RESEARCH & SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

RC GP

RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

Week Number / Year	Population
14 / 2025	**16,398,684**

Dates	No. Practices
31/03/2025 - 06/04/2025	**1,523**

Notes

All rates in this report are given per 100,000 population presenting in the week of the report. A rolling 5-year average rate is also provided as a historical comparison. Rates are provided for four regions (North, South, Midlands and East, and London). For acute respiratory infections, a breakdown by age group is also provided.

Rates are presented on a weekly basis, using ISO week numbers.

Please see page 20 for further explanatory notes on the data.

Comments

Overall rates of influenza-like illness (ILI) continue to decrease in all regions and are around the seasonal average for this time of year (pages 3 to 5). ILI rates are now below the medium threshold across all age bands: see Table (E), page 5.

Rates of acute respiratory infections (ARI) are stable across all regions, remaining at or below the seasonal average, and are showing an increase in children up to age 14, page 7.

Overall rates of COVID-19 are stable and remain low, page 6.

This report includes a respiratory virology update: see Graph (C), page 4. Influenza B is the predominant circulating virus reported by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Reference Virology Laboratory.

Other comments:

- Rates of scabies (page 16) remain above the seasonal average.

Seasonal Focus

In the "Change since last week" column, a change in rate of 5% to 10% is marked with a single arrow (∧ or ∨), while a change of more than 10% is marked with a double arrow (⩘ or ⩗). A flat line (—) indicates the rate was stable, changing less than 5%.

Region Breakdown

	Acute respiratory infections (ARI)			Influenza-like illness (ILI)			Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
London	206.7	208.9	— −2.2	5.3	5.5	— −0.2	11.0	9.5	⩘ 1.5
Midlands And East	248.6	259.4	— −10.8	3.4	4.5	⩗ −1.1	16.9	16.3	— 0.6
North	304.8	324.7	∨ −19.9	5.2	6.3	⩗ −1.2	23.4	24.6	— −1.2
South	231.4	241.8	— −10.4	5.4	5.9	∨ −0.5	15.8	15.7	— 0.1
National	**249.3**	**259.9**	**— −10.6**	**4.8**	**5.6**	**⩗ −0.7**	**17.1**	**16.8**	**— 0.3**

	Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)			Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)			COVID-19		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
London	53.6	52.6	— 1.0	147.4	152.2	— −4.8	0.8	0.4	⩘ 0.3
Midlands And East	80.8	87.1	∨ −6.3	161.7	165.5	— −3.8	0.6	0.9	⩗ −0.3
North	108.4	111.9	— −3.6	188.5	202.6	∨ −14.1	0.9	0.9	— 0.0
South	76.7	78.3	— −1.6	149.3	155.8	— −6.6	0.9	1.2	⩗ −0.4
National	**81.2**	**83.6**	**— −2.4**	**161.7**	**168.9**	**— −7.1**	**0.8**	**0.9**	**⩗ −0.1**

Age Group Breakdown

	Acute respiratory infections (ARI)			Influenza-like illness (ILI)			Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
<1yr	1,195.7	1,302.5	∨ −106.8	7.3	7.3	— 0.1	0.0	0.0	— 0.0
1-4yrs	942.9	981.3	— −38.4	5.4	5.8	∨ −0.4	1.1	1.5	⩗ −0.4
5-14yrs	294.0	328.7	⩗ −34.6	2.9	4.6	⩗ −1.7	6.3	7.0	⩗ −0.7
15-64yrs	184.5	190.0	— −5.5	5.2	6.2	⩗ −1.0	13.1	12.9	— 0.3
65+yrs	266.8	270.3	— −3.5	4.4	3.8	⩘ 0.5	43.0	42.2	— 0.9
All ages	**249.3**	**259.9**	**— −10.6**	**4.8**	**5.6**	**⩗ −0.7**	**17.1**	**16.8**	**— 0.3**

|	Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)			Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)			COVID-19		
	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week	This week	Last week	Change since last week
<1yr	270.9	313.9	⩗ −43.0	1,023.2	1,095.9	∨ −72.7	5.1	2.6	⩘ 2.5
1-4yrs	161.4	171.9	∨ −10.5	858.7	881.3	— −22.5	0.5	0.3	⩘ 0.2
5-14yrs	35.8	43.5	⩗ −7.7	262.7	286.1	∨ −23.5	0.2	0.2	⩗ −0.1
15-64yrs	60.1	60.8	— −0.7	116.8	120.8	— −4.0	0.6	0.6	∨ −0.1
65+yrs	163.1	165.3	— −2.3	72.0	73.0	— −1.1	1.8	2.5	⩗ −0.7
All ages	**81.2**	**83.6**	**— −2.4**	**161.7**	**168.9**	**— −7.1**	**0.8**	**0.9**	**⩗ −0.1**

