



Royal College of
General Practitioners
Research and Surveillance Centre

RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

Key Statistics:

Week Number/Year.....21/2017
Week Starting - Ending.....22/05/2017 - 28/05/2017
No. of Practices.....148
Population.....1449099

National (England)

- **Allergic Rhinitis** : increased from **17.4** in week 20 to **25.7** in week 21.
- **Asthma** : increased from **14.2** in week 20 to **15.3** in week 21.
- **Common Cold** : decreased from **75.3** in week 20 to **62.9** in week 21.
- **Infectious Intestinal Diseases (IID)** : was unchanged at **9.4** in week 20 compared with **9.5** in week 21.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : was unchanged at **264.9** in week 20 compared with **259.7** in week 21.

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

- **Allergic Rhinitis** : increased from **26.9** in week 20 to **36.1** in week 21 in the London region, increased from **13.4** in week 20 to **18.6** in week 21 in the North region, increased from **14.5** in week 20 to **24.3** in week 21 in the South region, and increased from **18.3** in week 20 to **28.9** in week 21 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Asthma** : increased from **13.3** in week 20 to **17.6** in week 21 in the London region, increased from **11.7** in week 20 to **14.8** in week 21 in the North region, decreased from **16.8** in week 20 to **15.4** in week 21 in the South region, and decreased from **15.7** in week 20 to **12.9** in week 21 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Common Cold** : decreased from **111.8** in week 20 to **87.8** in week 21 in the London region, decreased from **74.2** in week 20 to **61.6** in week 21 in the North region, decreased from **59.8** in week 20 to **54.5** in week 21 in the South region, and decreased from **59.9** in week 20 to **49.5** in week 21 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Infectious Intestinal Diseases (IID)** : decreased from **14.3** in week 20 to **10.3** in week 21 in the London region, decreased from **11.5** in week 20 to **10.9** in week 21 in the North region, increased from **6.8** in week 20 to **9.8** in week 21 in the South region, and increased from **4.2** in week 20 to **4.7** in week 21 in the Midlands And East region.
- **Respiratory System Diseases** : decreased from **306.8** in week 20 to **284.1** in week 21 in the London region, was unchanged at **262.3** in week 20 compared with **258.4** in week 21 in the North region, was unchanged at **231.9** in week 20 compared with **235.2** in week 21 in the South region, and was unchanged at **278.3** in week 20 compared with **278.2** in week 21 in the Midlands And East region.

Comment:

Presentations of hay fever/allergic rhinitis in primary care increased this week, particularly in infants and school-age children.

Most other conditions are at or below seasonally expected levels.

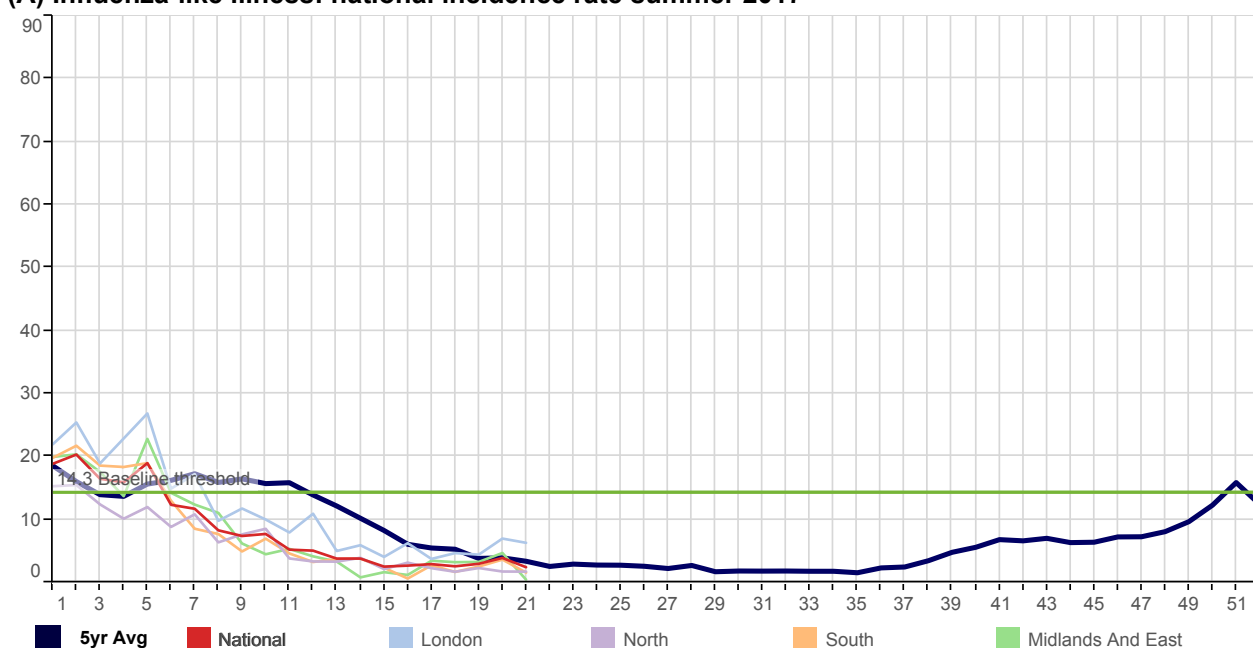
Spring/Summer Focus 2017

Please see page 13 for explanatory notes on the data.

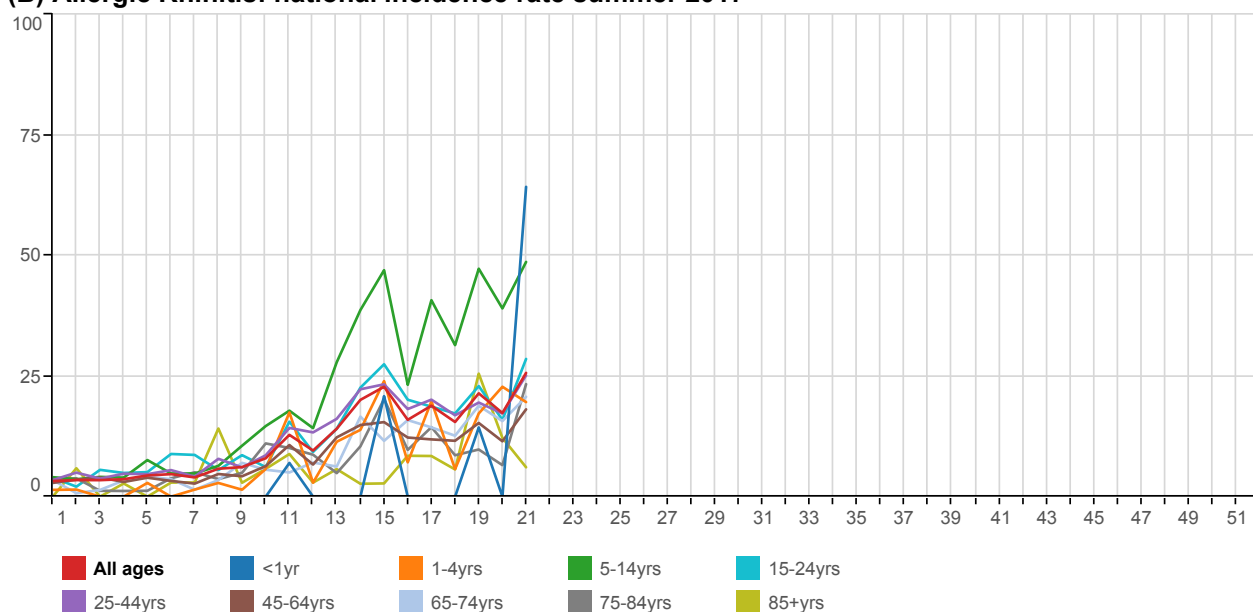
Weekly influenza-like illness and bronchitis incidence rates per 100,000 persons

