

Kent County Influenza Surveillance Trends

2016-2017 Summary

During the 2016-2017 influenza season, there were one thousand seven hundred and one (1,701) cases of influenza reported to the Kent County Health Department (858 A, 837 B, 6 Unknown). Details of influenza activity indicators (represented graphically in **Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4**) are listed below.

- **Constitutional %** - The weekly average percentage of emergency department visits for constitutional complaints (including chief complaints of fever, weakness, dizziness, temp, flu, lightheadedness, and chills) peaked during the week ending February 18, 2017. The peak percentage of 11.3% was lower than the peak percentage during the 2015-2016 influenza season (12.2%), which occurred during the week ending March 12, 2016.
- **Constitutional % by age** – The peak percentage of constitutional complaints in adults 18 years of age and older (5.3%) was lower than the peak level observed during the 2015-2016 influenza season (5.7%). The peak percentage of constitutional complaints in children under the age of 18 (5.9%) was also lower than that observed during 2015-2016 (6.8%).
- **School ILI %** - The greatest percentage of school children absent due to influenza-like illness occurred during the week ending February 18, 2017. This percentage (1.93%) was greater than the peak percentage of 1.31% during the 2015-2016 influenza season, which occurred during the week ending March 26, 2016.

Table 1: Characteristics of Reported Influenza, 2016-2017

Age Group		Influenza Type		Gender	
0-17	30.9%	A	50.4%	Male	44.9%
18-64	36.2%	B	49.2%	Female	49.7%
65+	13.3%	Unknown	0.4%	Unknown	5.4%
Unknown	19.6%				

Average Age of Reported Cases: 33.4 years

Median Age of Reported Cases: 26.5 years

Figure 1: Indicators of Influenza Activity, Emergency Department and School Data

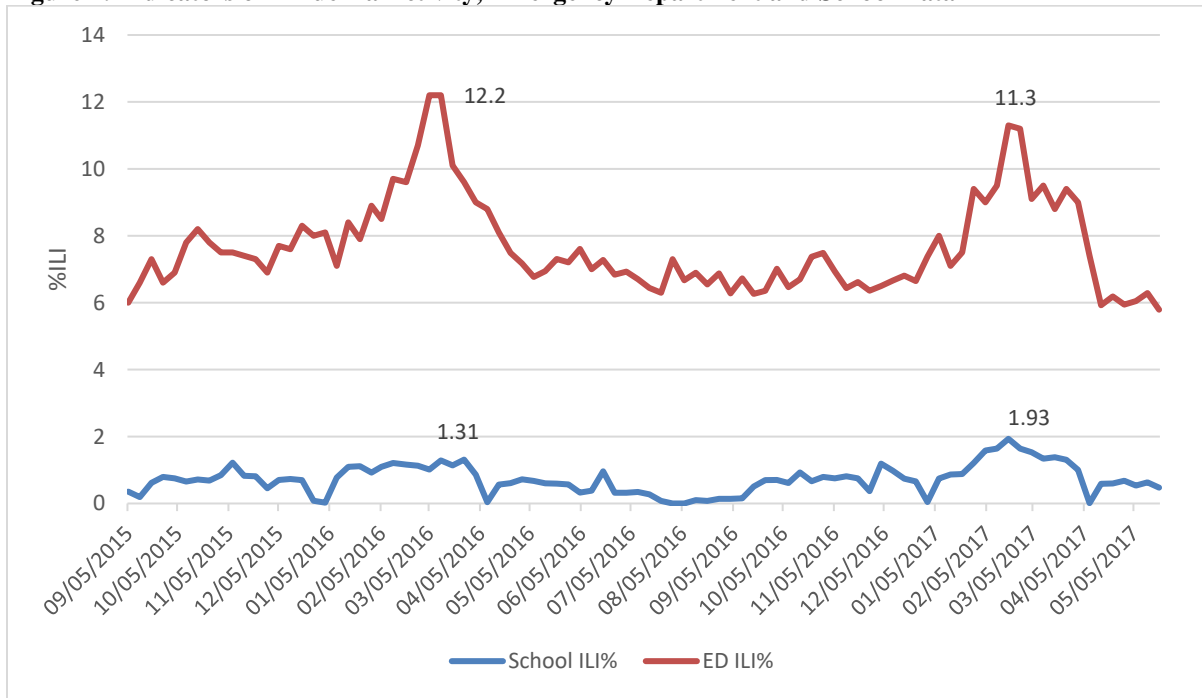


Figure 2: Constitutional Complaints as a Percentage of Total Emergency Department Visits by Age Group