2024/25 Focus

(A) Influenza-like Illness: national incidence rate by region
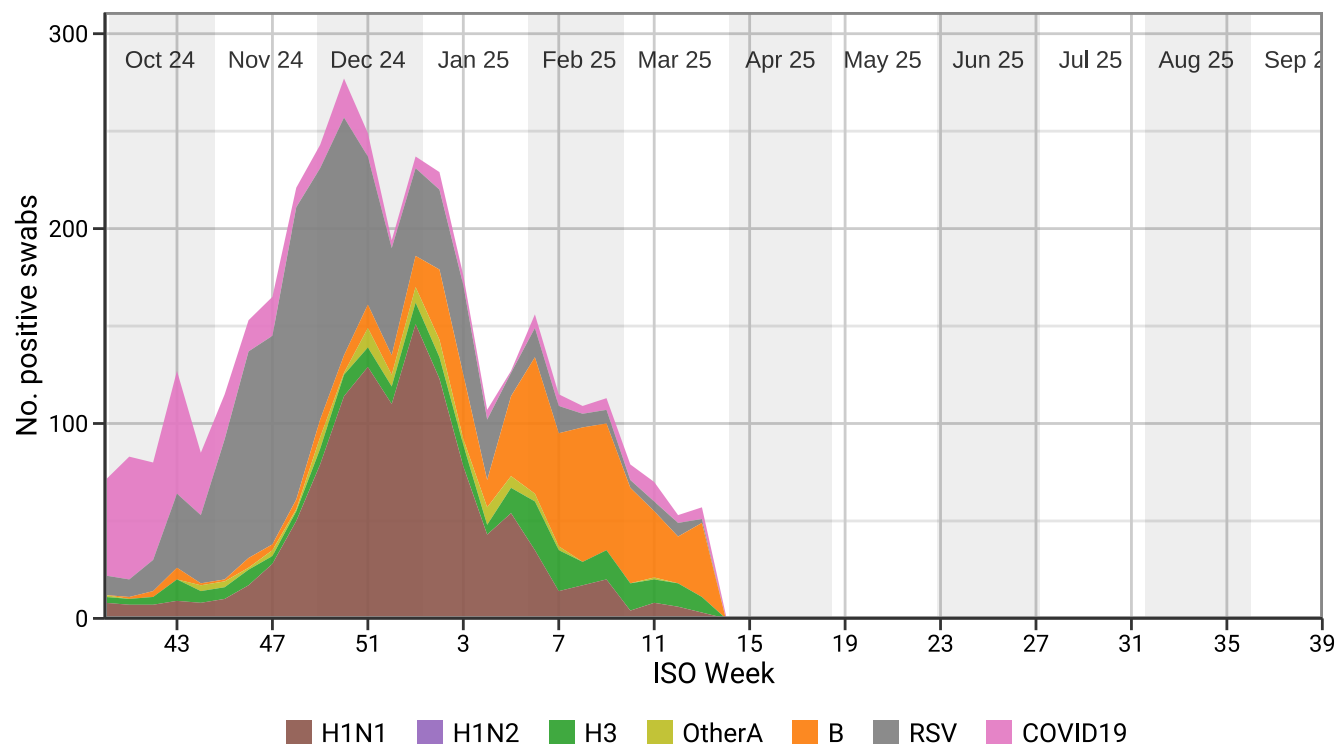
The horizontal lines in the following graph are thresholds derived from the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) model. See p20 for more information.
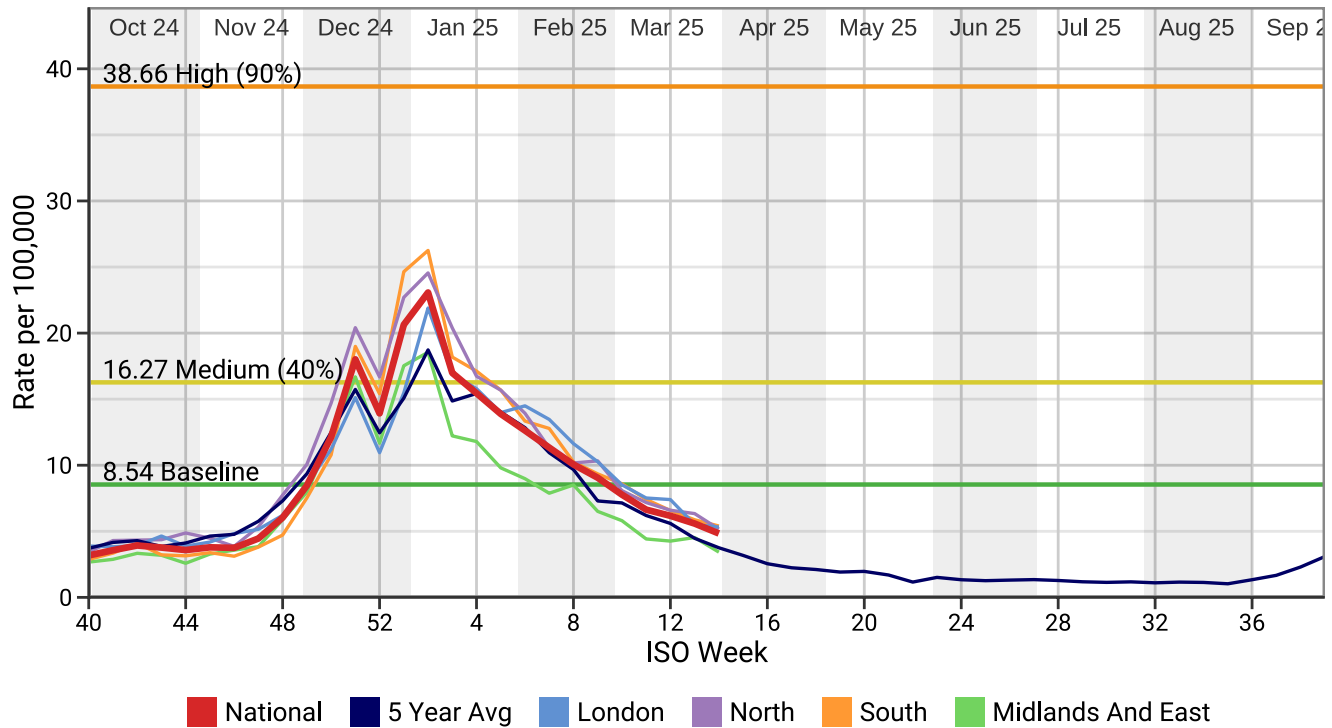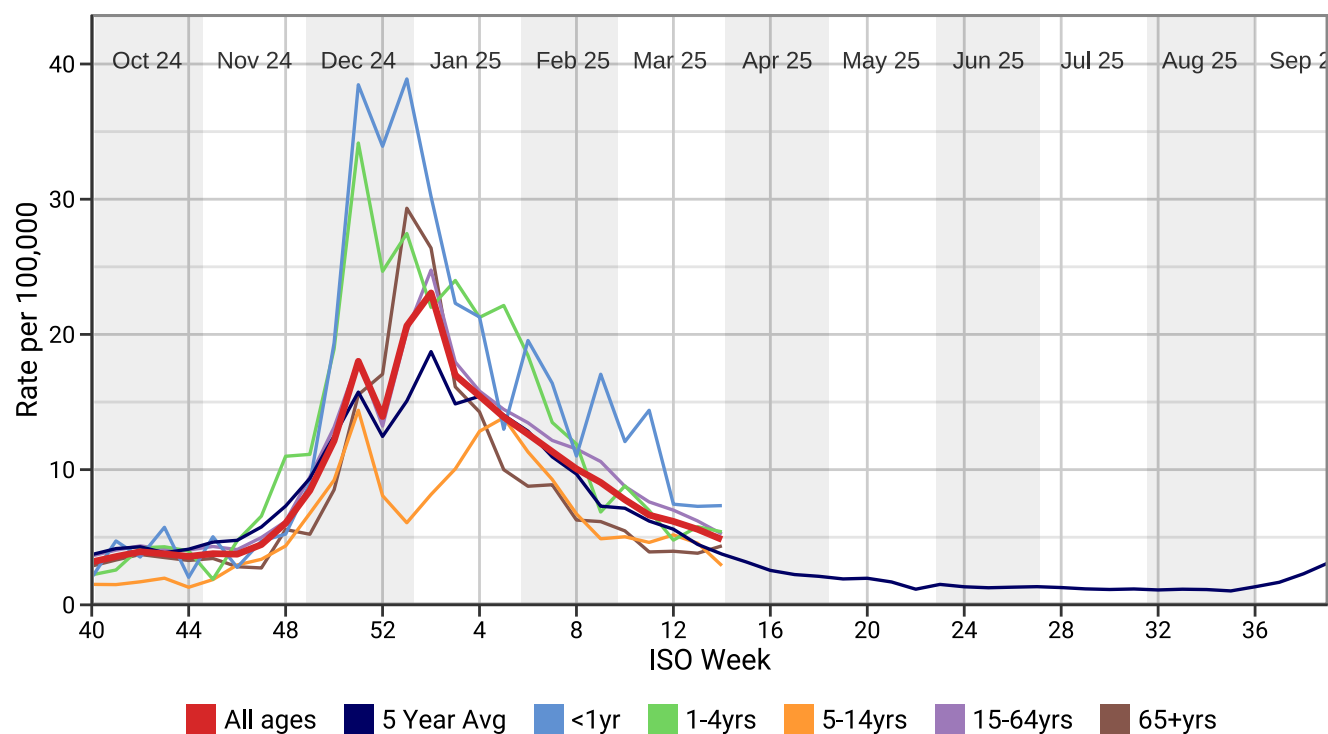

