



Royal College of
General Practitioners
Research and Surveillance Centre

RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year.....02/2017
Week Starting - Ending.....09/01/2017 - 15/01/2017
No. of Practices.....150
Population.....1481879

National (England)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : decreased from **148.3** in week 1 to **117.2** in week 2.
- **Asthma** : increased a little from **16.9** in week 1 to **17.7** in week 2.
- **Common Cold & URTI NOS** : decreased from **142.5** in week 1 to **132.1** in week 2.
- **Influenza-Like illness** : increased from **18.8** in week 1 to **20.3** in week 2.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : decreased from **444.2** in week 1 to **414.9** in week 2.

Regional (London, North, South and Midlands And East)

- **Acute Bronchitis** : decreased from **114.7** in week 1 to **81.6** in week 2 in the London region, decreased from **162.9** in week 1 to **129.6** in week 2 in the North region, decreased from **133.1** in week 1 to **107.5** in week 2 in the South region, and decreased from **187.9** in week 1 to **157.4** in week 2 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Asthma** : increased from **16.2** in week 1 to **20.3** in week 2 in the London region, decreased from **15.1** in week 1 to **13.8** in week 2 in the North region, decreased from **20.0** in week 1 to **16.9** in week 2 in the South region, and increased from **15.5** in week 1 to **23.6** in week 2 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Common Cold & URTI NOS** : decreased from **175.8** in week 1 to **164.5** in week 2 in the London region, was unchanged at **132.6** in week 1 compared with **131.3** in week 2 in the North region, decreased from **124.4** in week 1 to **112.3** in week 2 in the South region, and decreased from **153.2** in week 1 to **129.0** in week 2 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Influenza-Like illness** : increased from **21.9** in week 1 to **25.4** in week 2 in the London region, was unchanged at **15.3** in week 1 compared with **15.5** in week 2 in the North region, increased from **19.8** in week 1 to **21.7** in week 2 in the South region, and was unchanged at **19.9** in week 1 compared with **20.3** in week 2 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : decreased a little from **434.5** in week 1 to **419.6** in week 2 in the London region, decreased from **453.5** in week 1 to **414.8** in week 2 in the North region, decreased a little from **409.8** in week 1 to **391.5** in week 2 in the South region, and decreased from **499.0** in week 1 to **452.8** in week 2 in the Midlands And East region.

Comment:

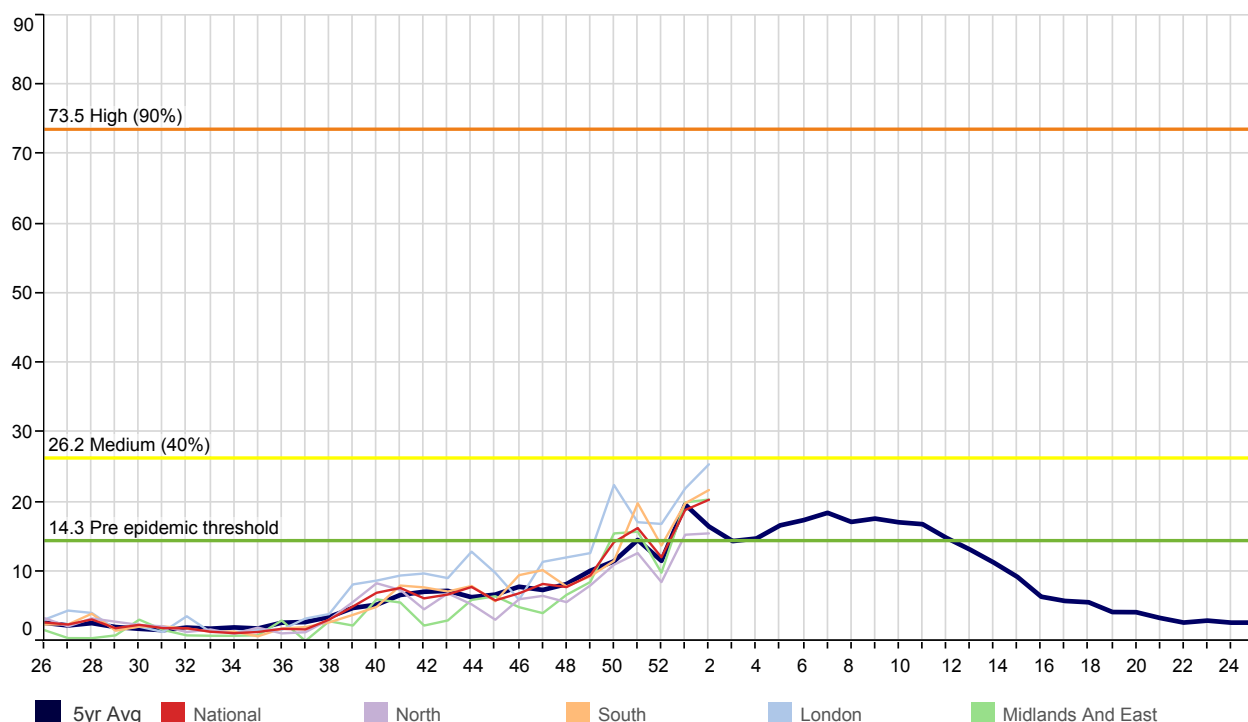
The rate of respiratory conditions decreased from last week; this is just below seasonally expected levels.

Presentations of influenza-like illness in primary care continued to increase this week above the pre-epidemic threshold. Presentations of acute bronchitis in children under five continue to decrease; presentations in adults over 65 have also decreased this week.

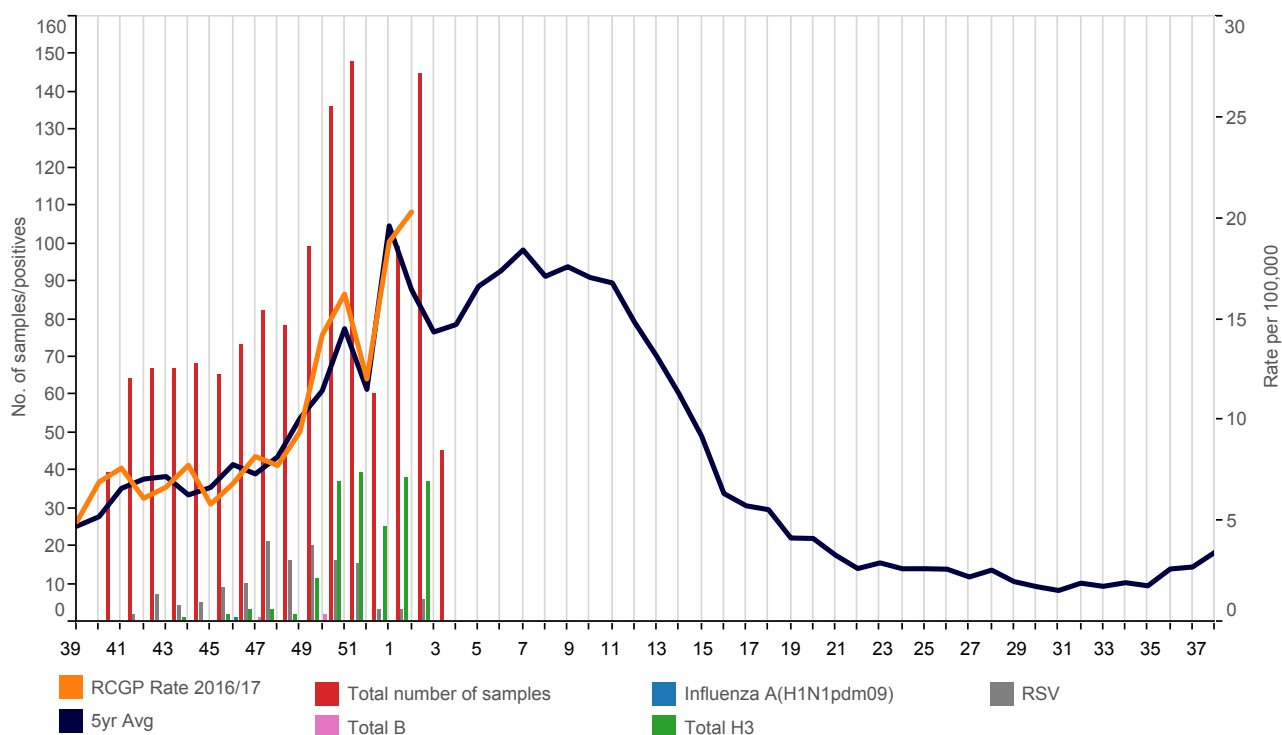
Winter Focus 2016/17

Please see page 13 for explanatory notes on the data.