	Bronchitis	Influenza-like illness		Influenza-like illness	Acute Bronchitis
<1yr	78.5	0.0	London	6.3	35.1
1-4yrs	63.4	3.0	North	1.7	56.7
5-14yrs	15.4	0.6	South	1.6	46.5
15-24yrs	14.8	4.2	Midlands And East	0.4	66.3
25-44yrs	30.2	2.9	National	2.4	50.6
45-64yrs	50.7	2.5			
65-74yrs	94.7	0.7			
75-84yrs	142.6	2.6			
85+yrs	249.8	0.0			
All ages	50.6	2.4			

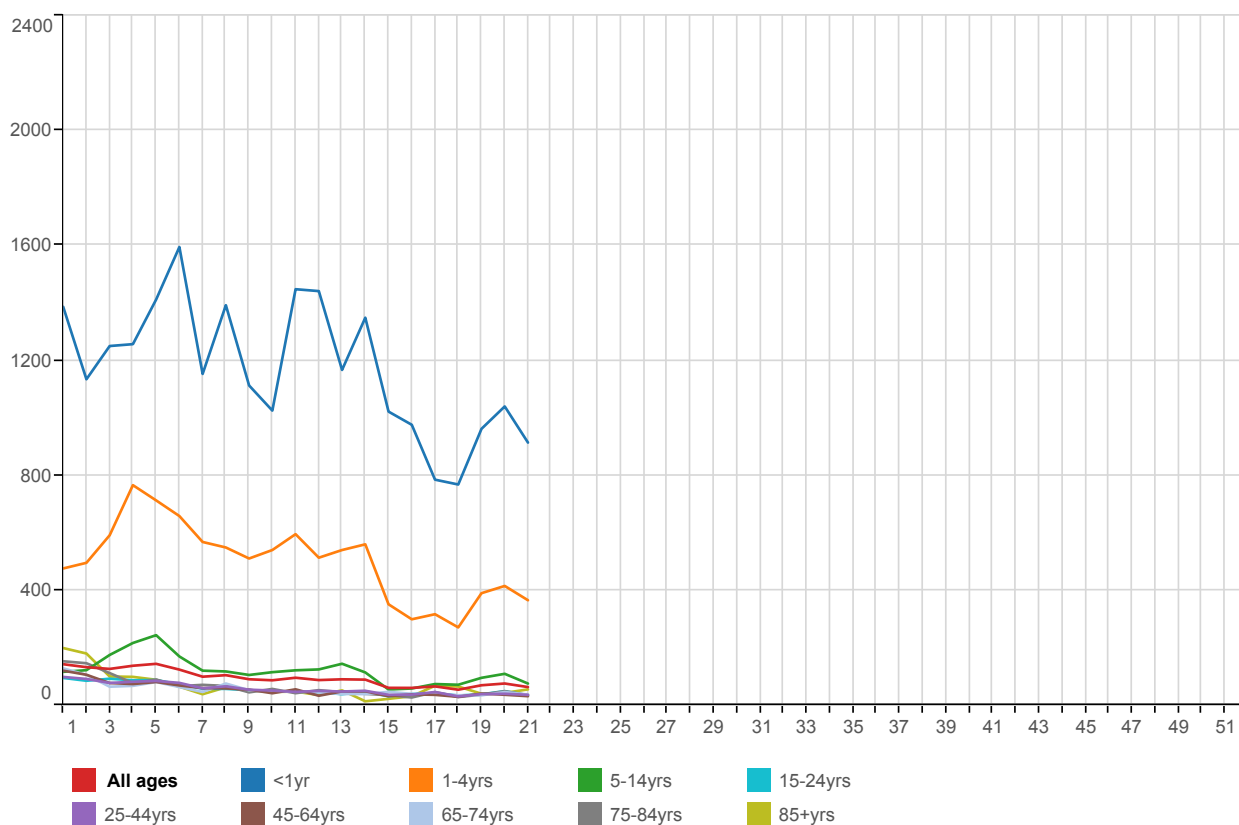
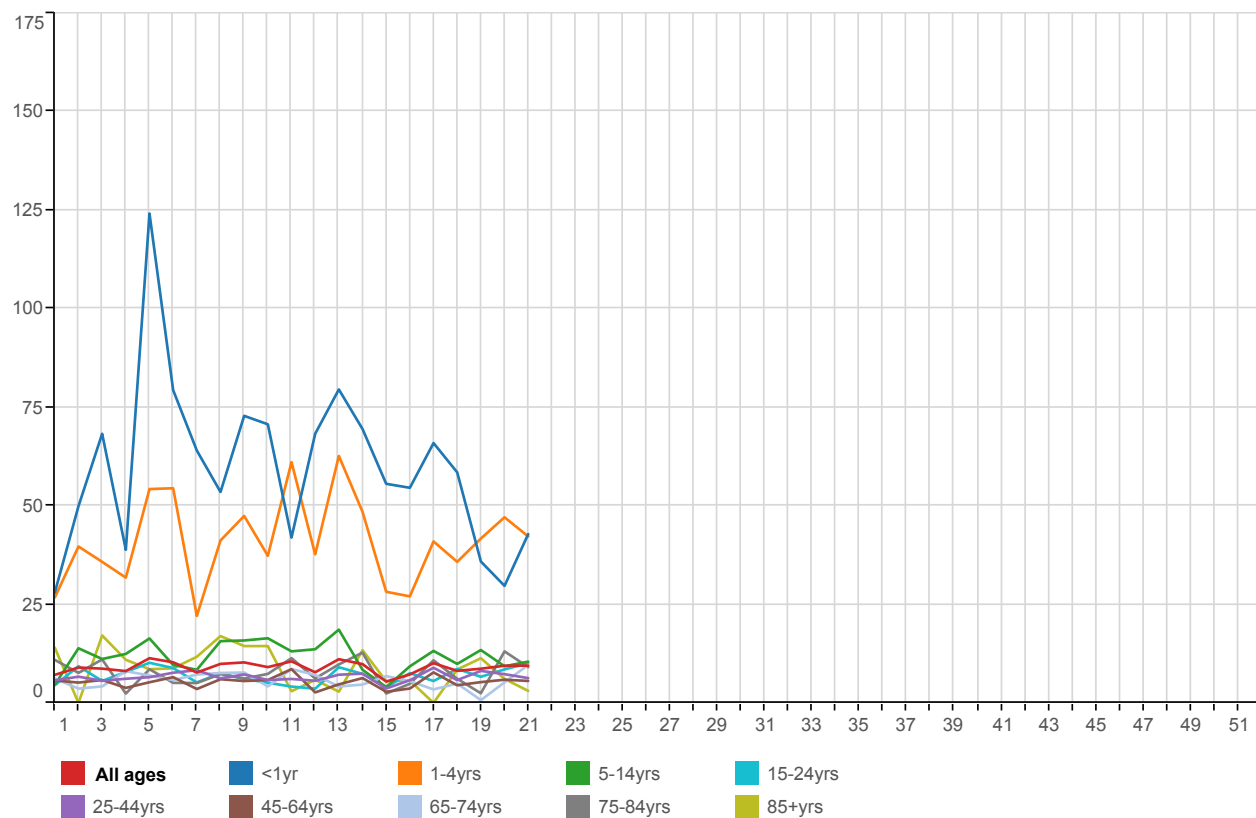
(A) Influenza-like illness: national incidence rate summer 2017*