(B) RCGP/UKHSA influenza virology swab surveillance
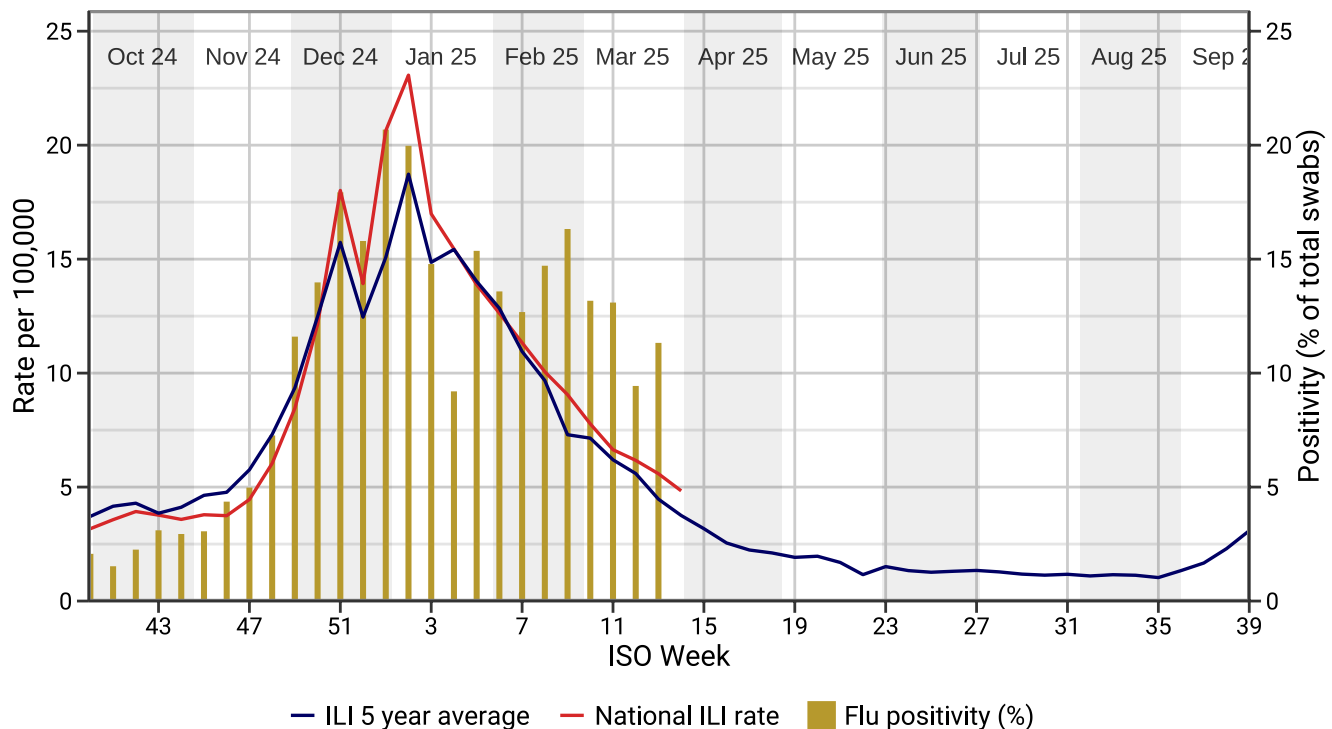
(C) RCGP/UKHSA RSV, influenza and SARS-CoV-2 virology swab surveilance (by strain)

(D) Influenza-like Illness: national incidence rate by age band

(E) Influenza-like Illness: national incidence rate by age band

This table shows the level of intensity of ILI by age band. MEM thresholds have been calculated separately for each age band - thresholds are shown in the second table. Refer to page 19 for more information.

	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
1-4yrs	0.9	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	3.0	2.1	2.2	2.6	4.2	4.3	4.0	1.9	4.7	6.6	11.0
5-14yrs	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	1.2	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.7	2.0	1.3	1.9	2.9	3.4	4.4
15-64yrs	1.7	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.7	1.8	2.5	2.8	3.6	4.0	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.1	5.0	6.2
65+yrs	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	2.9	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.4	2.8	2.7	5.6
All ages	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.3	1.5	2.3	2.5	3.2	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.7	4.5	6.0

	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1-4yrs	11.1	18.9	34.2	24.7	27.5	22.0	24.0	21.3	22.1	18.4	13.5	11.9	6.9	8.8	7.0	4.8	5.8	5.4
5-14yrs	6.8	9.2	14.4	8.1	6.1	8.2	10.1	12.8	13.8	11.3	9.3	6.7	4.9	5.0	4.6	5.2	4.6	2.9
15-64yrs	9.5	13.1	18.1	13.2	20.2	24.8	18.0	15.8	14.5	13.5	12.2	11.5	10.6	8.8	7.6	7.0	6.2	5.2
65+yrs	5.2	8.5	15.5	17.1	29.3	26.4	16.1	14.3	10.0	8.8	8.9	6.3	6.2	5.5	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.4
All ages	8.5	12.1	18.0	13.9	20.6	23.1	17.0	15.4	13.9	12.6	11.3	10.1	9.1	7.8	6.6	6.2	5.6	4.8

	Below Threshold	Threshold to Medium	Medium to High	High to Very High	Above Very High
1-4yrs	<7.9	7.9 to 12.6	12.6 to 26.2	26.2 to 36.1	36.1+
5-14yrs	<5.4	5.4 to 10.7	10.7 to 26.6	26.6 to 39.9	39.9+
15-64yrs	<9.8	9.8 to 17.9	17.9 to 43.0	43.0 to 63.4	63.4+
65+yrs	<9.3	9.3 to 15.0	15.0 to 38.8	38.8 to 59.0	59.0+
All Ages	<8.54	8.54 to 16.27	16.27 to 38.66	38.66 to 56.68	56.68+

(F) Acute Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis: national incidence rate by age band

