



# BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION (BPHC)

Communicable Disease Control Division  
 1010 Massachusetts Ave - Boston, MA 02118  
 Phone: (617) 534-5611 - Fax: (617) 534-5905

## Influenza Report - For the week ending 3/14/2015

10/1/2014 - 3/14/2015

Reported Cases (Boston Res.)	#
Influenza A	1726
Influenza B	111
Influenza A and B	12
Total	1849

ED Surveillance	
This Week % ILI	1.18%
Average % ILI (since 10/1/2014)	1.22%

**Summary:** As of 3/14/2015, 1849 cases of confirmed influenza were reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), with 456 (24.7%) cases requiring hospitalization. Thirteen influenza-associated deaths have been reported. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 1.18% of all ED visits this week.

Although influenza activity is declining, the proportion of influenza B isolates has been steadily increasing over the past month. BPHC reminds everyone who has not received the influenza vaccine that it is not too late to be vaccinated.

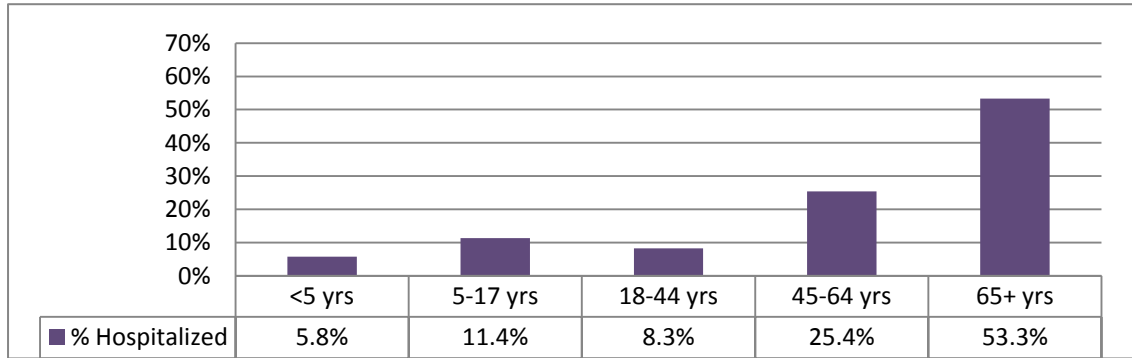
**Cases of influenza diagnosed in Boston and confirmed by any laboratory test must be reported to BPHC.**

### CDC Health Update Regarding Treatment of Patients with Influenza with Antiviral Medications

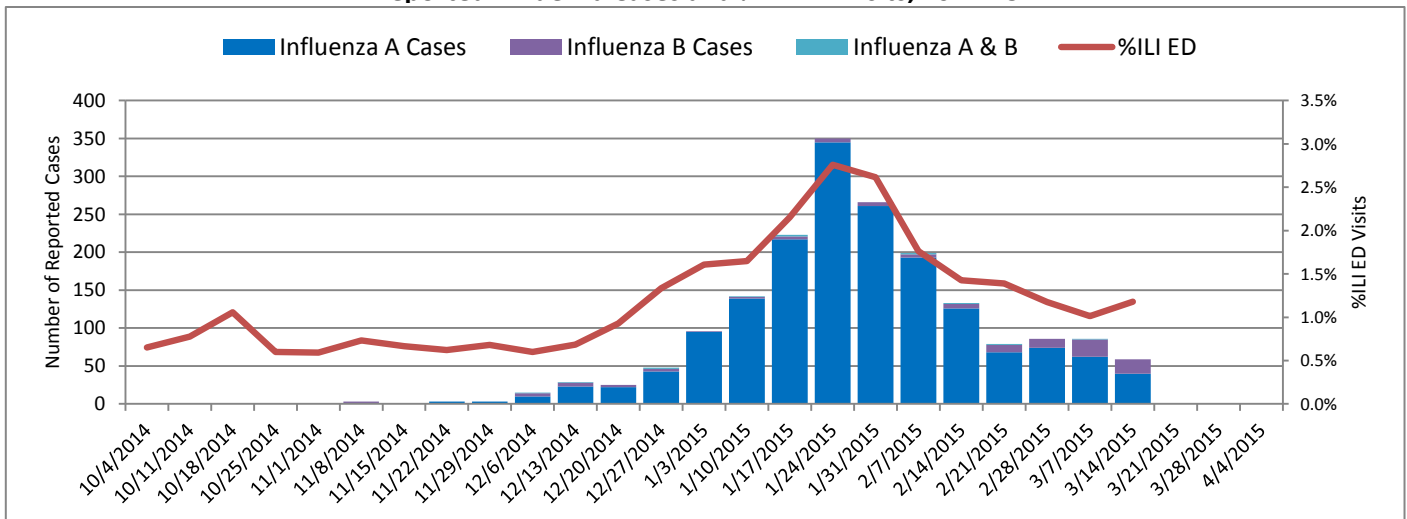
This CDC Health Update was issued on 1/9/2015:

- 1) to remind clinicians that influenza should be high on their list of possible diagnoses for ill patients, because influenza activity is elevated nationwide, and
- 2) to advise clinicians that all hospitalized patients and all high-risk patients (hospitalized or outpatient) with suspected influenza should be treated as soon as possible with an influenza antiviral medication. Clinicians should not wait for confirmatory influenza testing. Antivirals work best when given early, but therapeutic benefit has been observed even when treatment is initiated later.

### Hospitalization Rates by Age Group, Boston Residents, 10/1/2014 - 3/14/2015



### Reported Influenza Cases and %ILI ED Visits, 2014-15

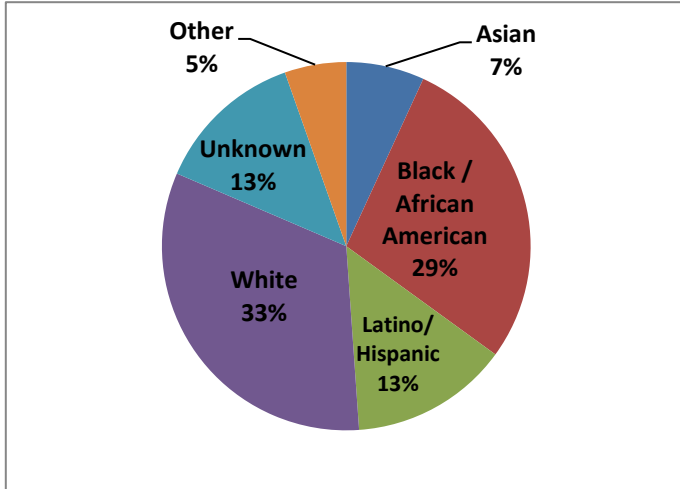




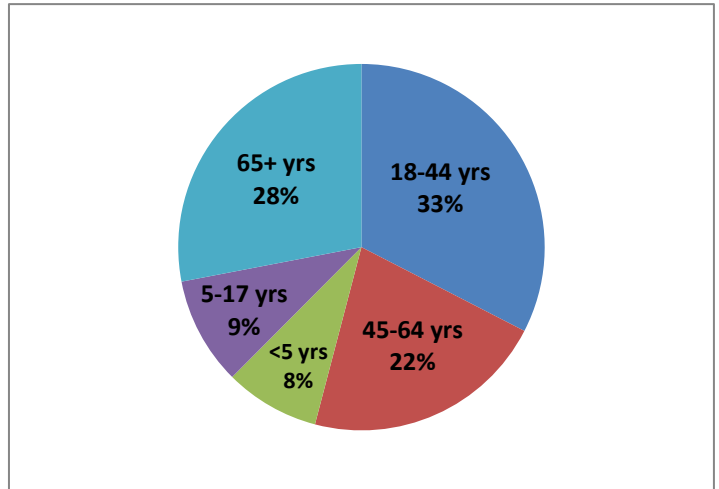
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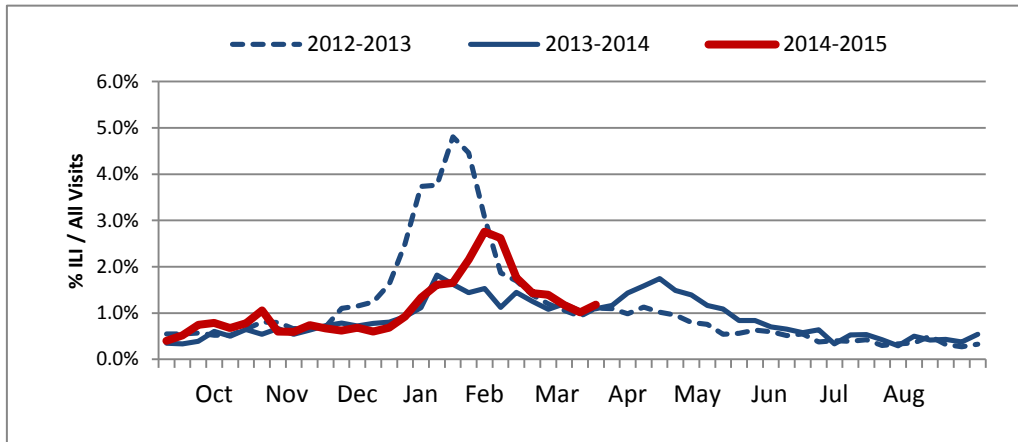
**Race/Ethnicity of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2014 - 3/14/2015, Boston Residents**