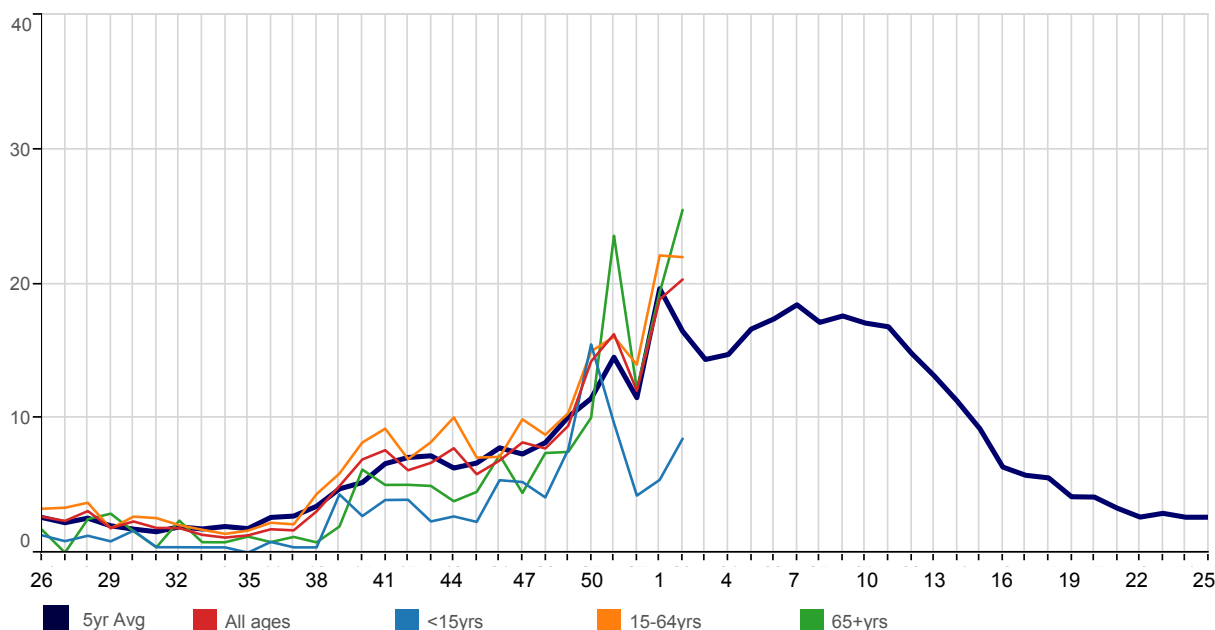
(A) Influenza-like illness: incidence rate winter 2016/17*



(B) RCGP/PHE RSV and Influenza Virology Swab Surveillance 2016/17(all ages, gender & regions combined)*



* The thresholds used are the agreed RCGP/ Public Health England levels for 2016/17. The rolling average line (blue) is based on 5 year historic RCGP RSC level.

(C) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2016/2017 by age group***(D) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate 2016/2017 by age group***

This table shows the level of intensity of ILI by age band. MEM thresholds have been calculated separately for each age band - the ranges are shown in the table Threshold levels by age band.

Table 1	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4
<15yrs	3.91	3.93	2.32	2.69	2.29	5.39	5.25	4.11	7.67	15.49	9.64	4.24	5.41	8.47		
15-64yrs	9.22	6.96	8.22	10.06	7.07	7.12	9.91	8.77	10.37	14.97	16.05	13.98	22.10	21.98		
65+yrs	5.04	5.04	4.96	3.82	4.52	7.25	4.44	7.41	7.49	10.03	23.57	12.16	19.35	25.49		
All ages	7.62	6.13	6.68	7.76	5.83	6.85	8.20	7.75	9.43	14.22	16.24	12.04	18.84	20.31		

5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

<15yrs

15-64yrs

65+yrs

All ages

Table 2	Below Threshold ¹	Threshold to Medium ²	Medium to High ³	High to Very High ⁴	Above Very High ⁵
0-14	<11.0	11.0 to <18.0	18.0 to <55.3	55.3 to <90.7	90.7+
15-64	<14.6	14.6 to <28.2	28.2 to <63.1	63.1 to <90.1	90.1+
65+	<11.1	11.1 to <14.6	14.6 to <32.8	32.8 to <46.8	46.8+
All Ages	<14.3	14.3 to <26.2	26.2 to <73.5	73.5 to <116.1	116.1+

Threshold levels

¹Below pre-epidemic threshold

²Pre-epidemic threshold breach to < 40th percentile

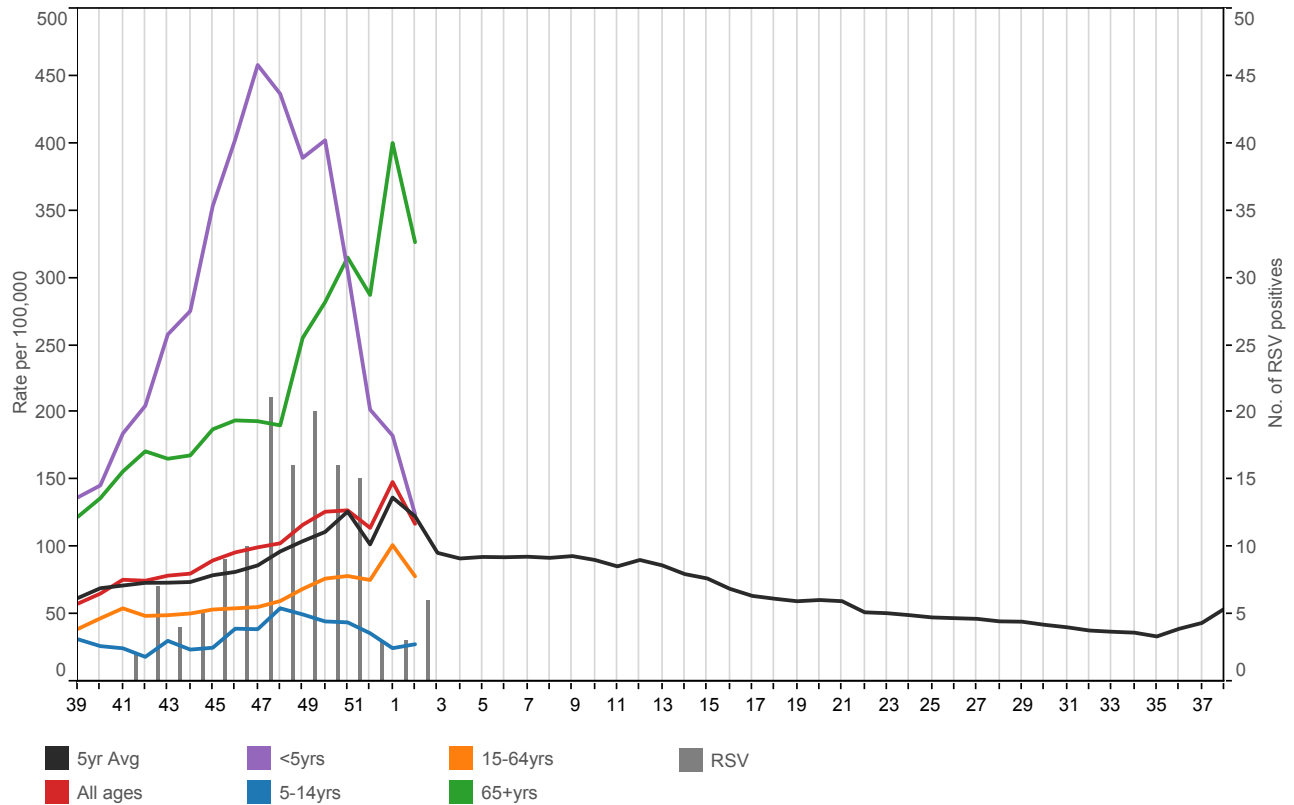
³40th to <90th percentile

⁴90th to <97.5th percentile

⁵97.5th+ percentile

Weekly influenza-like illness and bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons

Influenza-like illness		Bronchitis	Influenza-like illness		Acute Bronchitis
<1yr	7.1	285.3	London	25.4	81.6
1-4yrs	2.9	91.1	North	15.5	129.6
5-14yrs	10.8	27.7	South	21.7	107.5
15-24yrs	21.2	33.6	Midlands And East	20.3	157.4
25-44yrs	18.8	51.8	National	20.3	117.2
45-64yrs	26.0	131.8			
65-74yrs	21.0	233.5			
75-84yrs	25.4	371.6			
85+yrs	44.2	600.9			
All ages	20.3	117.2			