(B) Allergic Rhinitis: national incidence rate summer 2017*



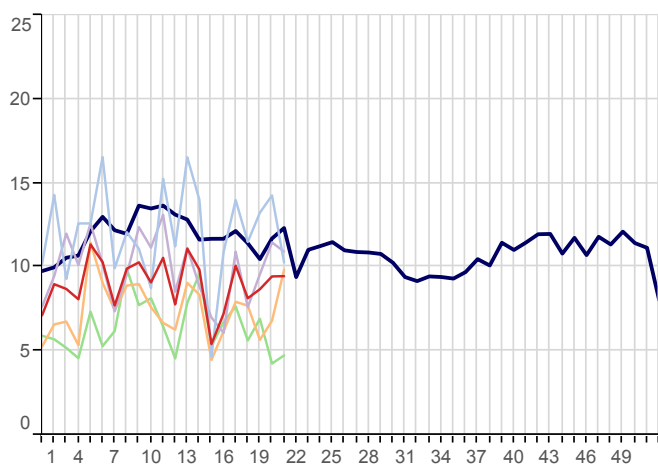
* The thresholds used are the agreed RCGP/ Public Health England levels for 2016. The rolling average line (blue) is based on 5 year historic RCGP RSC level.

(C) Common Cold : national incidence rate 2017 by age group***(D) Infectious Intestinal Diseases : national incidence rate 2017 by age group***

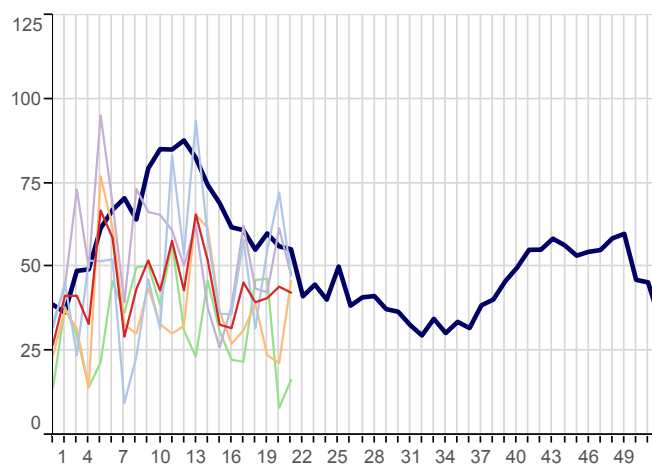
1. Water & Food Borne Disorders:

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

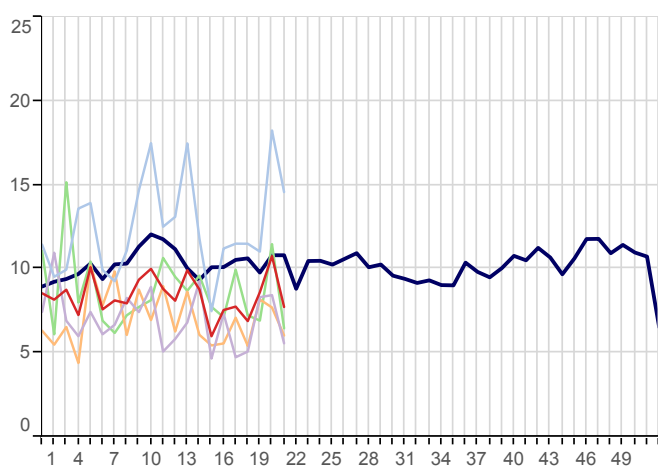
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by regions
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



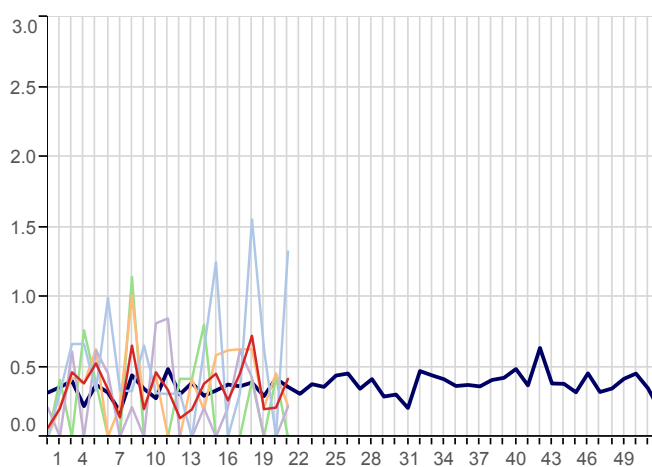
Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **0-4 years**) by regions
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



Non-Infective Enteritis & Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



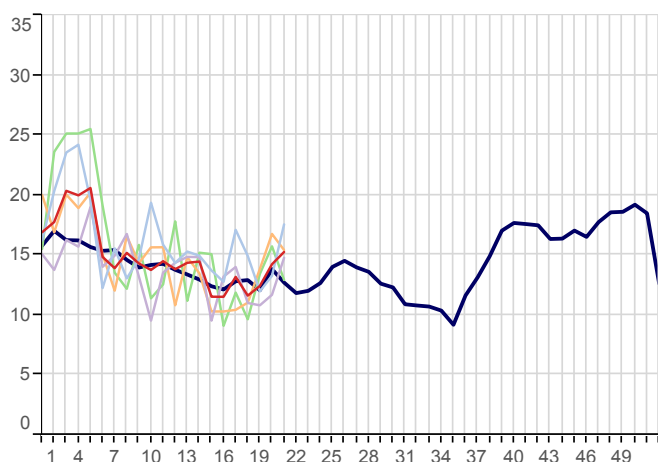
Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 **all ages**) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



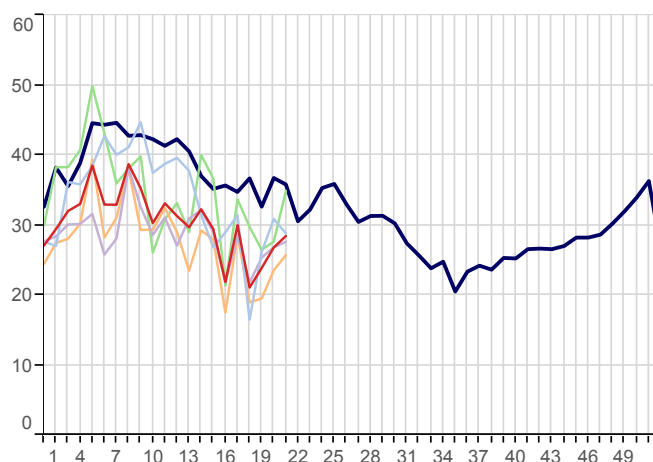
2. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders:

