

Influenza Sentinel Surveillance System (ISSS)

Coordinator:

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State Website: <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/Pages/RespiratoryDiseases.aspx>

National Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>

Why is it used?

- To monitor influenza activity in the state.
- To promote influenza vaccination.
- Informs clinicians whether the circulating strain is a match for the current vaccine and if it is one that will respond to antiviral chemoprophylaxis and therapy.
- Laboratory information can be used to prepare for the possibility of responding to an influenza pandemic.
- To inform the public which strain is circulating, how influenza activity compares with other years and what populations are affected.

What data is collected?

The following is collected weekly from October through May by sentinel health care providers (HCP):

- Percentage of patients seen with influenza-like illness (ILI), defined as temperature <100°F with a cough and/or a sore throat.
- Number of patient visits for respiratory illness and total number of patient visits by age group to calculate the percent of visits due to respiratory illness by age group.

How is data collected?

- ILI is reported by the sentinel HCP sites.
- Sentinel HCP sites report ILI to the CDC and obtain specimens for laboratory culture confirmation.

Data Strengths:

- System has done an excellent job of profiling the influenza activity at the end of each season, comparing its severity and pattern to other seasons and identifying the virus(es) responsible for the most activity during a particular season.
- Complements the systems of other states.
- Provides valuable input in the process of selecting strains for the following year's vaccine and to the strategy for annual vaccination campaigns.



Data Limitations:

- System relies on the accuracy and promptness of reporting by the sentinel HCP sites.

How is the system evaluated?

- Evaluated at the end of each influenza season.
- Summary information is evaluated by the state influenza coordinator, who determines how well the system provided answers to the frequently asked questions during the season.
- System has not been formally evaluated.

Data Set Availability:

- Kentucky requests information on all influenza-associated deaths for children less than 18 years of age or pregnant/postpartum women within three months of delivery.
- Sentinel surveillance depends on each HCP to report weekly.
- Cost of the data set includes the labor necessary to obtain the information.

Data Release Policy:

- This database is a restricted access system.

Data Publications:

- Reports are published weekly in the FluView on the CDC website.

Suggested Citation:

Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH). Influenza Sentinel Surveillance System Data. Frankfort, Kentucky: Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky Department for Public Health, Kentucky Department for Public Health [data year].

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