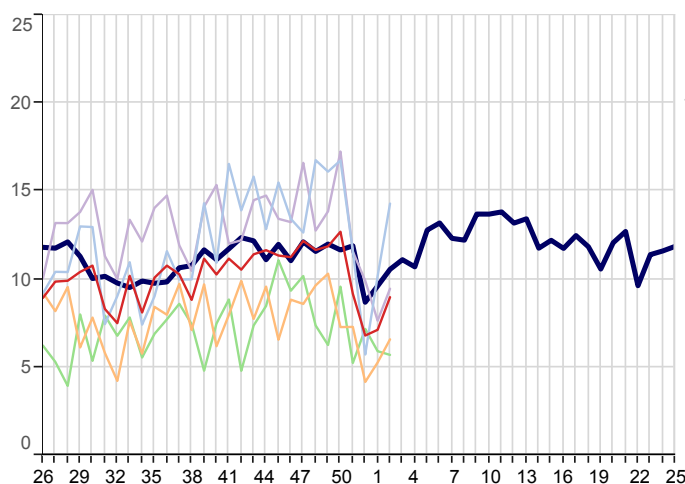
(E) Acute Bronchitis: national incidence rate 2016/2017 by age group***Weekly Influenza-like illness and Acute Bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons**

	Influenza-like illness	Acute Bronchitis
<5yrs	3.7	124.3
5-14yrs	10.8	27.7
15-64yrs	22.0	78.2
65+yrs	25.5	326.6
All ages	20.3	117.2

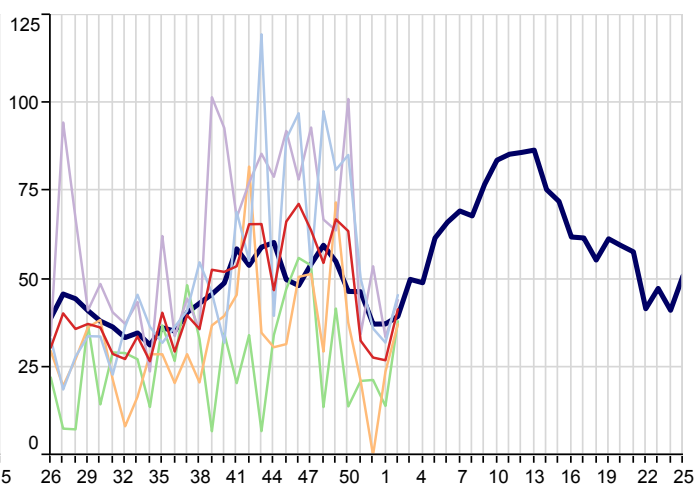
1. Water & Food Borne Disorders:

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

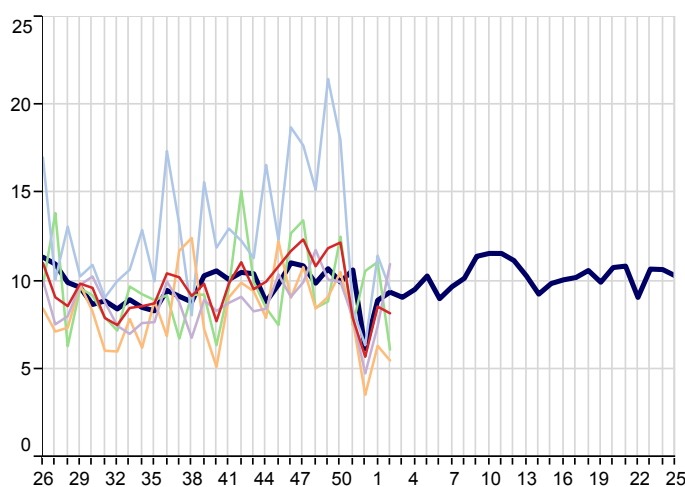
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by regions
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



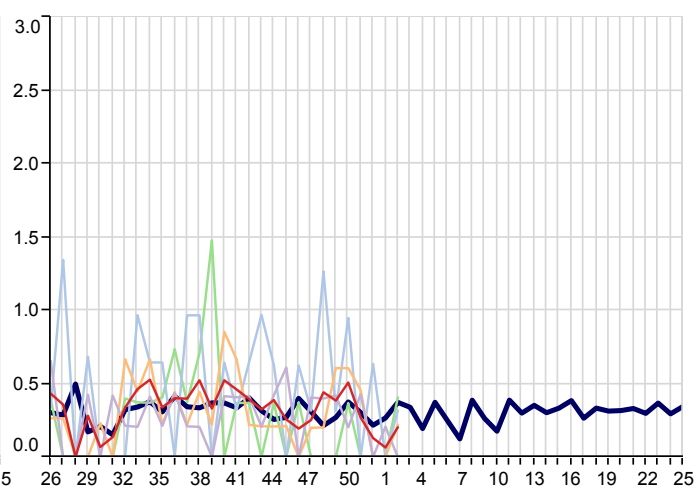
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **0-4 years**) by regions
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



Non-Infective Enteritis & Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



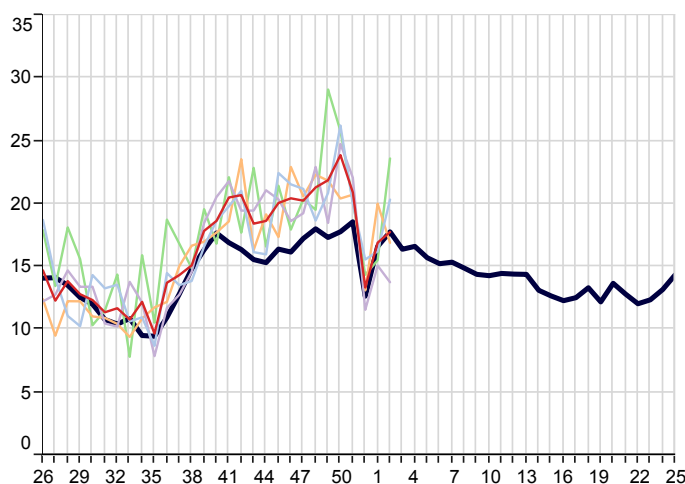
Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



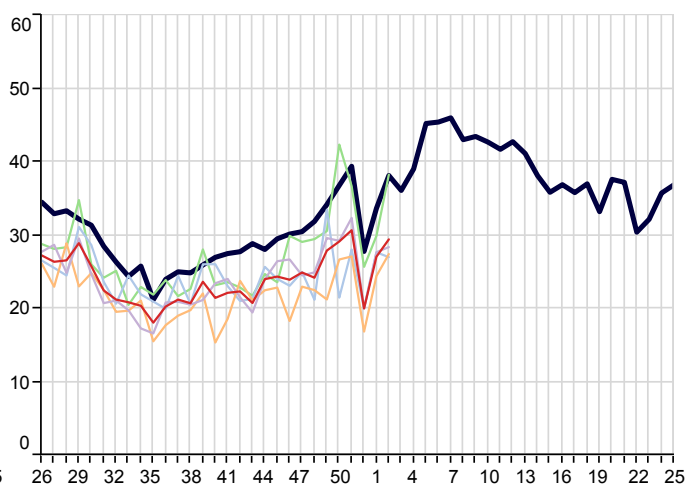
2. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders:

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

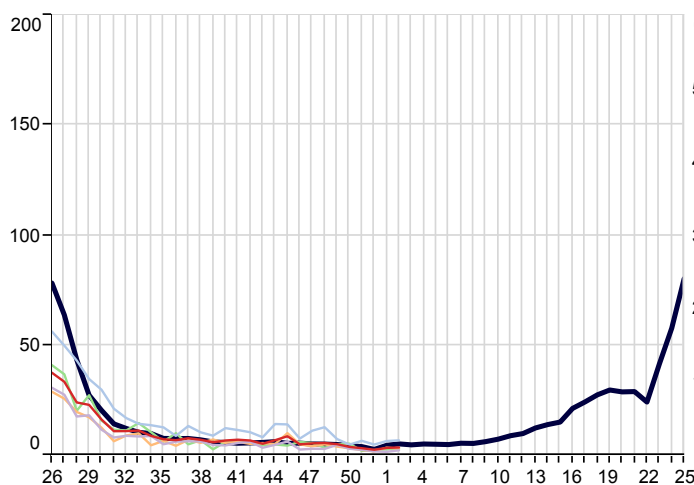
Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



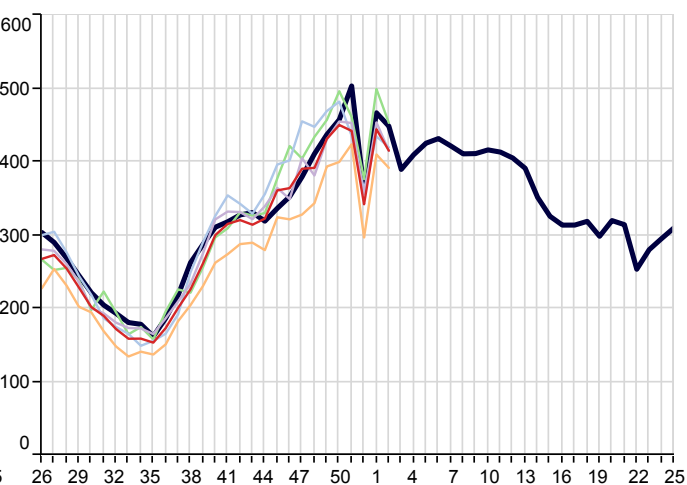
Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