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

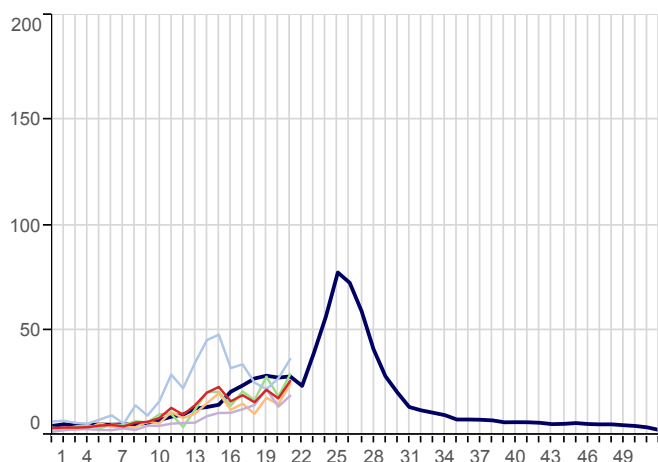
Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2017 compared with 5 year average



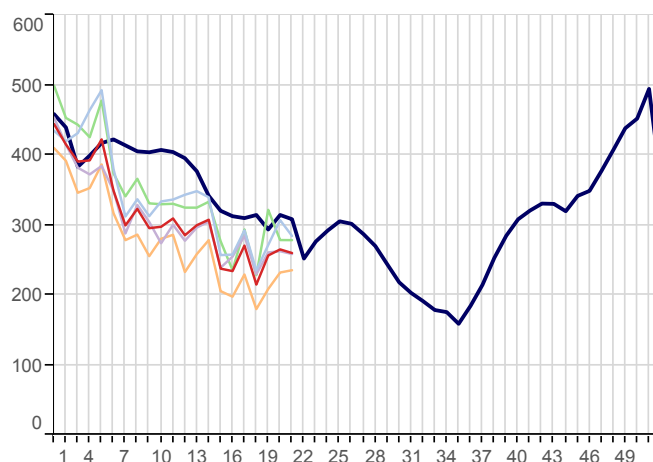
Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2017 compared with 5 year average



Hayfever/Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2017 compared with 5 year average



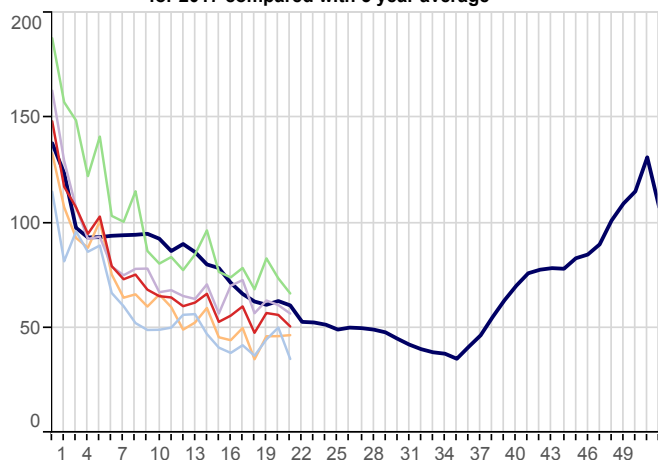
Symptoms involving Respiratory & Chest (ICD10: R05-R07,R09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2017 compared with 5 year average



3. Respiratory Infections:

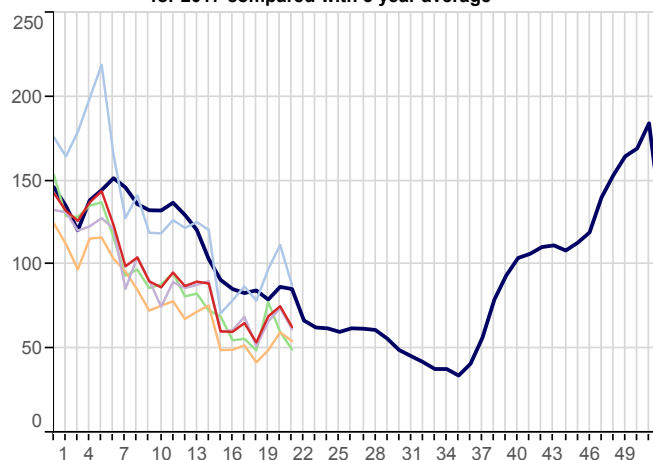
■ 5yr Avg ■ National ■ London ■ North

Acute Bronchitis (ICD10: J20-J21,J40)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average

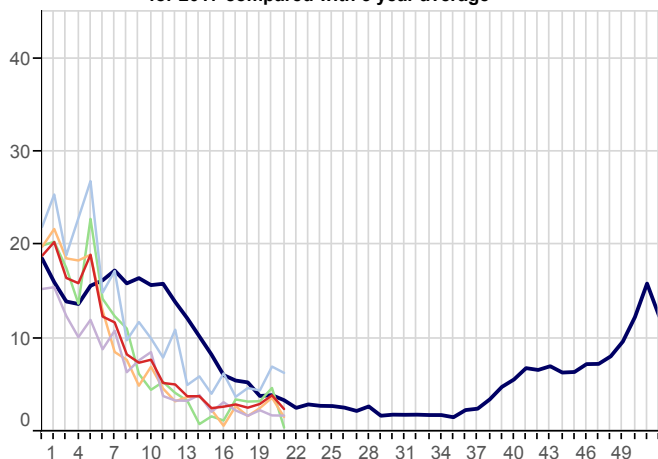


■ South ■ Midlands And East

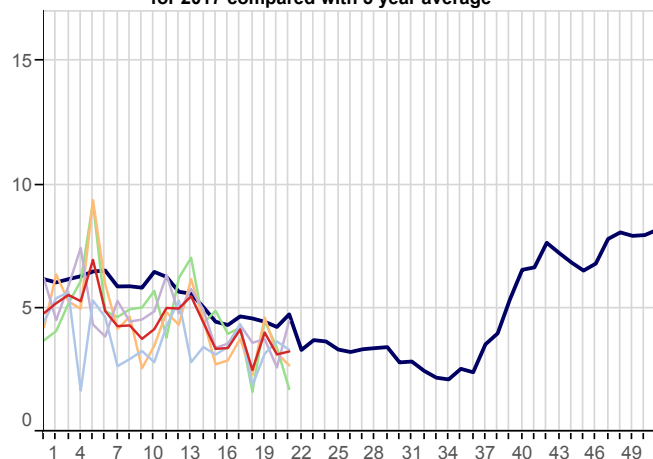
Common Cold (ICD10: J00,J06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



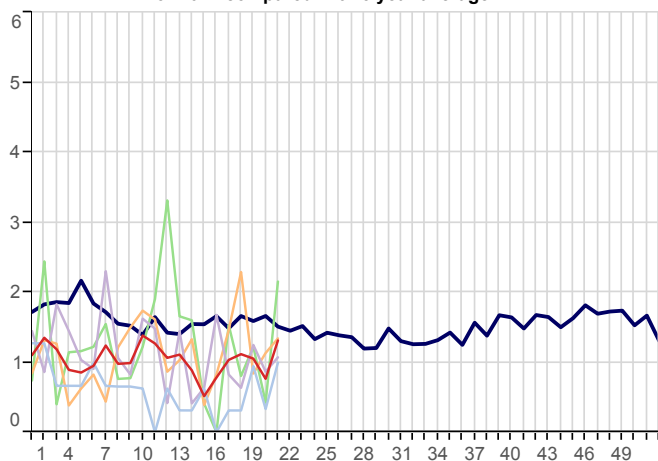
Influenza-Like Illness (ICD10: J09-J11)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