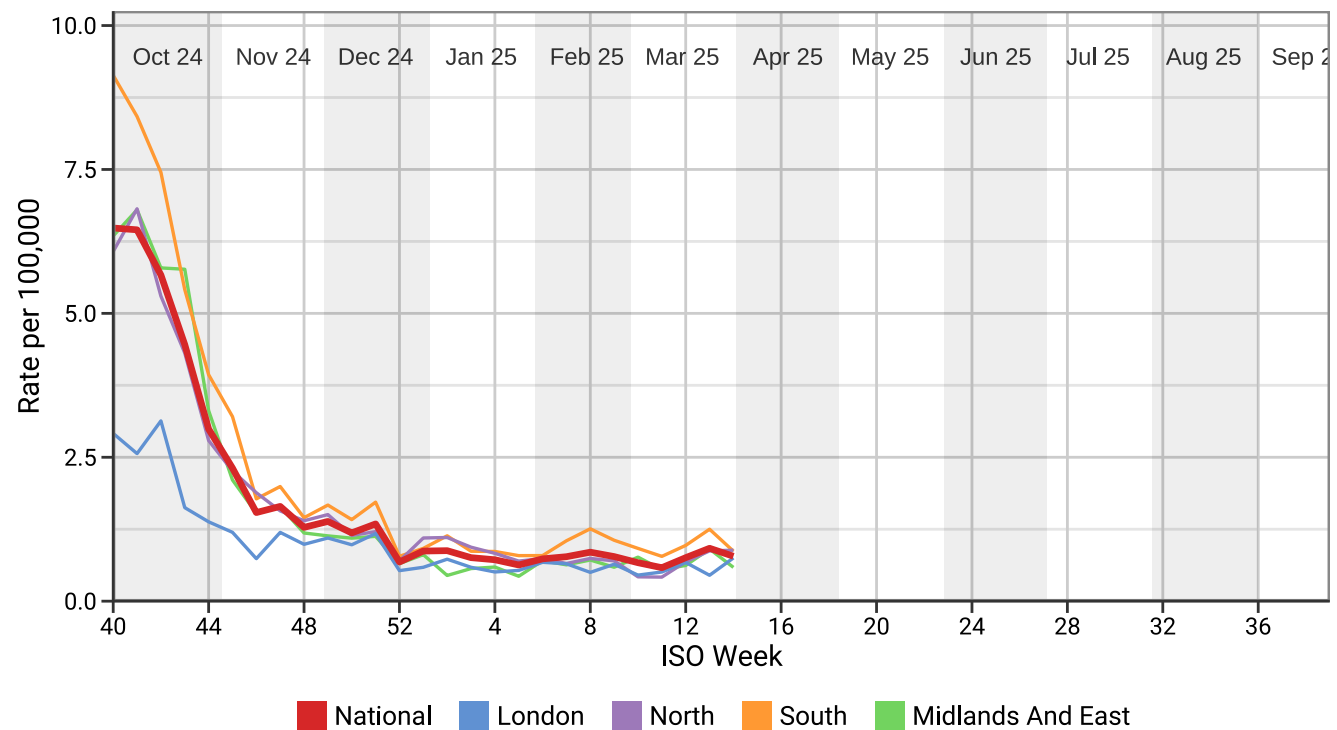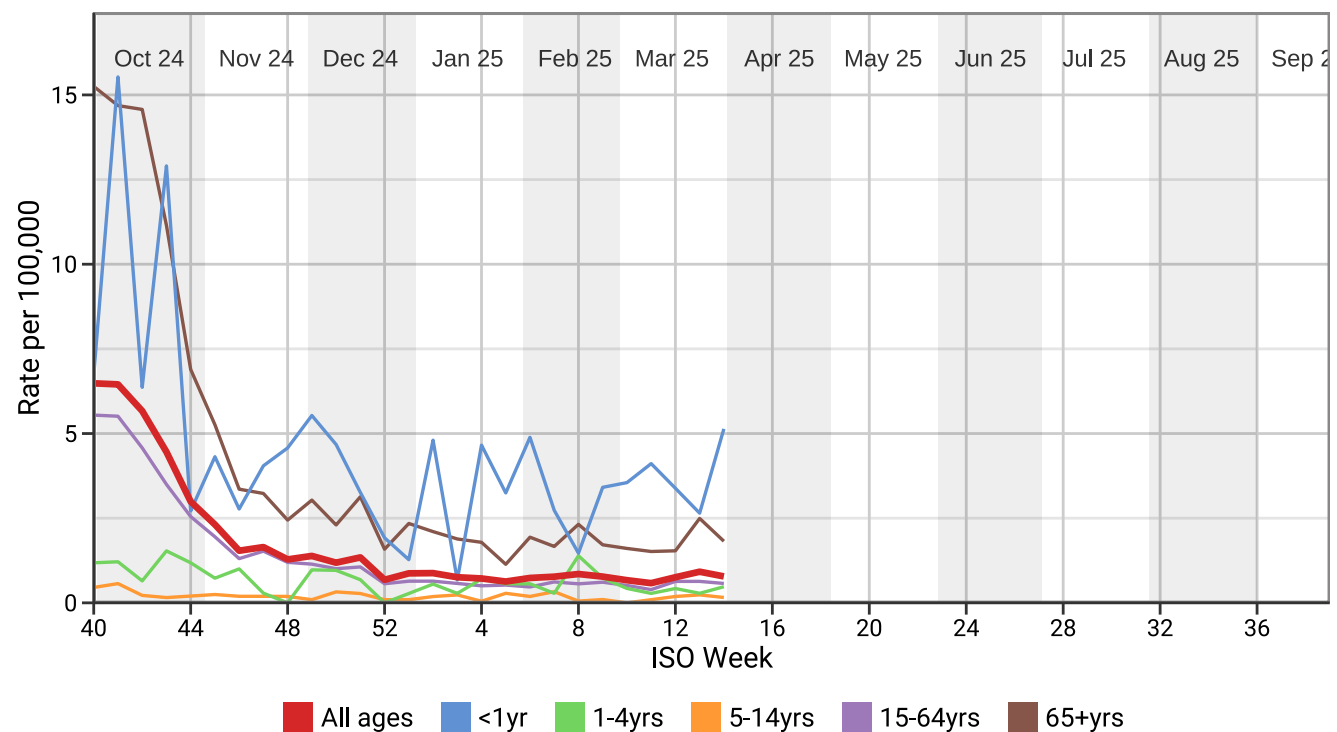Children under 1 year old are omitted from the following graph.
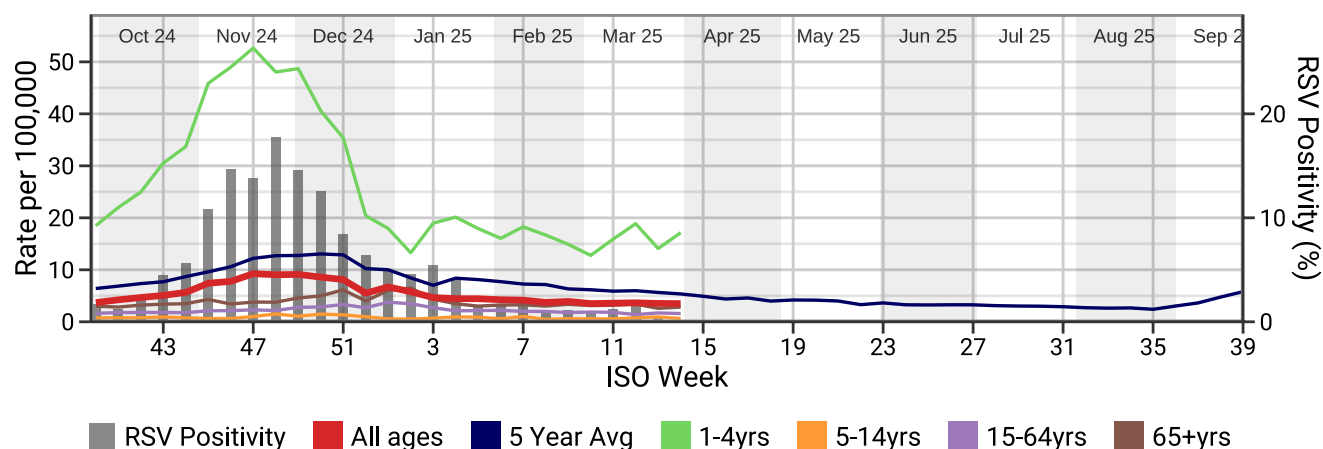
Weekly incidence rates of influenza-like illness, and acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis (per 100,000)

	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
<1yr	7.3⬚	146.8
1-4yrs	5.4⬚	17.1⬚
5-14yrs	2.9⬚	0.6
15-24yrs	4.6	0.7⬚
25-44yrs	6.3⬚	1.4⬚
45-64yrs	4.3⬚	2.3⬚
65-74yrs	4.0⬚	2.7⬚
75-84yrs	4.0⬚	2.7⬚
85+yrs	6.7⬚	3.7⬚
All ages	4.8	3.5⬚

	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
London	5.3⬚	2.9⬚
Midlands And East	3.4⬚	3.2⬚
North	5.2⬚	4.3⬚
South	5.4⬚	3.4⬚
National	4.8	3.5⬚

(G) COVID-19: national incidence rate by region

Legend: National, London, North, South, Midlands And East

(H) COVID-19: national incidence rate by age band

Legend: All ages, <1yr, 1-4yrs, 5-14yrs, 15-64yrs, 65+yrs

1. Respiratory Infections

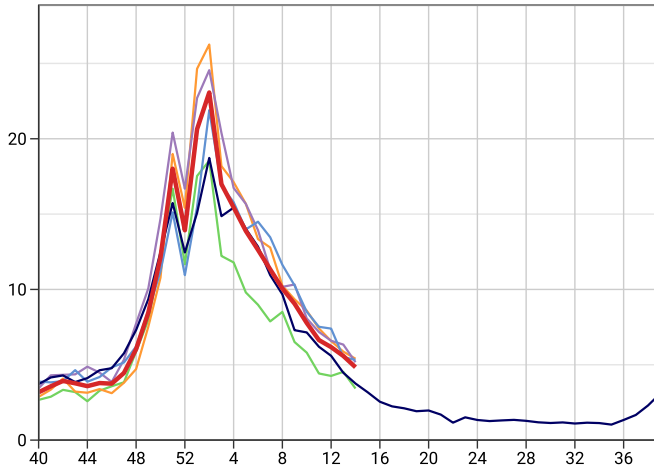## (I) Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI): national incidence rate by region

(J) Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI): national incidence rate by age band