Hayfever/Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



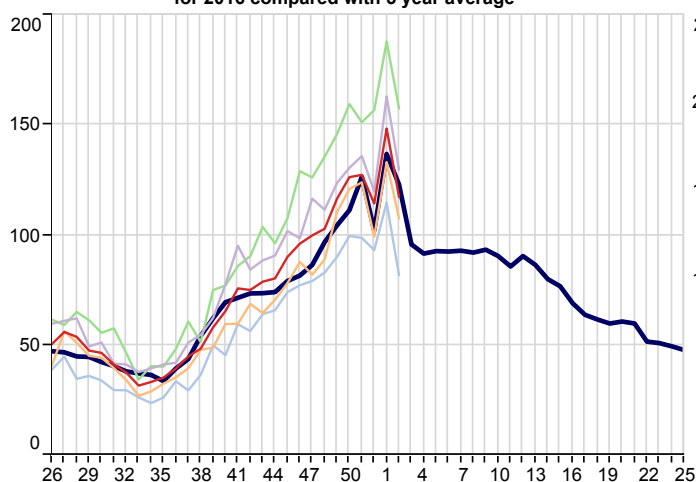
Symptoms involving Respiratory & Chest (ICD10: R05-R07,R09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



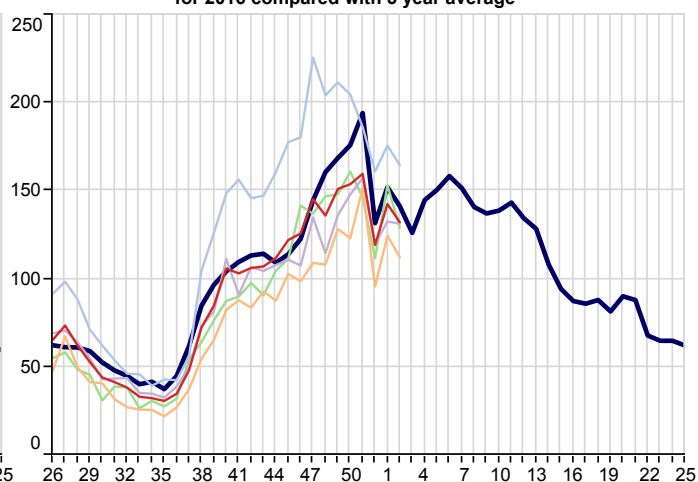
3. Respiratory Infections:

5yr Avg National North South London Midlands And East

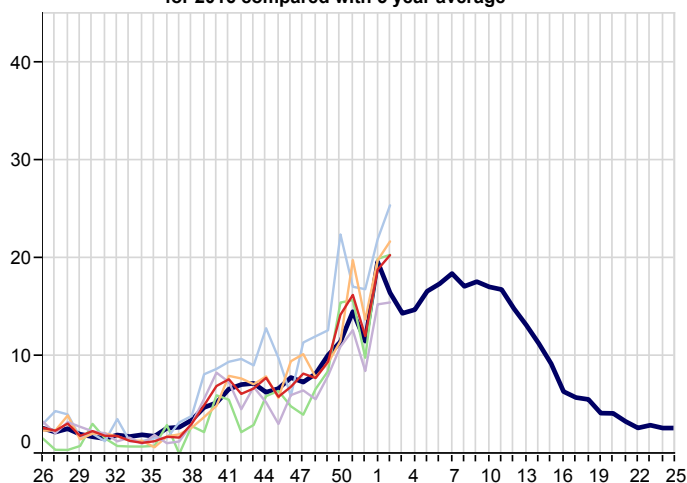
Acute Bronchitis (ICD10: J20-J21,J40)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



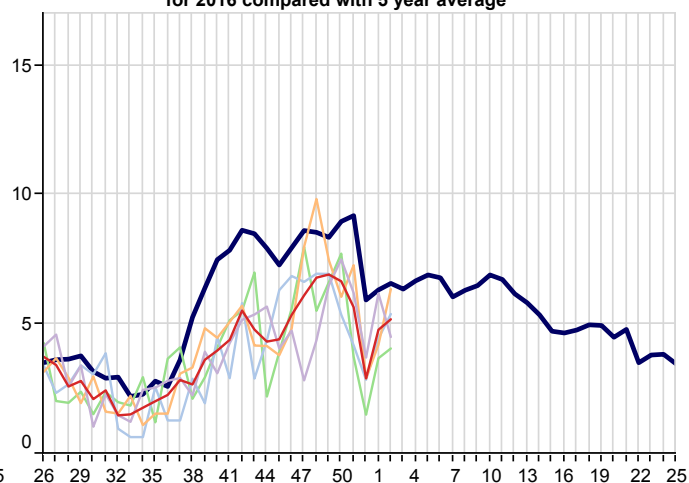
Common Cold (ICD10: J00,J06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



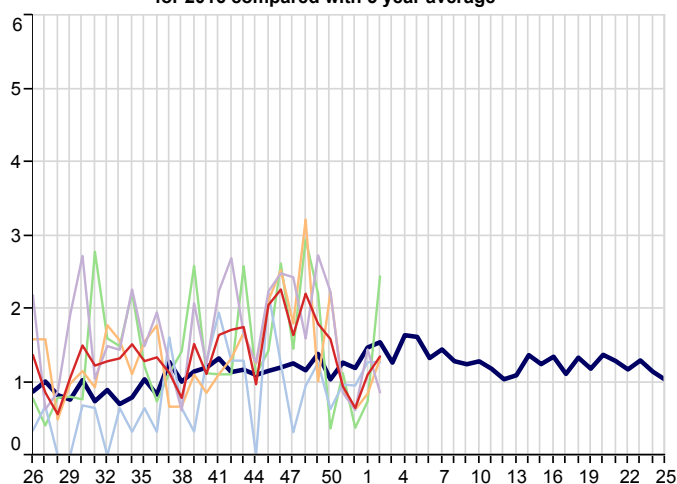
Influenza-Like Illness (ICD10: J09-J11)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



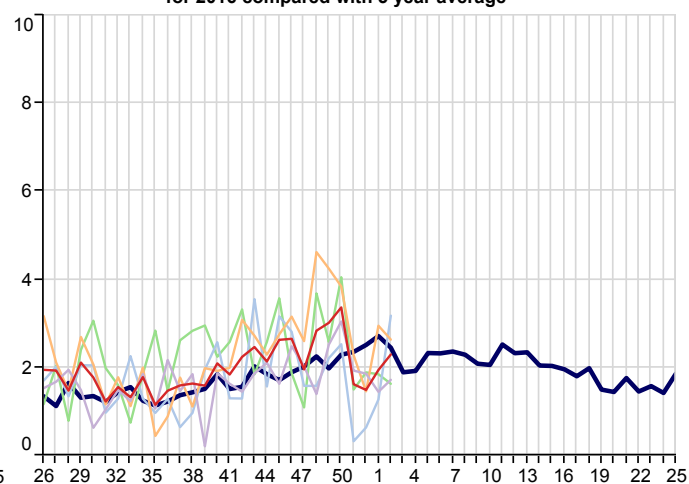
Acute Laryngitis/Tracheitis (ICD10: J04)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



Pleurisy (ICD10: R091)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



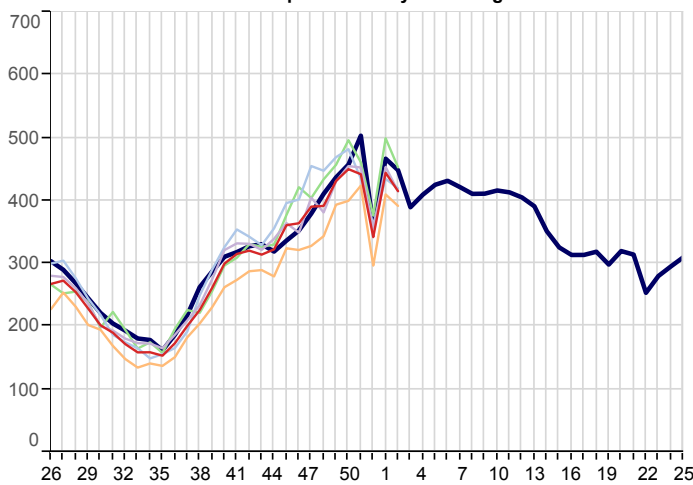
Pneumonia/Pneumonitis (ICD10: J12-J18)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