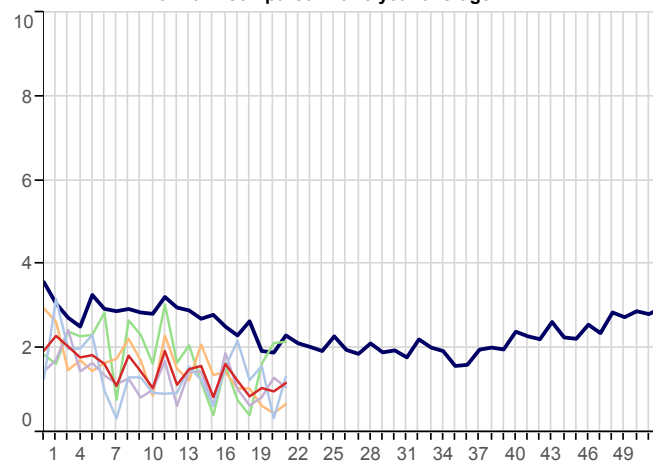
Acute Laryngitis/Tracheitis (ICD10: J04)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



Pleurisy (ICD10: R091)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



Pneumonia/Pneumonitis (ICD10: J12-J18)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



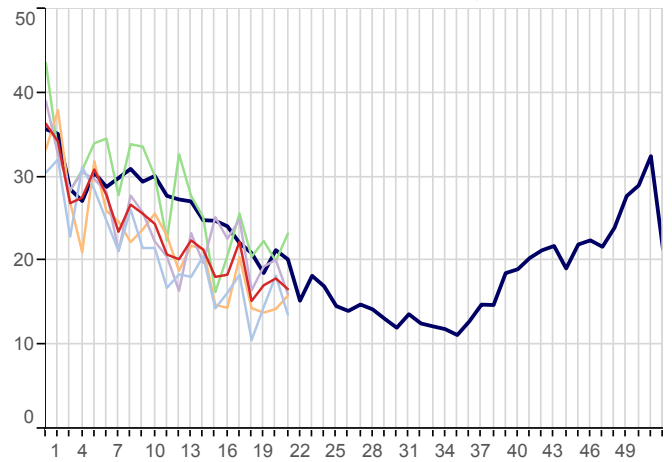
3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

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

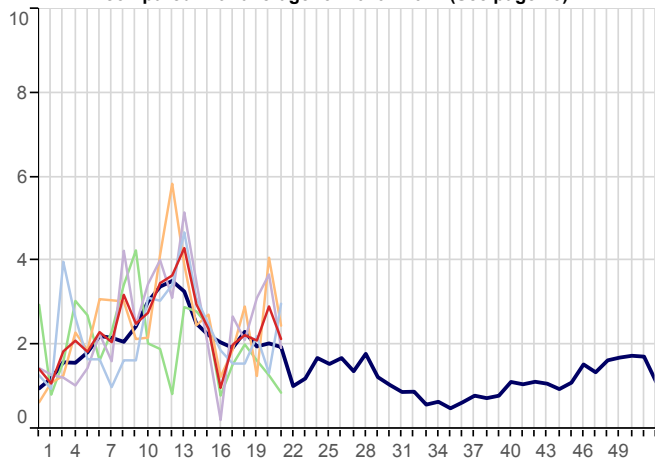
Respiratory System Diseases (ICD10: J00-J99)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



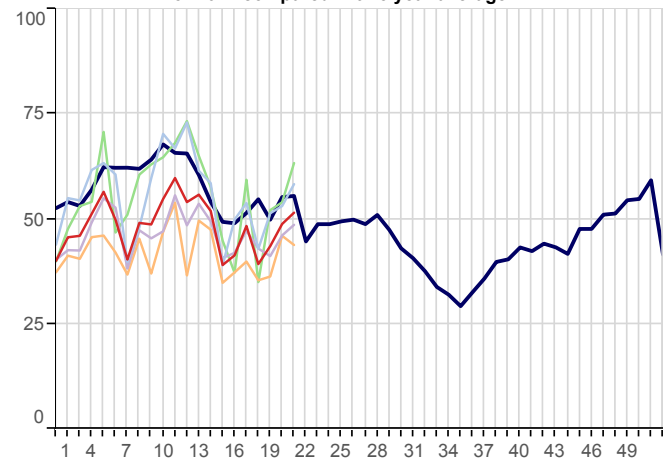
Acute Sinusitis (ICD10: J01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



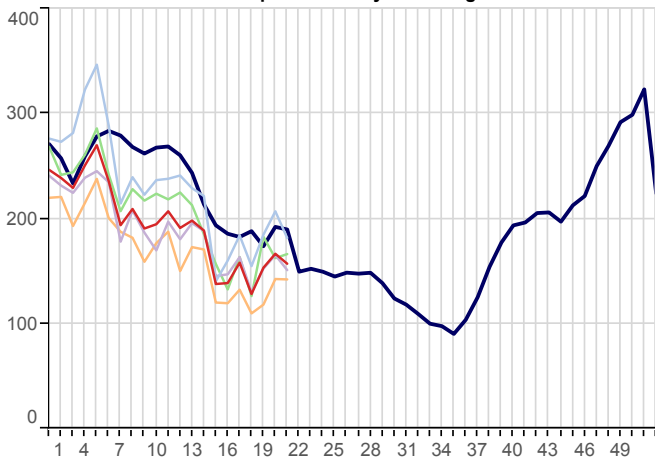
Strep Sore Throat, Scarletina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J02,J36)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2015
compared with average for 2010 - 2012 (See page 13)



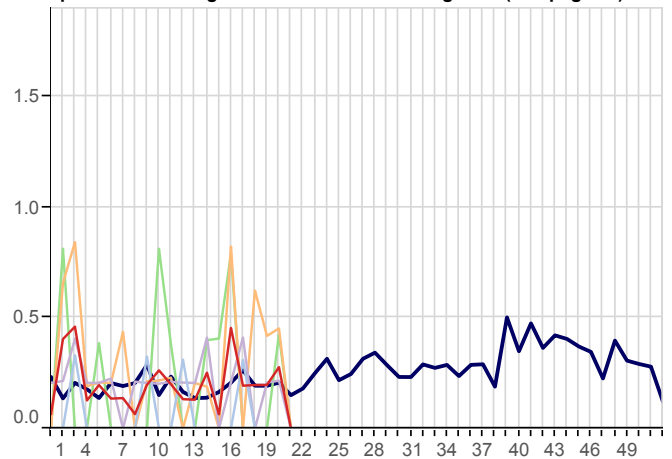
Acute Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis (ICD10: J02-J03)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)(ICD10: J00-J06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



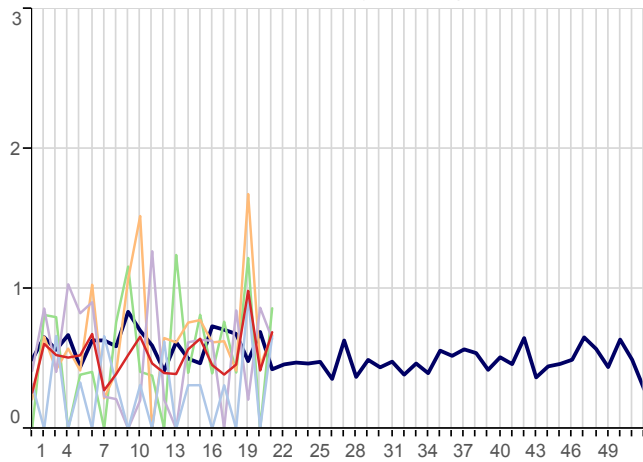
Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2015
compared with average for 2010 - 2015 excluding 2013 (See page 13)



