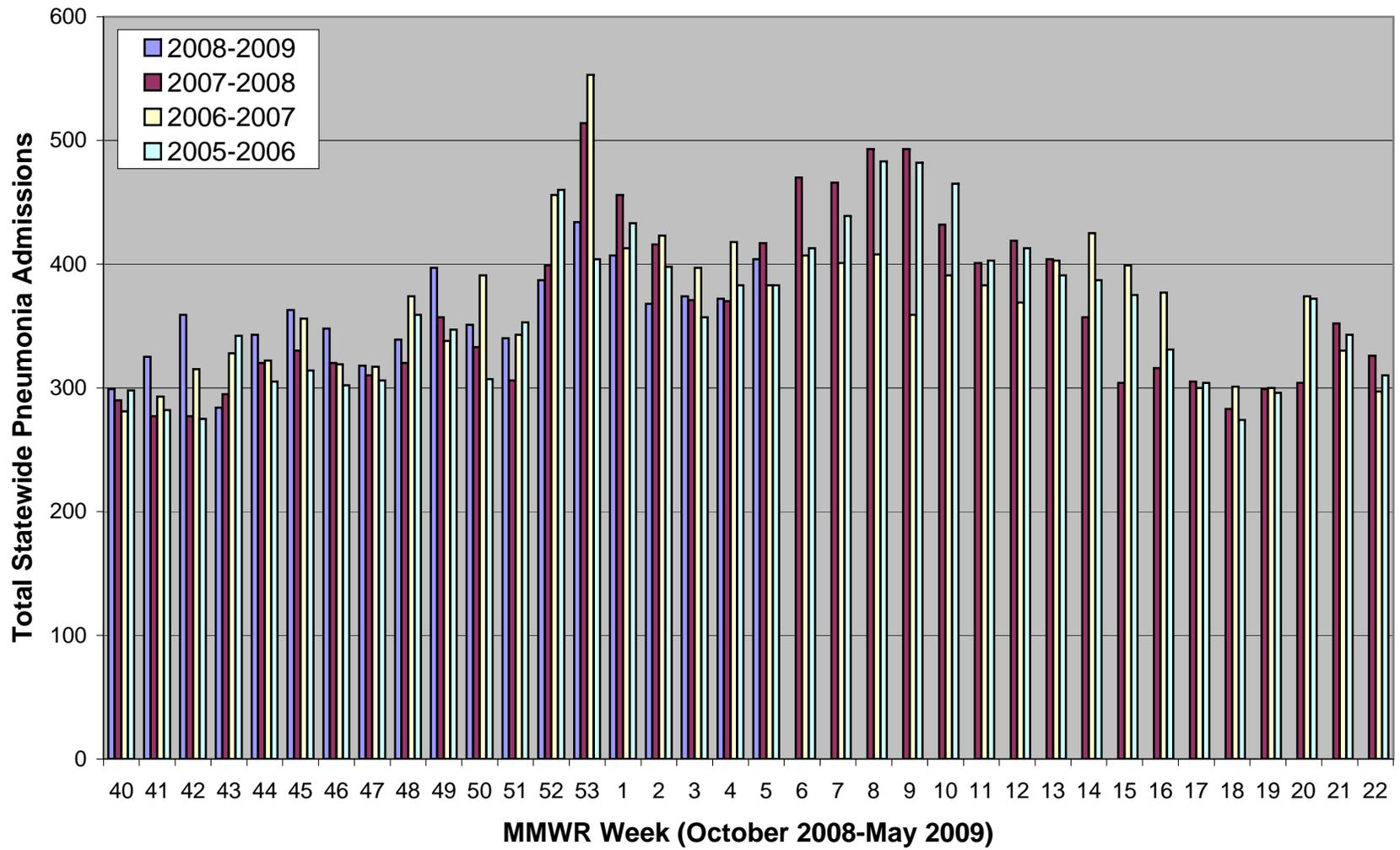


Figure 8. CDC 122 Cities Surveillance: Pneumonia & influenza Deaths in Selected Connecticut Cities, 2007-2008 & 2008-2009 Flu Seasons