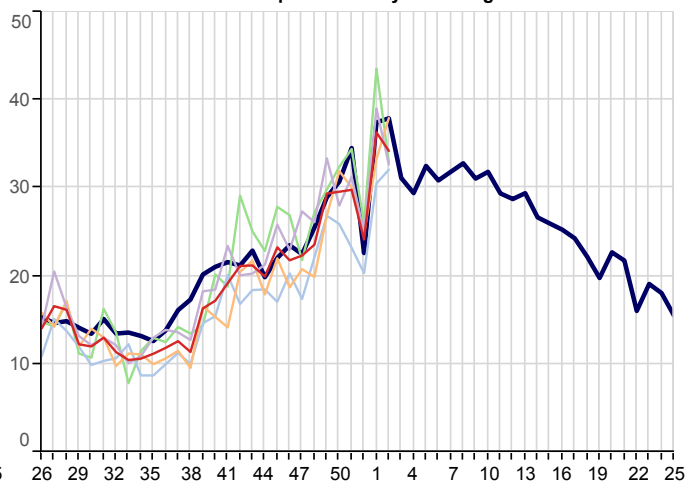
3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg National North South London Midlands And East

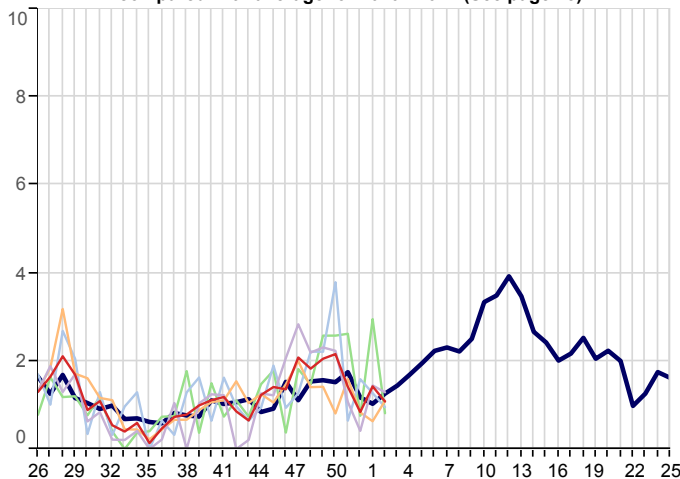
Respiratory System Diseases (ICD10: J00-J99)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



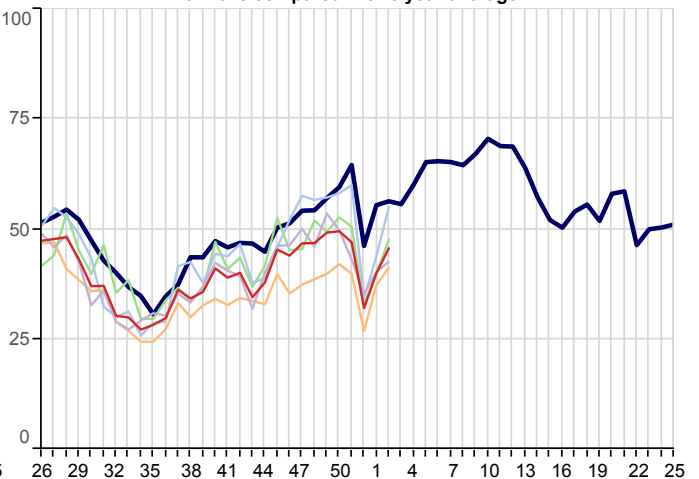
Acute Sinusitis (ICD10: J01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



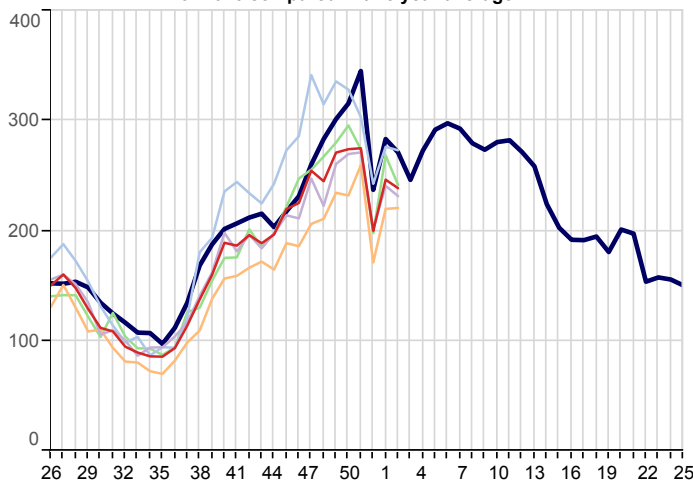
Strep Sore Throat, Scarletina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J02,J36)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2016
compared with average for 2010 - 2012 (See page 13)



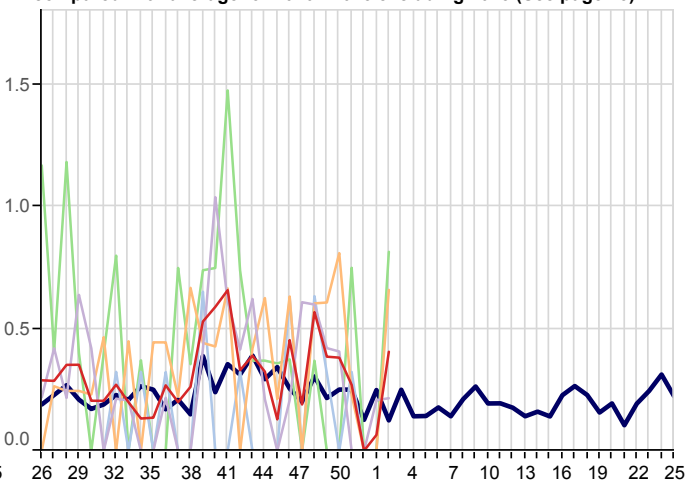
Acute Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis (ICD10: J02-J03)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)(ICD10: J00-J06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



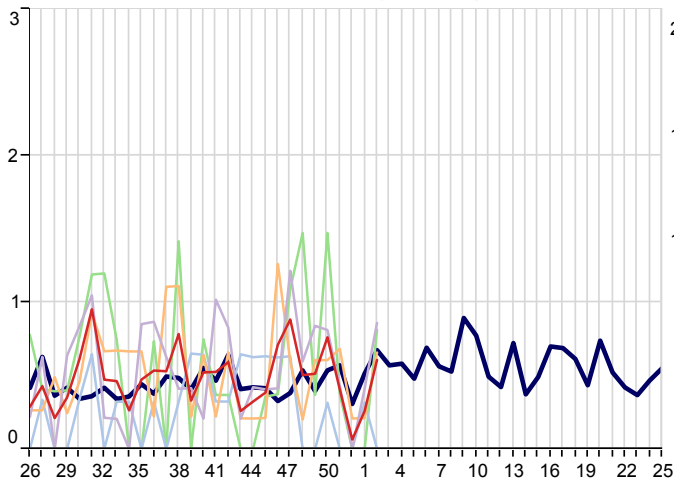
Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2016
compared with average for 2010 - 2015 excluding 2013 (See page 13)



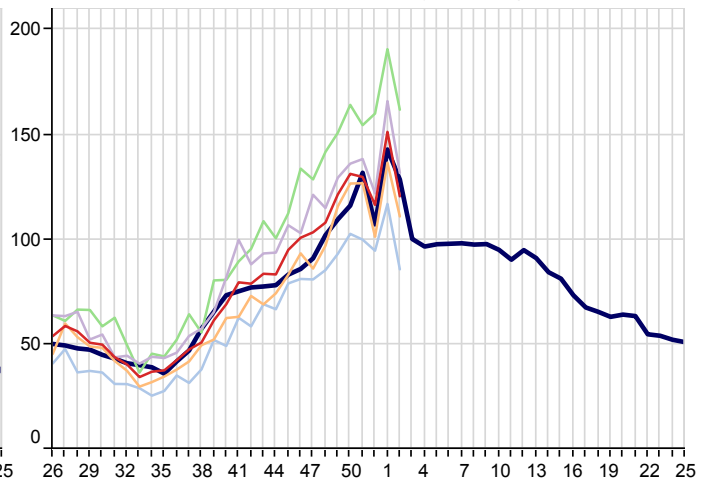
3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