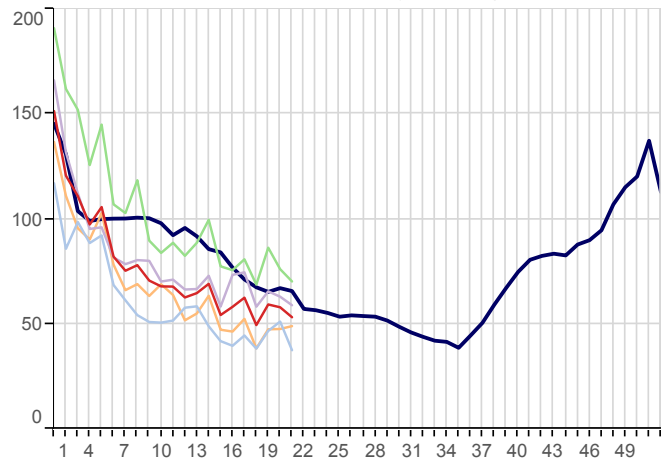
3. Respiratory Infections(Continued):

5yr Avg National London North

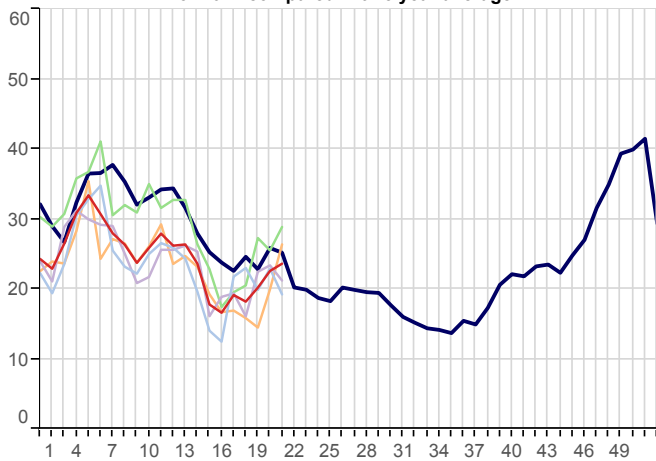
Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)(ICD10: J20-J22)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



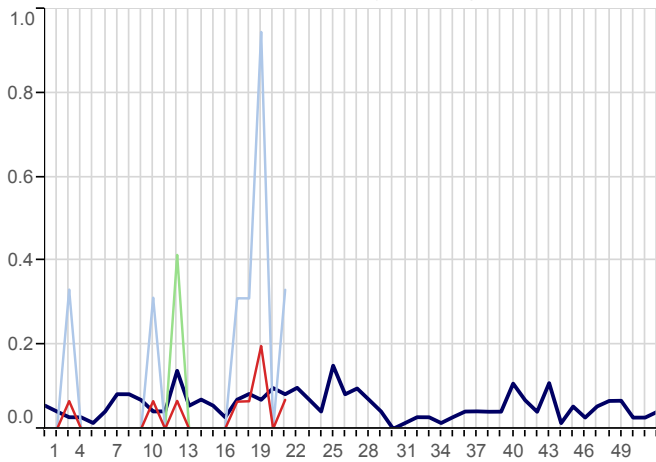
Acute Otitis Media (ICD10: H650-H651,H660,H669)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



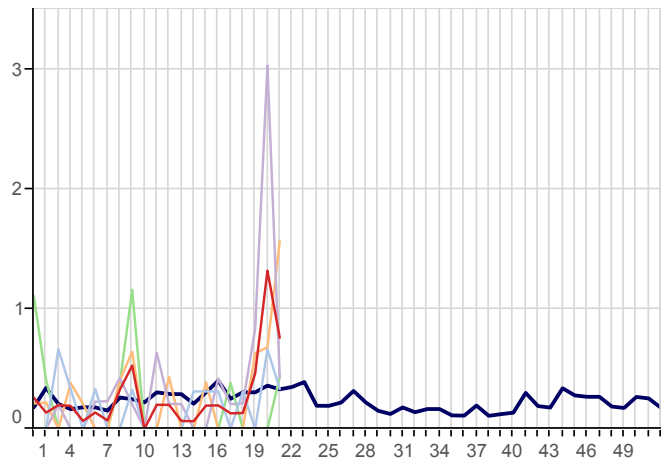
4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

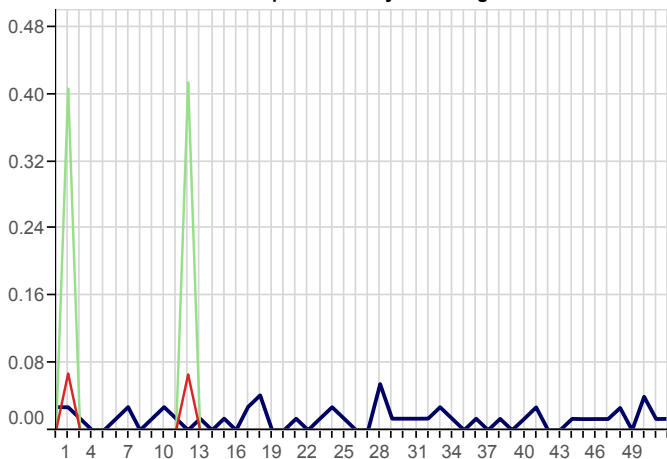
Measles (ICD10: B05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