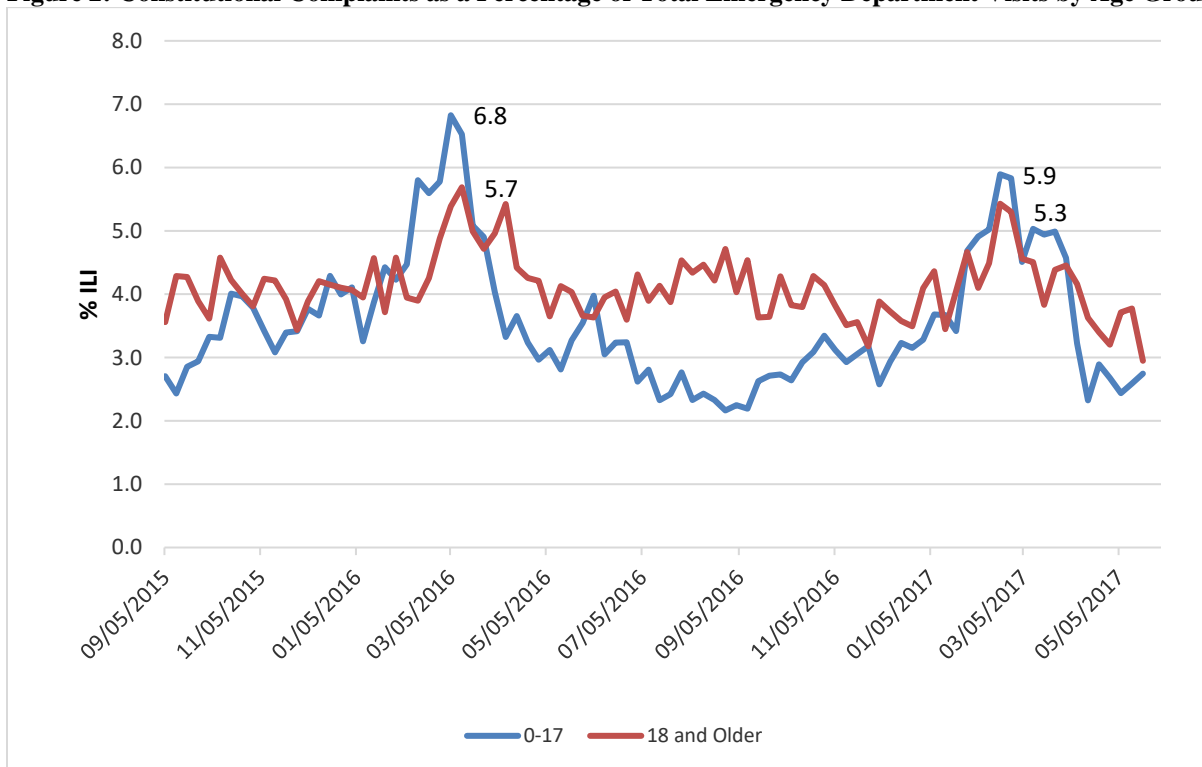


Figure 3 plots influenza activity for the 2016-2017 season compared to the 2015-2016 season whereas Figure 4 plots activity in 2016-2017 compared to the average activity over the previous four influenza seasons. For comparison purposes, weeks are numbered 1-52, with week 1 being the first week ending in the month of January and week 52 the last week ending in the month of December (week ending day is Saturday). For this analysis, the influenza season is considered to begin with week 35, the first week ending in the month of September (week ending 09/03 for 2016). Both figures present the percentage of emergency department visits for constitutional complaints through week 20 (week ending 05/20/2017). The 2016-2017 influenza season peaked earlier than in 2015-2016, but later than the average over the previous four seasons.

Figure 3: Comparison of Influenza Activity, Kent County, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017

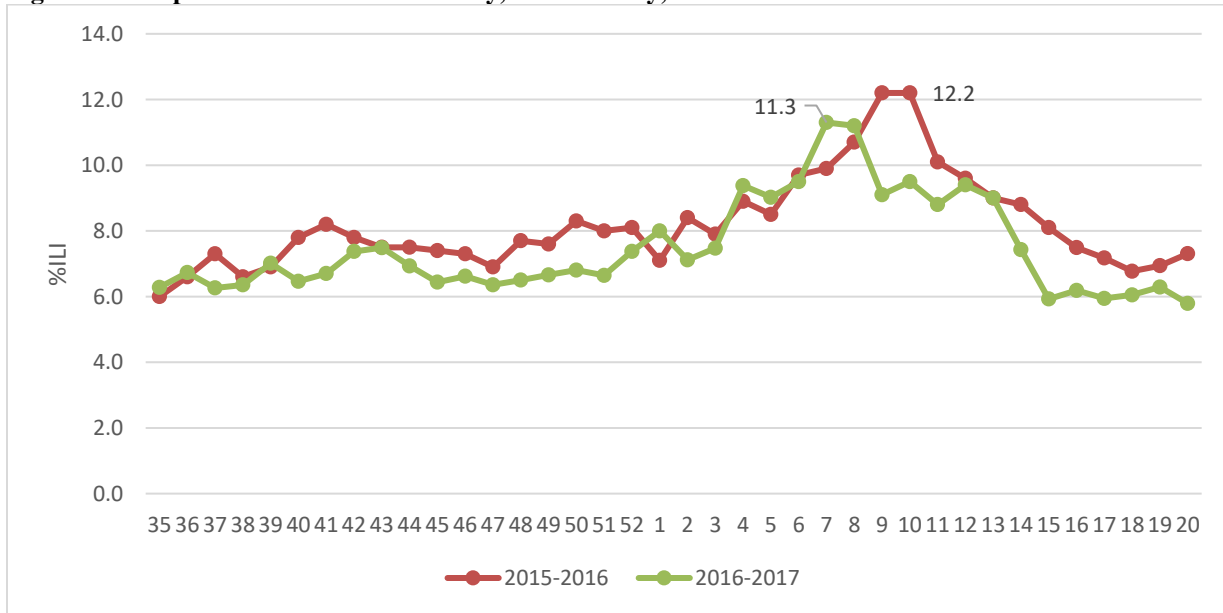


Figure 4: Comparison of Influenza Activity, Kent County, 2016-2017 against the Four-Year Average