■ 5yr Avg
 ■ National
 ■ North
 ■ South
 ■ London
 ■ Midlands And East

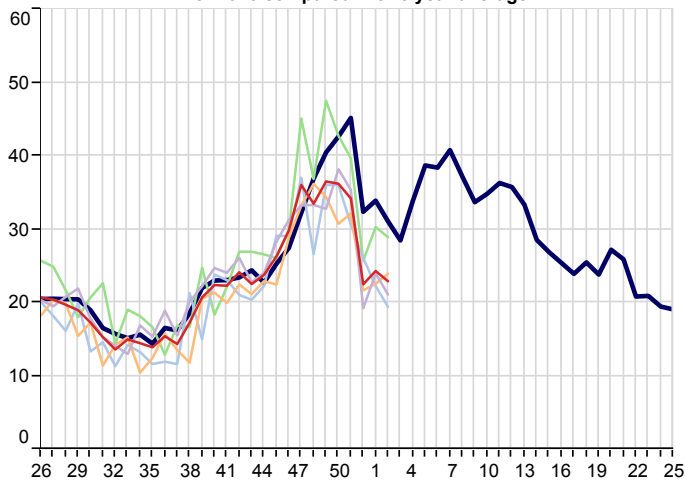
Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)(ICD10: J20-J22)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



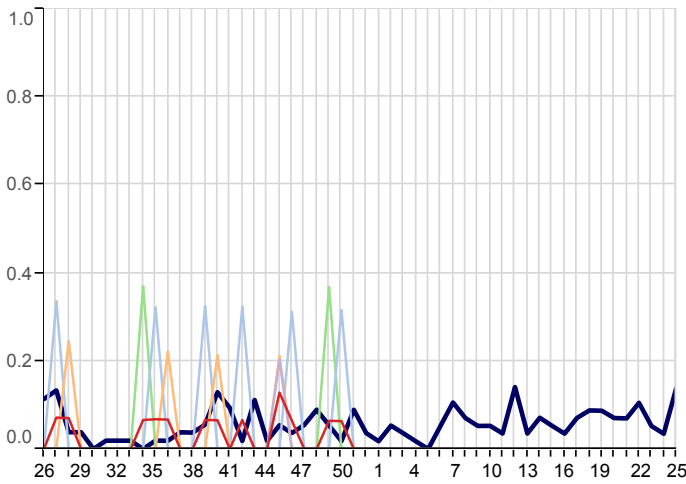
Acute Otitis Media (ICD10: H650-H651,H660,H669)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



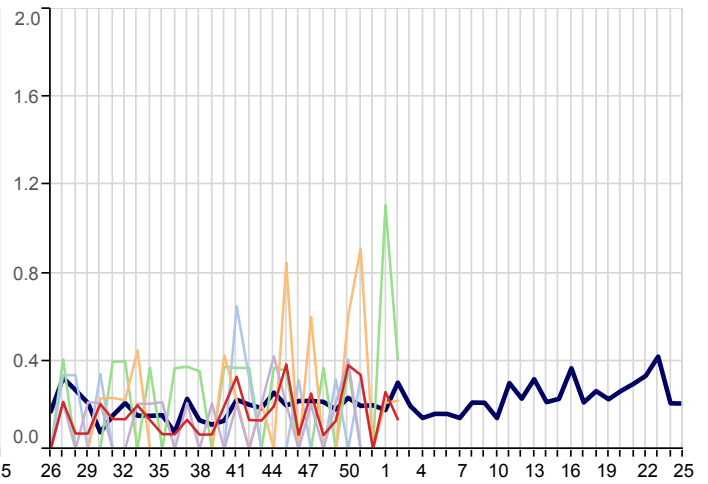
4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

5yr Avg National North South London Midlands And East

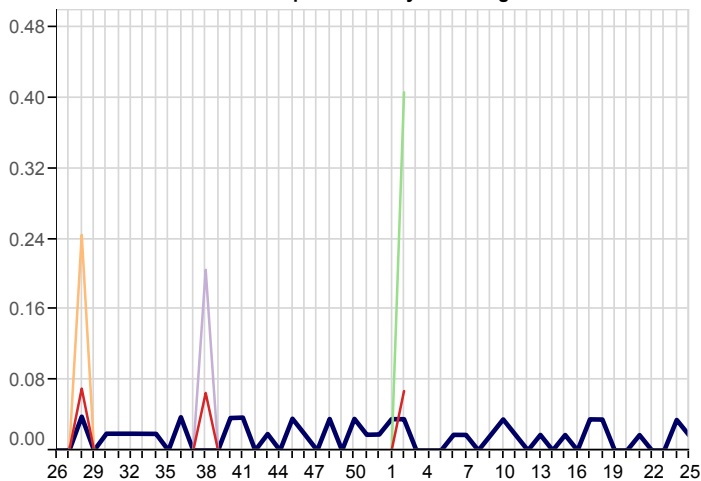
Measles (ICD10: B05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



Mumps (ICD10: B26)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average

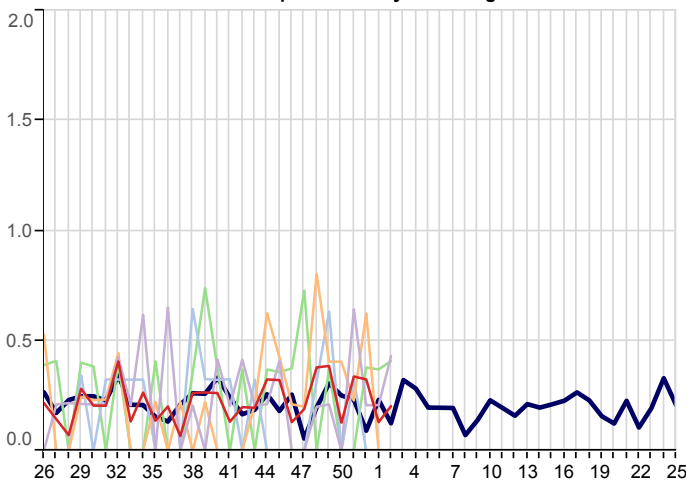


Rubella (ICD10: B06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average

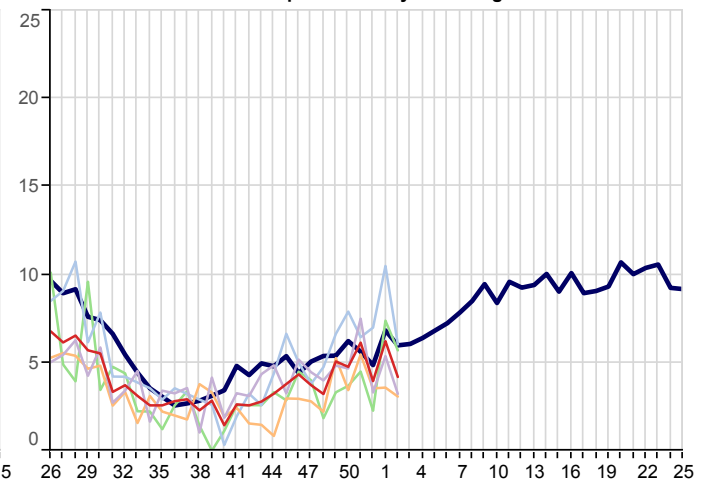


5. Skin Contagions

Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



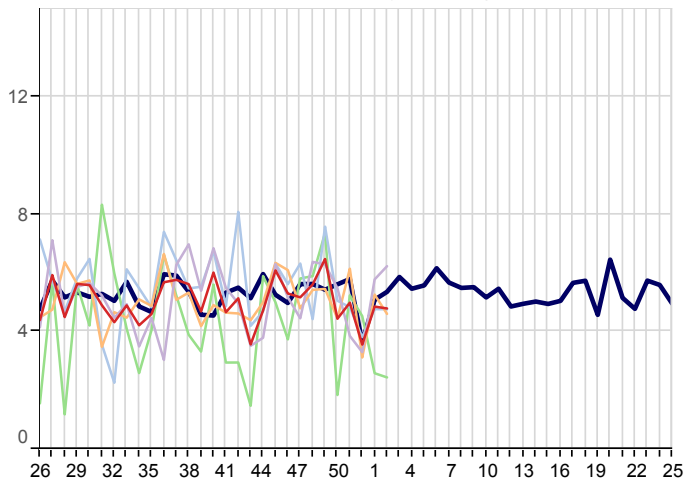
Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



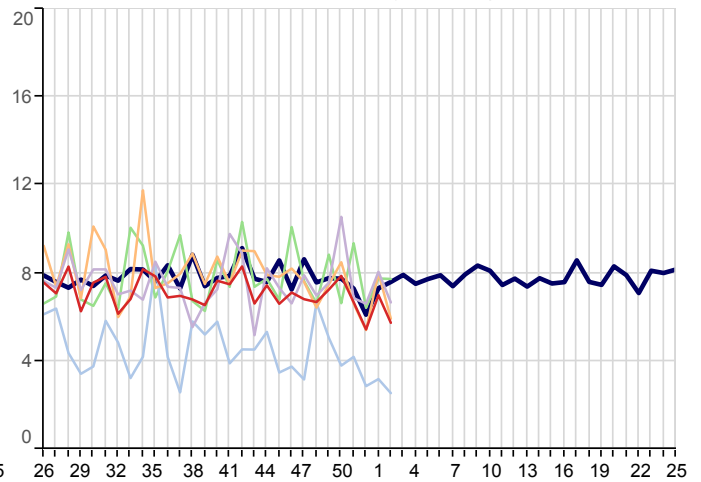
5. Skin Contagions (Continued)