Mumps (ICD10: B26)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average

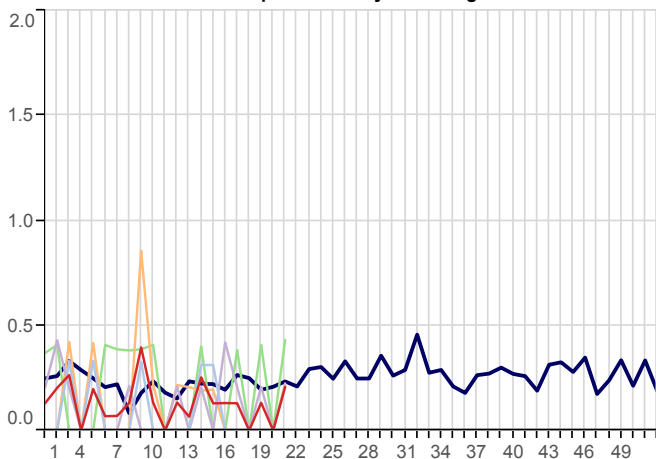


Rubella (ICD10: B06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average

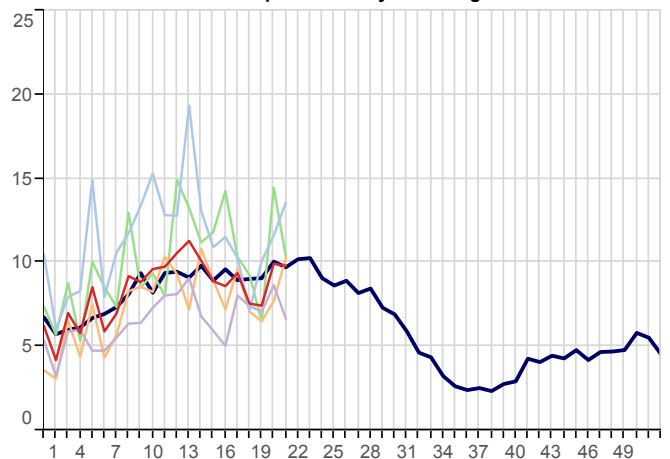


5. Skin Contagions

Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



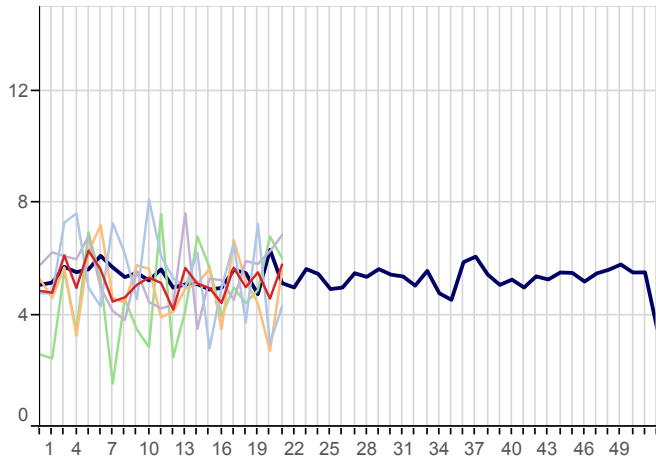
Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



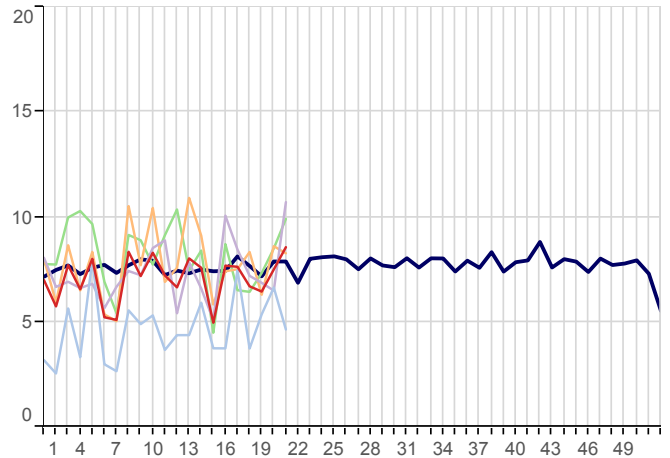
5. Skin Contagions (Continued)

5yr Avg National London North South Midlands And East

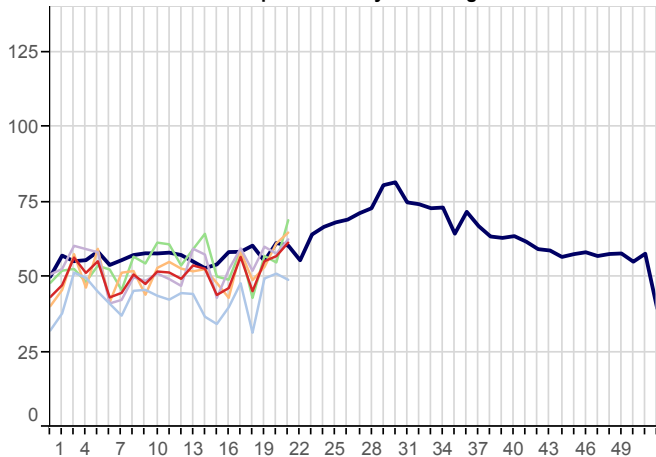
Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



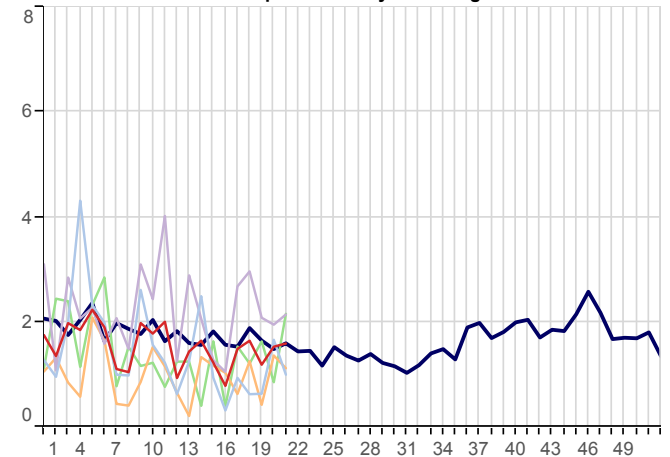
Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



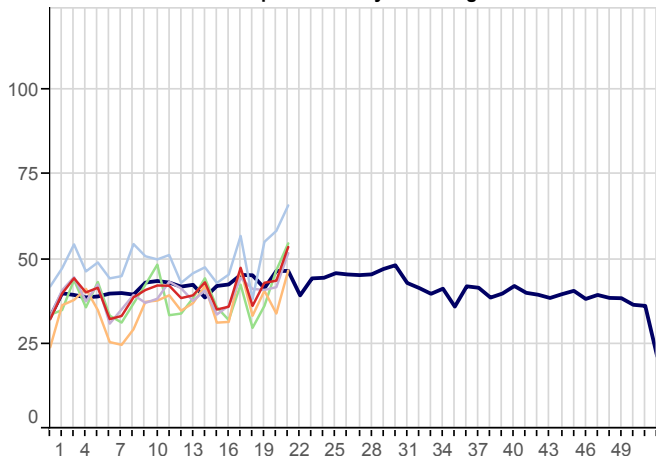
Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



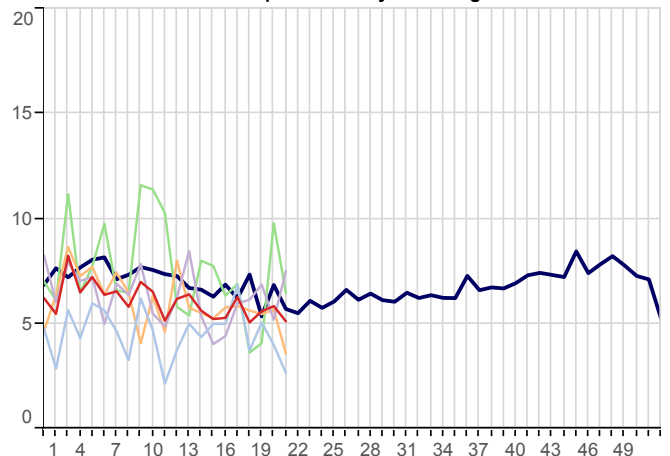
Scabies (ICD10: B86)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



Symptoms involving Skin & Oth Integument Tiss (ICD10: R20-R23)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



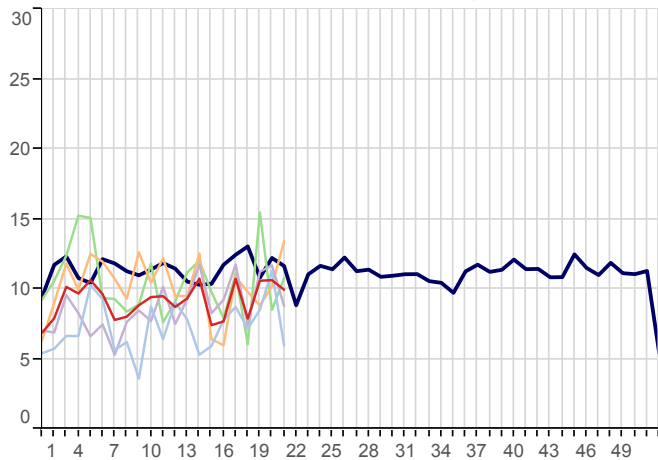
Impetigo (ICD10: L01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