Respiratory Infections - by region

- National
- 5 Year Avg
- London
- North
- South
- Midlands And East

Respiratory Infections - by age band

- All ages
- 5 Year Avg
- <1yr
- 1-4yrs
- 5-14yrs
- 15-64yrs
- 65+yrs

Influenza-like illness (ILI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Influenza-like illness (ILI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)
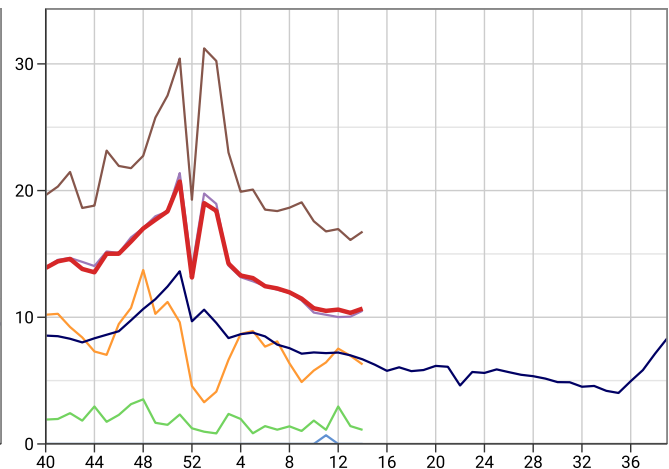Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

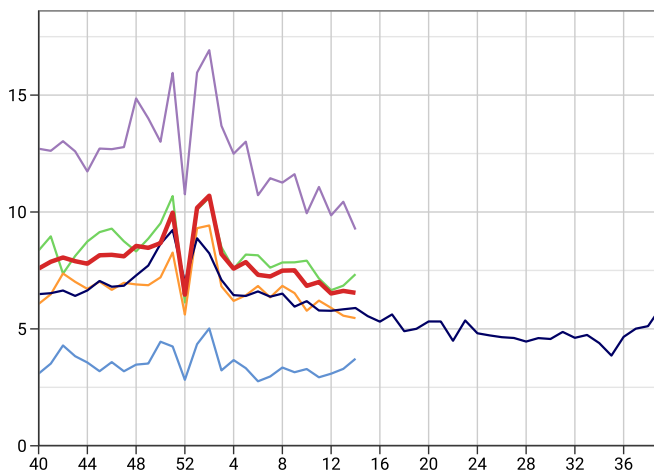## Respiratory Infections - by region

- **National**
- **5 Year Avg**
- **London**
- **North**
- **South**
- **Midlands And East**

Respiratory Infections - by age band

- **All ages**
- **5 Year Avg**
- **<1yr**
- **1-4yrs**
- **5-14yrs**
- **15-64yrs**
- **65+yrs**

Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

ECLD - Asthma Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

ECLD - Asthma Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

ECLD - COPD Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

ECLD - COPD Exacerbations
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
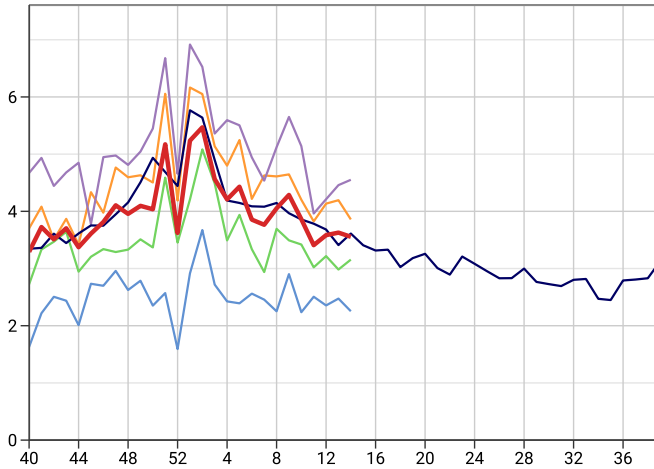
Respiratory Infections - by region

- **National**
- **London**
- **South**
- **5 Year Avg**
- **North**
- **Midlands And East**
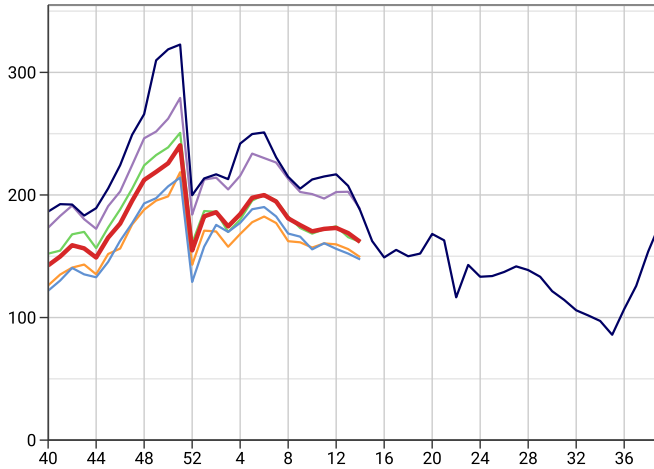
Respiratory Infections - by age band

- **All ages**
- **<1yr**
- **5-14yrs**
- **65+yrs**
- **5 Year Avg**
- **1-4yrs**
- **15-64yrs**

LRTI - Pneumonia
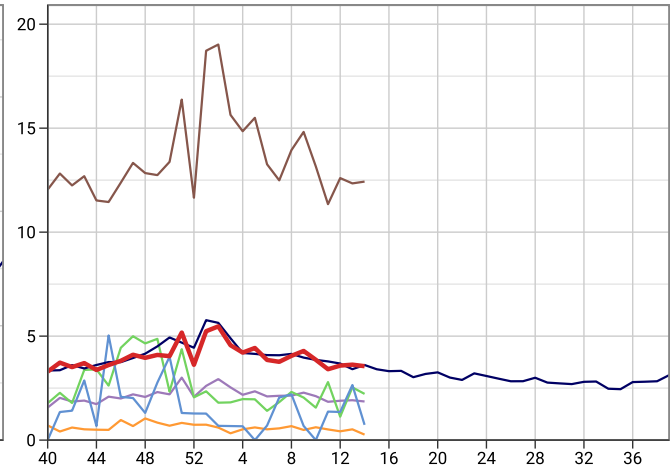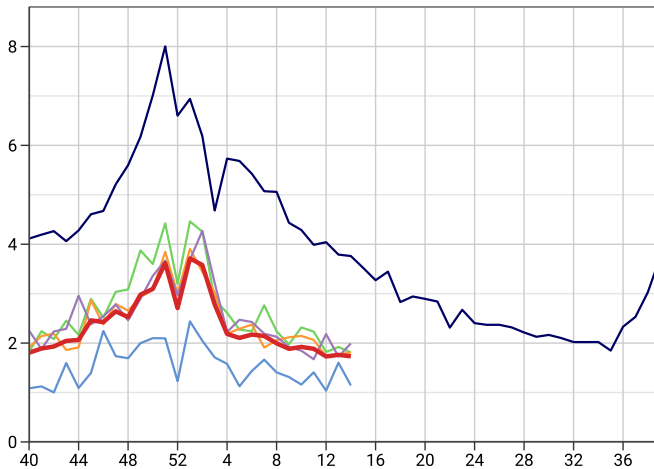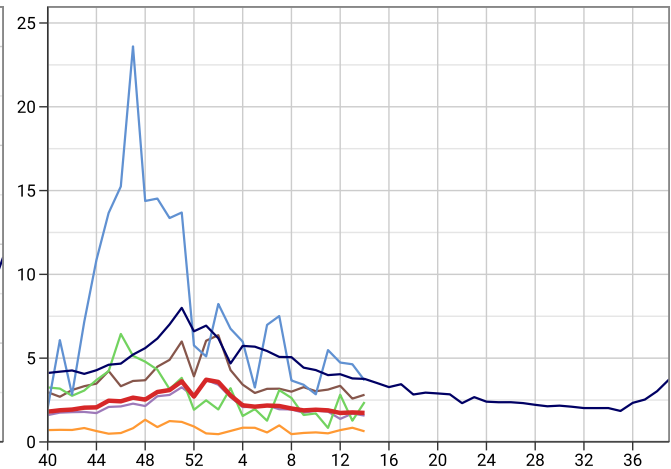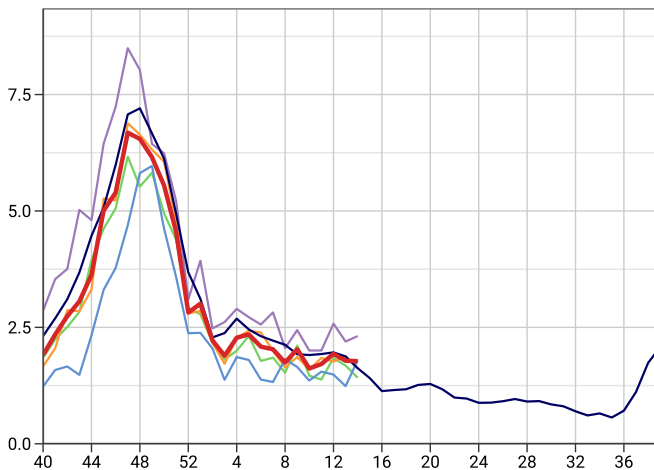Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