5yr Avg National North South London Midlands And East

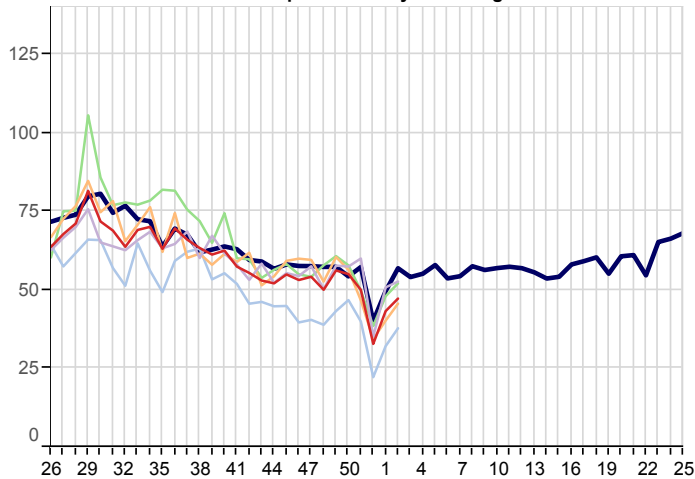
Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



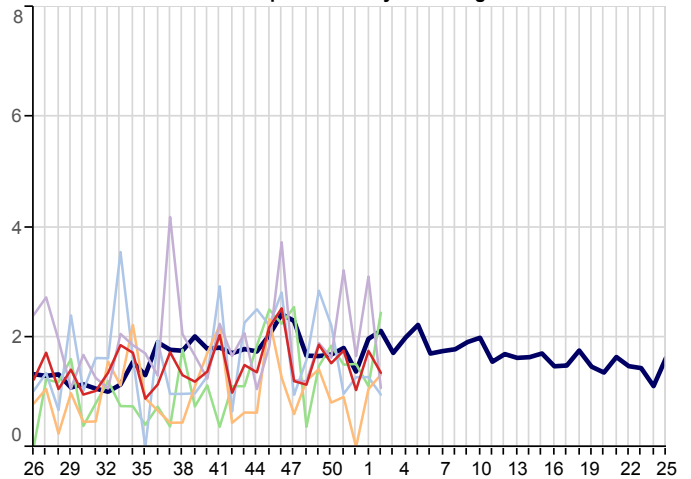
Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



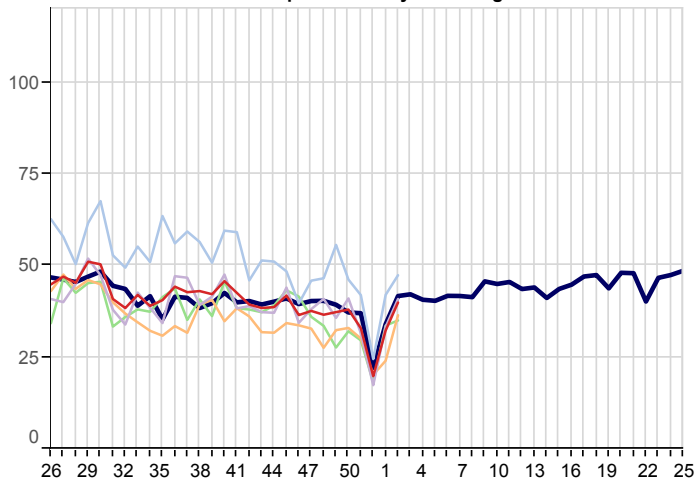
Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



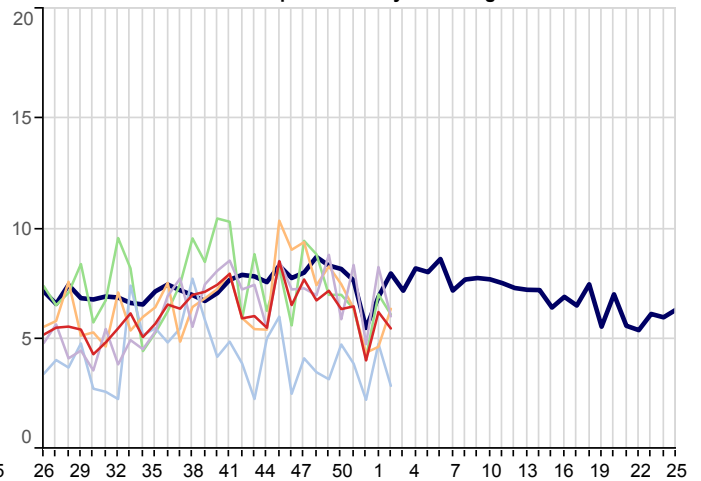
Scabies (ICD10: B86)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



Symptoms involving Skin & Oth Integument Tiss (ICD10: R20-R23)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



Impetigo (ICD10: L01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

5yr Avg

National

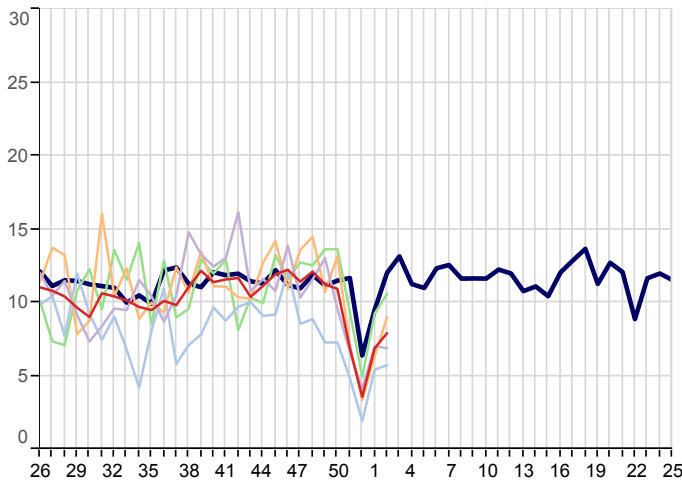
North

South

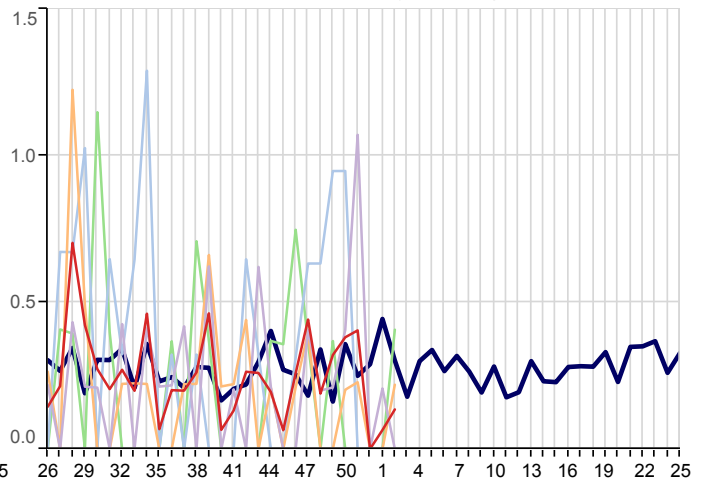
London

Midlands And East

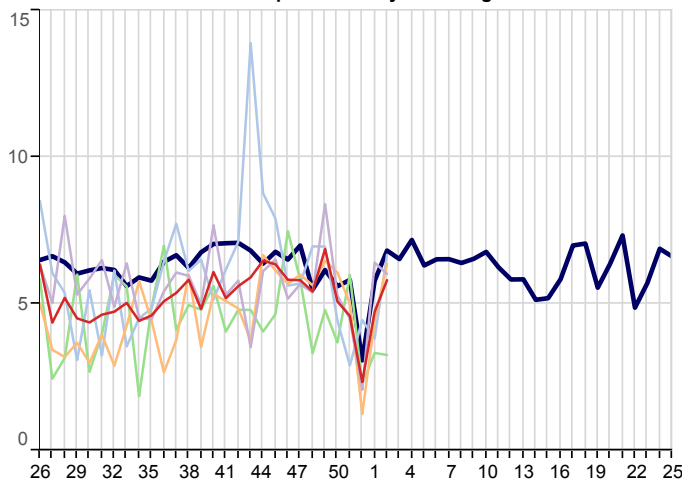
Disorders of The Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



Meningitis/Encephalitis (ICD10: A170-A171,A390,A38-A85,A87,G00-G05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average