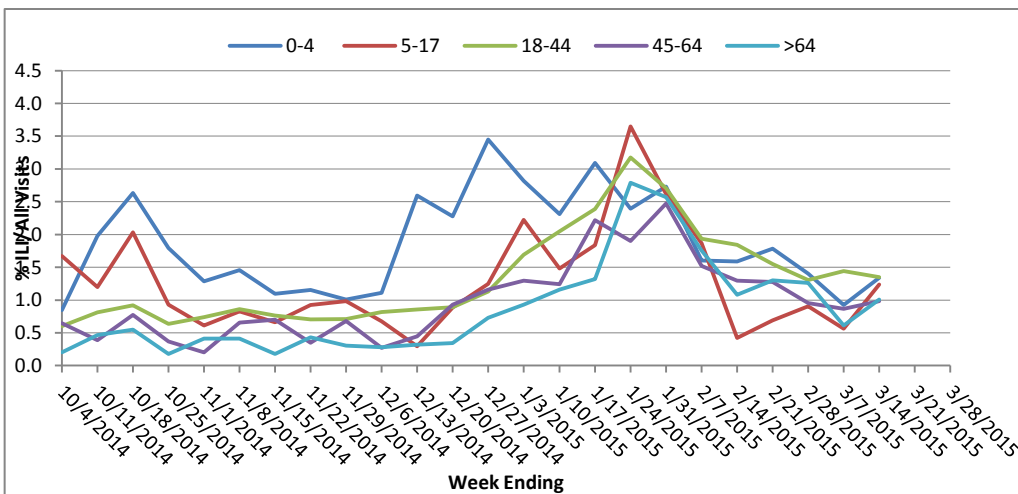
**Age Distribution of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2014 - 3/14/2015, Boston Residents**



**Weekly Percentage of ED Visits for ILI, 2012-2015**



**Weekly Percentage of ED Visits for ILI by Age Group, 10/1/14 - 3/14/15**



Cases of influenza diagnosed in Boston and confirmed by any laboratory test must be reported to BPHC. Influenza like illness (ILI) is defined as "flu" OR "fever and a cough or sore throat" in the ED chief complaint as captured by the BPHC Syndromic Surveillance System.

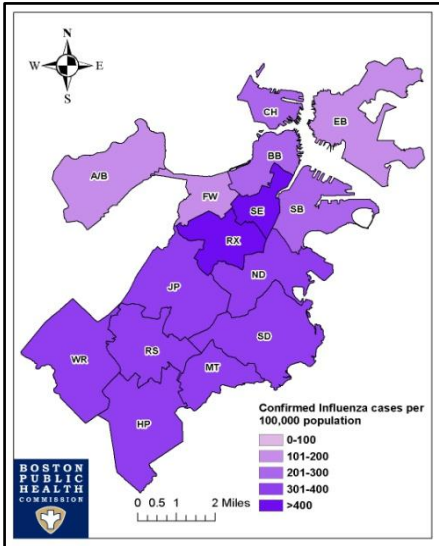


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## Geographic Distribution

Rate of Confirmed Influenza Cases  
by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population  
October 1, 2014 - March 14, 2015



Rate of ILI Syndrome ED Visits  
by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population  
October 1, 2014 - March 14, 2015