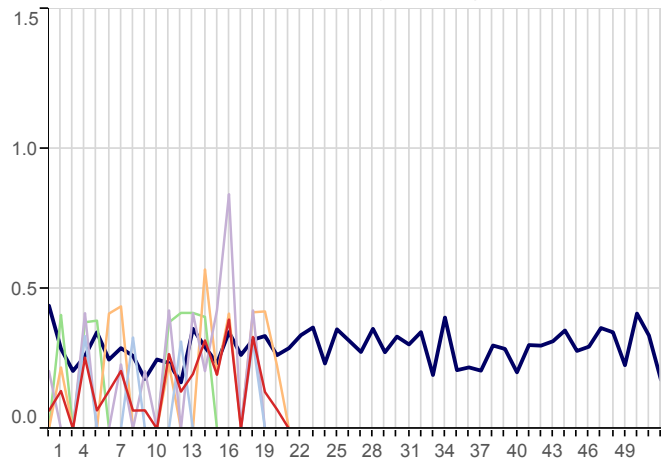
5yr Avg National London North

Disorders of The Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average

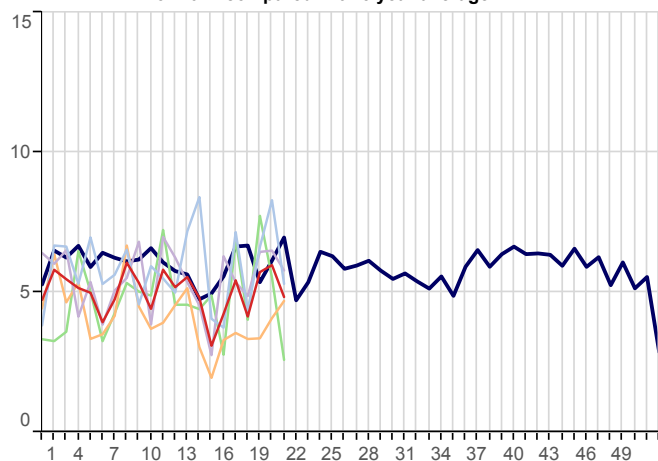


South Midlands And East

Meningitis/Encephalitis (ICD10: A170-A171, A390, A38-A85, A87, G00-G05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average

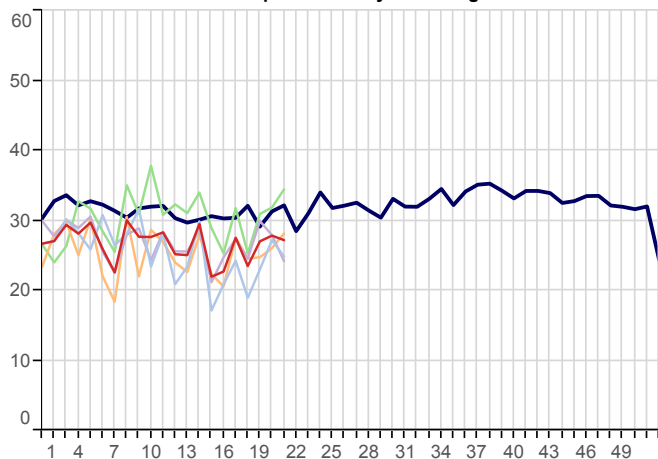


Symptoms Involving Nervous & Musculoskeletal (ICD10: R25-R29)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



7. Genitourinary System Disorders

Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region
for 2017 compared with 5 year average



8. Tabular Summary by Disease

Disease Name	Week beginning Week ending		22/05/2017 28/05/2017		15/05/2017 21/05/2017		08/05/2017 14/05/2017		01/05/2017 07/05/2017	
	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer	Rate	Numer
Allergic Rhinitis	25.7	372	17.4	250	21.4	326	15.5	236		
Asthma	15.3	221	14.2	205	12.4	189	11.6	177		
Acute Bronchitis	50.6	733	56.1	808	57.0	867	47.6	725		
Bullous Dermatoses	0.2	3	0.0	0	0.1	2	0.0	0		
Chickenpox	9.8	142	9.9	143	7.4	113	7.5	115		
Common Cold	62.9	912	75.3	1,085	69.2	1,053	53.7	819		
Conjunctival Disorders	28.4	412	26.8	386	23.9	363	21.1	321		
Herpes Simplex	5.8	84	4.6	66	5.5	84	5.0	76		
Herpes Zoster	8.6	124	7.5	108	6.4	98	6.7	102		
Impetigo	5.1	74	5.8	84	5.6	85	5.1	77		
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.7	10	0.4	6	1.0	15	0.5	7		
Influenza-like illness	2.4	35	3.9	56	3.0	45	2.6	39		
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	9.5	137	9.4	136	8.7	132	8.1	124		
Laryngitis and Tracheitis	3.2	47	3.1	45	4.0	61	2.5	38		
Lower Respiratory Tract Infections	53.1	770	57.9	834	59.2	901	49.4	753		
Measles	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.2	3	0.1	1		
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.0	0	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.3	5		
Mumps	0.8	11	1.3	19	0.5	7	0.1	2		
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	7.7	112	10.8	155	8.6	131	6.9	105		
Otitis Media Acute	23.6	342	22.6	325	20.2	307	18.2	277		
Peripheral Nervous Disease	9.9	144	10.6	153	10.6	161	7.9	120		
Pleurisy	1.3	19	0.8	11	1.1	16	1.1	17		
Pneumonia and Pneumonitis	1.2	17	1.0	14	1.1	16	0.9	13		
Respiratory System Diseases	259.7	3,764	264.9	3,817	256.3	3,899	214.7	3,272		
Rubella	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Scabies	1.6	23	1.5	22	1.2	18	1.6	25		
Sinusitis	16.6	241	17.9	258	17.1	260	15.2	232		
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	61.4	890	56.9	820	55.2	840	45.2	689		
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	2.1	31	2.9	42	2.1	32	2.2	34		
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	4.8	70	6.0	86	5.7	87	4.1	63		
Symptoms involving Respiratory and Chest	18.8	272	19.6	282	19.2	292	17.0	259		
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	53.6	777	43.7	629	43.1	655	36.2	552		
Tonsillitis and acute Pharyngitis	51.5	746	48.8	703	43.5	662	39.2	598		
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	157.0	2,275	166.5	2,399	153.2	2,331	128.1	1,953		
Urinary Tract Infections	27.2	394	27.8	401	27.0	411	23.5	358		
Viral Hepatitis	0.4	6	0.2	3	0.2	3	0.7	11		
Whooping Cough	0.0	0	0.3	4	0.2	3	0.2	3		
Practice Count			148		146		153		153	
Denom			1,449,099		1,440,887		1,521,333		1,524,073	

FURTHER INFORMATION:

About the report

Summer focus

The first two pages of data within this report focus on the weekly incidence rates of Influenza-Like Illness, Allergic Rhinitis, Common Cold, and Infectious Intestinal Diseases.

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. 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.

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.

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, relevance 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 from the Health Research Authority (HRA), and, where relevant, HRA Confidential Advisory Group (CAG) 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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