LRTI - Pneumonia
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

LRTI - Acute Bronchitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

LRTI - Acute Bronchitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
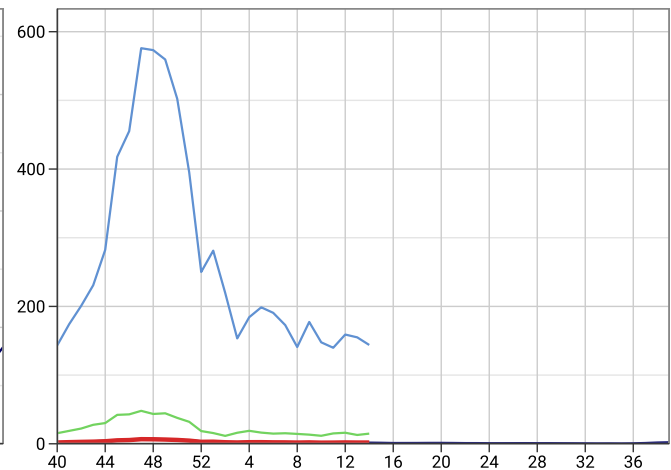
LRTI - Bronchiolitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
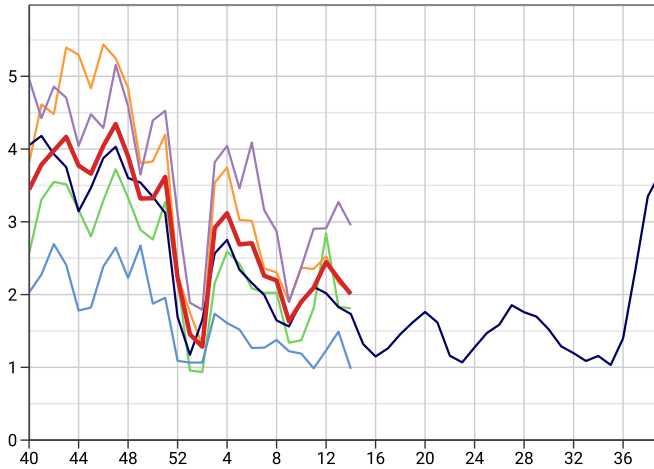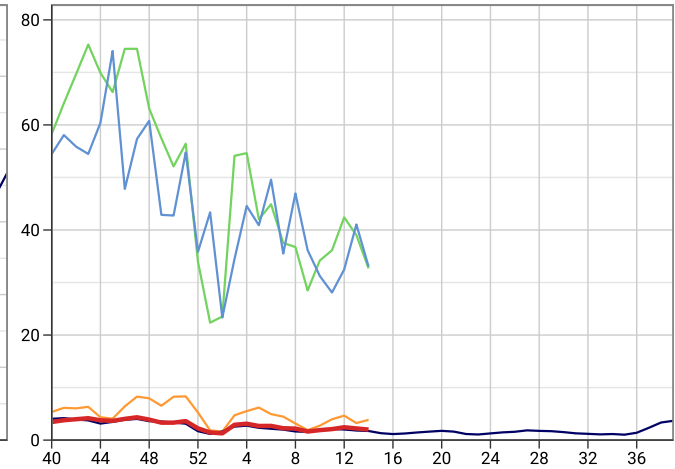
LRTI - Bronchiolitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Respiratory Infections - by region

- National
- 5 Year Avg
- London
- North
- South
- Midlands And East

Respiratory Infections - by age band

- All ages
- 5 Year Avg
- <1yr
- 1-4yrs
- 5-14yrs
- 15-64yrs
- 65+yrs

URTI - Croup
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

URTI - Croup
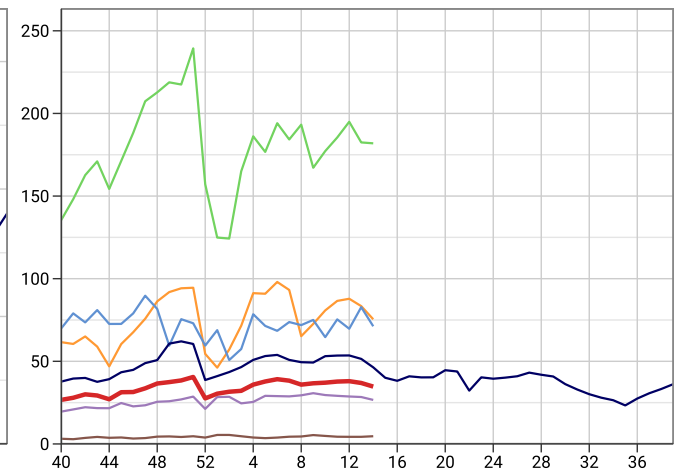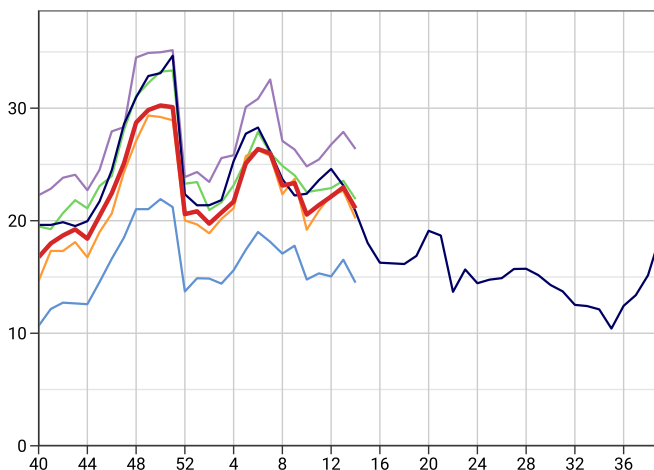Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

URTI - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
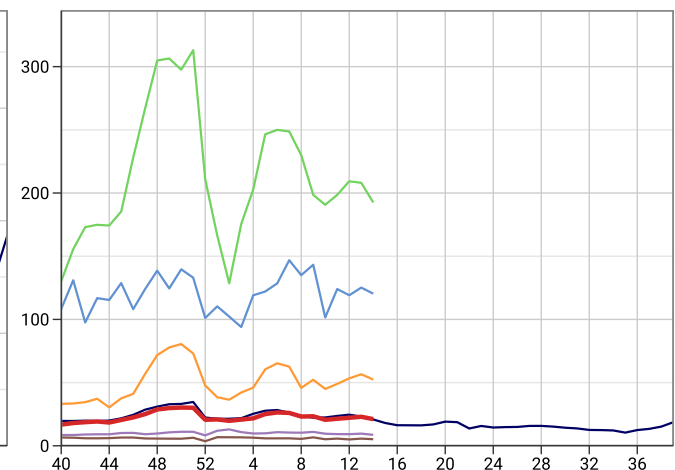
URTI - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