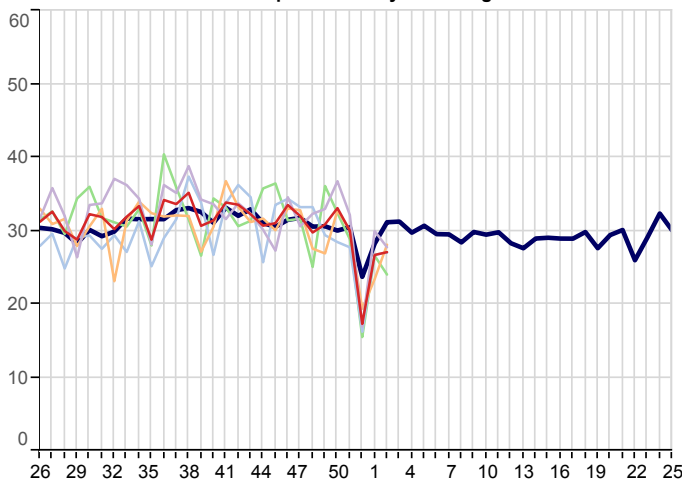


Symptoms Involving Nervous & Musculoskeletal (ICD10: R25-R29)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



7. Genitourinary System Disorders

Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2016 compared with 5 year average



8. Tabular Summary by Disease

Disease Name	Week beginning Week ending		09/01/2017 15/01/2017		02/01/2017 08/01/2017		26/12/2016 01/01/2017		19/12/2016 25/12/2016	
	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer
Allergic Rhinitis	3.4	51	3.2	50	2.4	37	3.1	46		
Asthma	17.7	263	16.9	261	13.3	206	20.9	310		
Acute Bronchitis	117.2	1,737	148.3	2,291	114.2	1,765	127.3	1,888		
Bullous Dermatoses	0.2	3	0.1	2	0.3	5	0.3	5		
Chickenpox	4.2	62	6.2	96	3.9	61	6.1	91		
Common Cold	132.1	1,958	142.5	2,201	119.3	1,843	159.7	2,369		
Conjunctival Disorders	29.4	436	27.1	418	20.0	309	30.7	455		
Herpes Simplex	4.8	71	4.9	75	3.6	55	5.0	74		
Herpes Zoster	5.7	85	7.0	108	5.4	84	6.7	99		
Impetigo	5.5	81	6.2	96	4.0	62	6.5	96		
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.6	9	0.3	4	0.1	1	0.4	6		
Influenza-like illness	20.3	301	18.8	291	12.0	186	16.2	241		
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	9.0	133	7.1	110	6.8	105	9.2	136		
Laryngitis and Tracheitis	5.2	77	4.8	74	2.9	45	5.7	84		
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections	120.6	1,787	151.4	2,338	116.5	1,800	129.8	1,926		
Measles	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.1	2	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.4	6		
Mumps	0.1	2	0.3	4	0.0	0	0.3	5		
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	8.2	121	8.5	132	5.7	88	7.9	117		
Otitis Media Acute	22.9	339	24.3	375	22.5	347	34.2	507		
Otitis Media Acute New	3.1	46	3.9	60	3.6	56	6.1	90		
Peripheral Nervous Disease	7.9	117	6.9	106	3.6	55	6.9	102		
Pleurisy	1.3	20	1.1	17	0.6	10	0.9	14		
Pneumonia and Pneumonitis	2.3	34	1.9	30	1.5	23	1.6	24		
Respiratory System Diseases	414.9	6,149	444.2	6,861	341.9	5,282	441.9	6,556		
Rubella	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Scabies	1.3	20	1.7	27	1.0	16	1.8	26		
Sinusitis	34.2	507	36.3	561	24.1	373	29.8	442		
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	47.2	700	43.2	668	32.8	507	50.0	742		
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	1.1	16	1.4	22	0.8	13	1.4	21		
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	5.8	86	4.7	73	2.3	36	4.6	68		
Symptoms involving Respiratory and Chest	24.8	367	26.7	413	17.3	268	23.9	354		
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	39.9	591	32.2	498	19.8	306	32.9	488		
Tonsillitis and acute Pharyngitis	45.6	676	40.0	618	32.0	495	47.0	697		
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	238.7	3,537	246.4	3,806	199.9	3,088	274.9	4,079		
Urinary Tract Infections	27.1	401	26.7	412	17.3	267	30.0	445		
Viral Hepatitis	0.2	3	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.3	4		
Whooping Cough	0.4	6	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.3	4		
Denom	1,481,879		1,544,704		1,545,063		1,483,570			
Practice Count	150		157		156		152			

FURTHER INFORMATION:

About the report

Winter focus

The first two pages of data within this report focus on Influenza-Like Illness, in order to provide information about the on set of seasonal influenza and early warning of any epidemic.

Rate calculation

Each weekly incidence rate is presented per 100,000 population. All presentations are for males and females, and for all age groups, unless otherwise stated.

The denominator used for this report is taken from our most recent extract of data from GP practice systems, and includes all patients currently registered with eligible practices. The denominator varies week-on-week as patients register and deregister; it may also be the case that all patients from an individual practice are excluded because of problems with the data extraction from that practice in a specific week. As stated above, patients who have withheld consent for data-sharing are excluded.

In addition to the national rate, we present data for the four NHS England regions: North; Midlands and East; South; and London.

Five-year averages

Weekly rates are set against the five-year average, calculated from data for the calendar years 2011-2015. Previously we reported against a ten-year average. The change to a five-year average was made because longer-term trends in the incidence of disease have led to weekly rates for certain diseases becoming increasingly divergent from their ten-year average. The use of five-year averages lessens this effect and enables more meaningful comparison.

For two diseases, years with exceptionally high incidence have been excluded from the averages: for Whooping Cough, data from 2012 has been excluded; for Strep Sore Throat, Scarletina and Peritonsillar Abscess, data from 2013 and 2014 have been excluded so that similar rates in the future will appear as exceptional rather than normal in comparison.

Threshold calculation for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)

We are now using the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) to calculate threshold and intensity levels for Influenza-Like Illness. MEM works by identifying seasonal epidemic peaks and then calculates thresholds and intensity levels based on the pre and post epidemic values. This allows us to report the severity of ILI against multiple thresholds, rather than a simple comparison with the five-year average as the wide variation in ILI year on year, especially during the seasonal peak, makes the average less representative.

In addition to the All Ages thresholds, we have also calculated thresholds for three age bands: those aged under 15, 15-64 year olds and those aged 65 and over. ILI incidence rates vary among different age groups, and the age-specific thresholds allow us to highlight epidemics where ILI disproportionately affects a particular age group.

This methodology is used by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to standardise reporting of influenza activity across Europe, and is also in use by Public Health England. Full details of the methodology can be found in: Vega *et al.* (2012) Influenza surveillance in Europe: establishing epidemic thresholds by the moving epidemic method. Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses 7(4), 546–558. For ease of graphical representation, the final threshold (Very High) is not included in Graph A, page 2, but it is part of Table 3, page 3.

Both the *all-ages* thresholds and the *age-specific* thresholds are shown in Table 2, page 3. Ten years of data were used for *all-ages* and *age-specific* thresholds calculation (winter seasons 2004/05- 2014/15 excluding 2009/10).

About the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC)

What we do

The RCGP RSC was established in 1957, with the current name in use since 2009. The Centre is an internationally renowned source of information, analysis and interpretation concerning the onset, patterns, prevalence and trends over time of morbidity in primary care. The RSC is an active research and surveillance unit that collects and monitors data; its most important research is the surveillance of influenza and the monitoring of vaccine effectiveness.

The RSC data and analytics hub is housed in the Section of Clinical Medicine and Ageing at the University of Surrey.

Further information about the RSC can be found on our website:

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/our-programmes/research-and-surveillance-centre.aspx>

Our data extraction process and information governance

Data are extracted twice weekly from practice systems by Apollo Medical Software Solutions on the RCGP's behalf. Patients who have withheld consent for data sharing are excluded from the extraction process.

Data are pseudonymised as close to source as possible. Data are held on secure servers at the RCGP data and analytics hub in the Section of Clinical Medicine and Ageing at the University of Surrey. Both Apollo and the University of Surrey are Registered and compliant with the Data Protection Act and fully compliant with all relevant NHS Digital data information governance best practice.

What the data is used for

The RCGP RSC has been providing reports weekly about health and disease, called the Weekly Returns Service (WRS) since 1964. The WRS monitors the number of patients consulting with new episodes of illness classified by diagnosis in England and provides weekly incidence rates per 100,000 population for these new episodes of illness. It is the key primary care element of the national disease monitoring systems run by Public Health England. The bulletin can be found at the following URL:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/syndromic-surveillance-summary>

In addition to the WRS, the data is used for other research studies. Any other uses of the data for research follow ethical approval or agreement from NIHR proportionate review, and where relevant Health Research Authority Confidential Advisory Group advice that further approval is not needed. Full details can be found on our website:

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/our-programmes/research-and-surveillance-centre.aspx>

For further information

For further information about the work of the RSC, or if you would like to be included on our email notification list, please contact:

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