URTI - Otitis Media
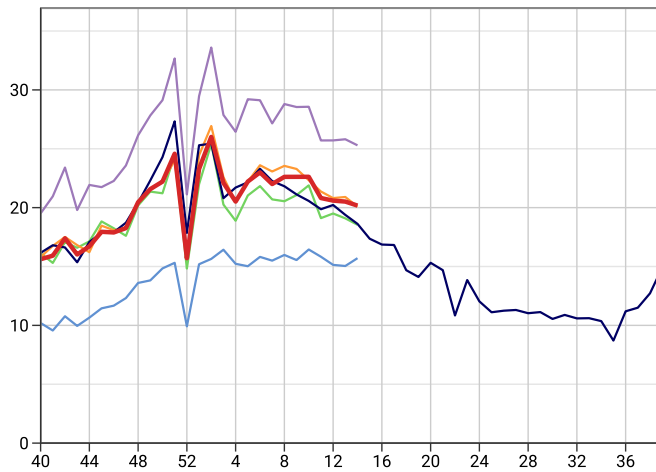Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

URTI - Otitis Media
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Respiratory Infections - by region

- National
- 5 Year Avg
- London
- North
- South
- Midlands And East

Respiratory Infections - by age band
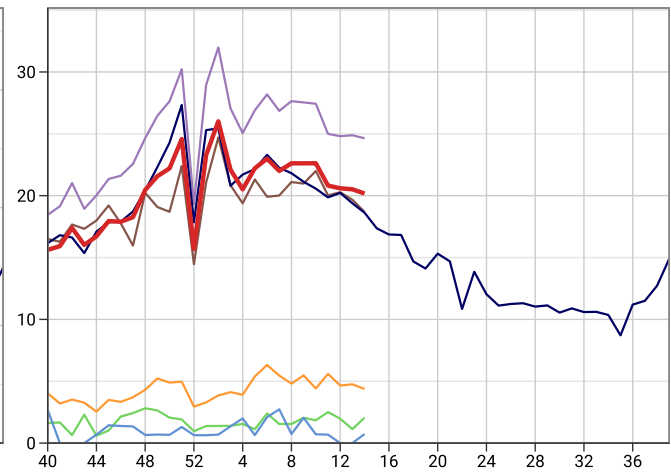
- All ages
- 5 Year Avg
- <1yr
- 1-4yrs
- 5-14yrs
- 15-64yrs
- 65+yrs

URTI - Sinusitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

URTI - Sinusitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

URTI - Laryngitis
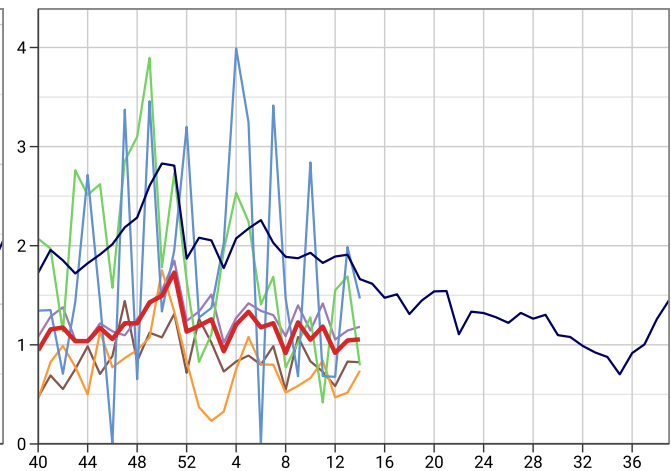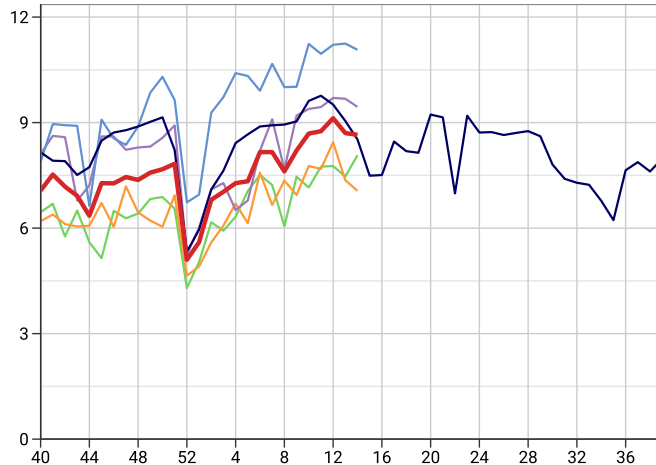Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

URTI - Laryngitis
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
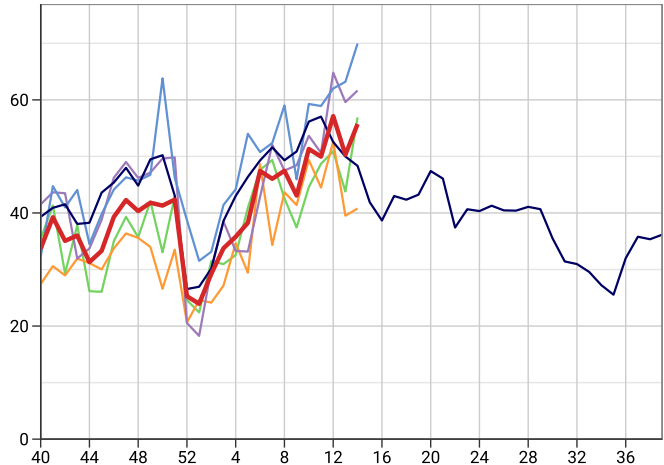
2. Water and Food Borne Disorders

National **5 Year Avg** **London** **North** **South** **Midlands And East**

Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25
compared with 5 year average

Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 0-4 years) by region for 2024/25
compared with 5 year average

Non-Infective Enteritis and Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25
compared with 5 year average
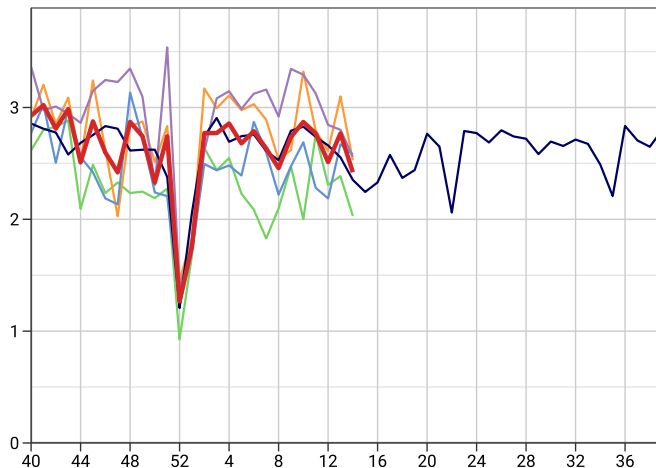
Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25
compared with 5 year average

3. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders

National | 5 Year Avg | London | North | South | Midlands And East

Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
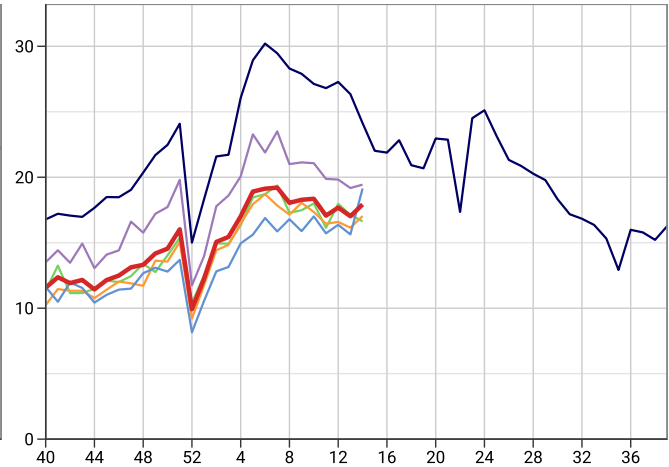
Hayfever / Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)
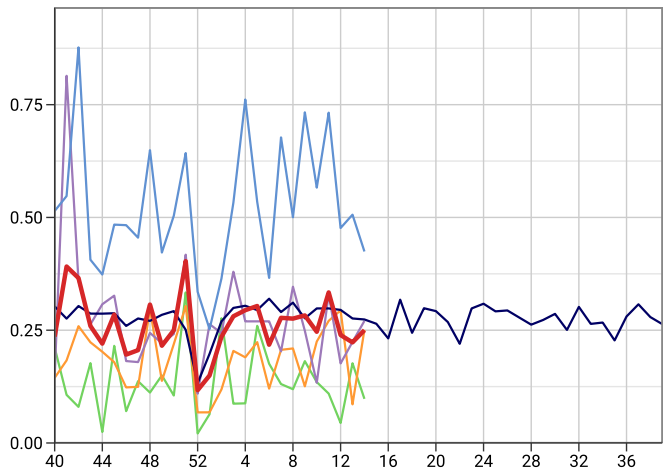Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
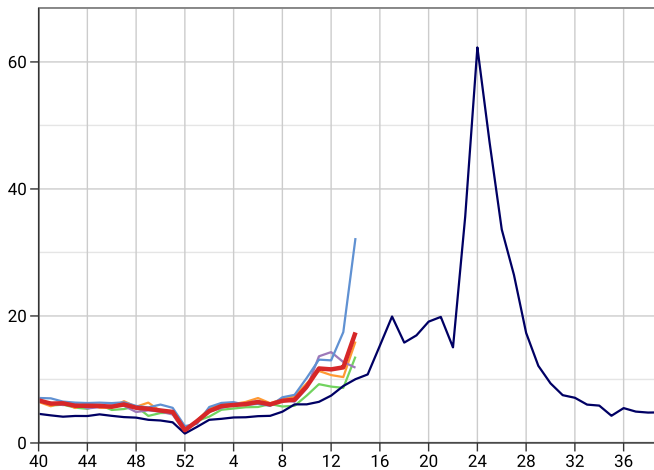
Infected Insect Bites
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
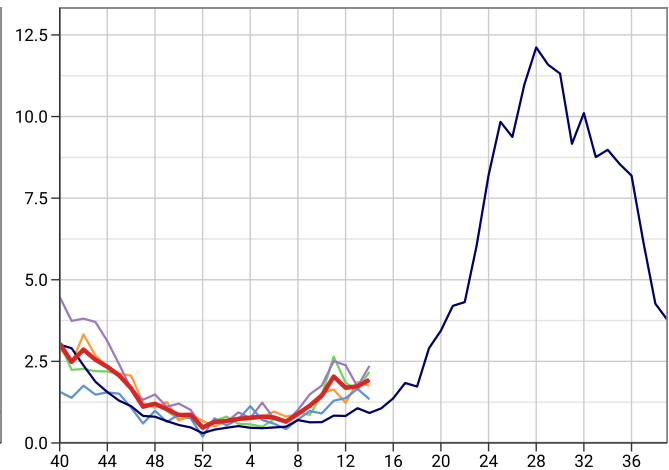
4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

National **5 Year Avg** **London** **North** **South** **Midlands And East**

Measles (ICD10: B05)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Mumps (ICD10: B26)
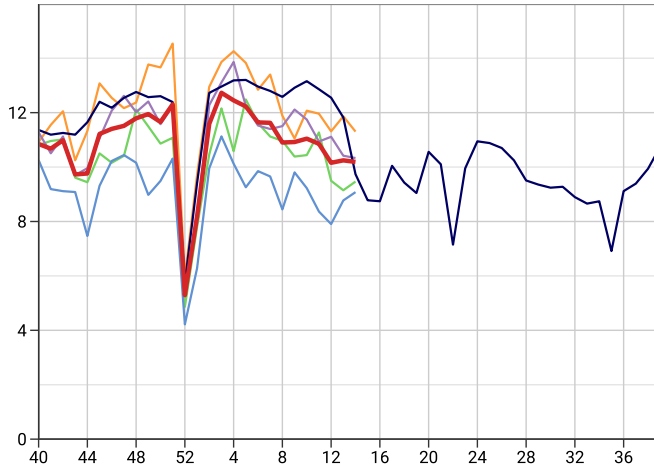Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Rubella (ICD10: B06)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

5. Skin Contagions

National   5 Year Avg   London   North   South   Midlands And East

Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
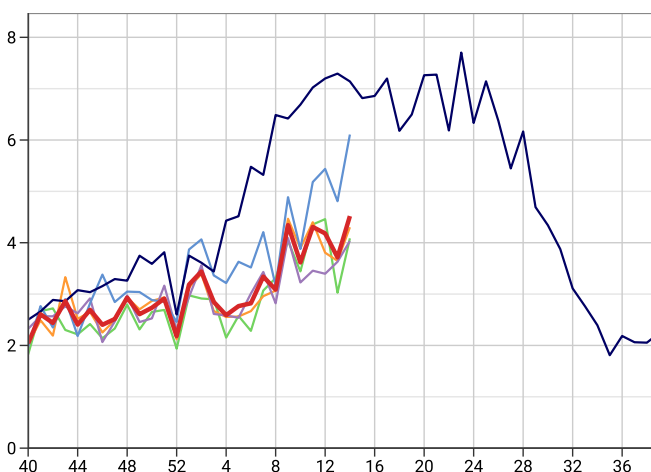
Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
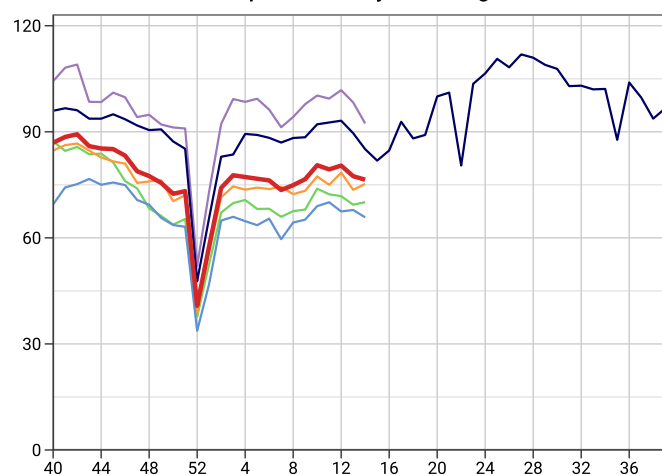
Scabies (ICD10: B86)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
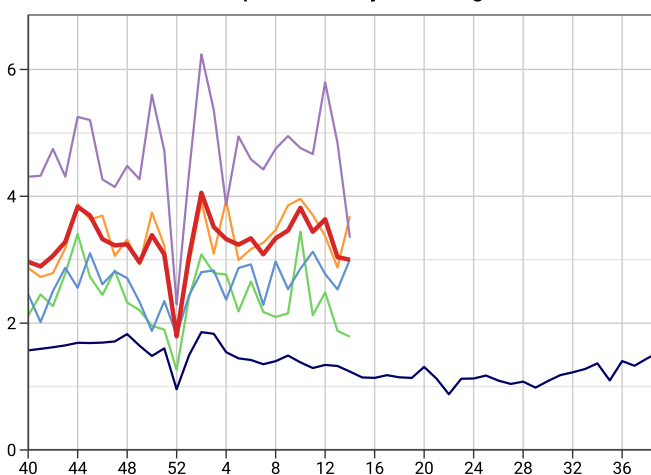
Symptoms of Skin & Integument Tissue (ICD10: R20-R23),
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
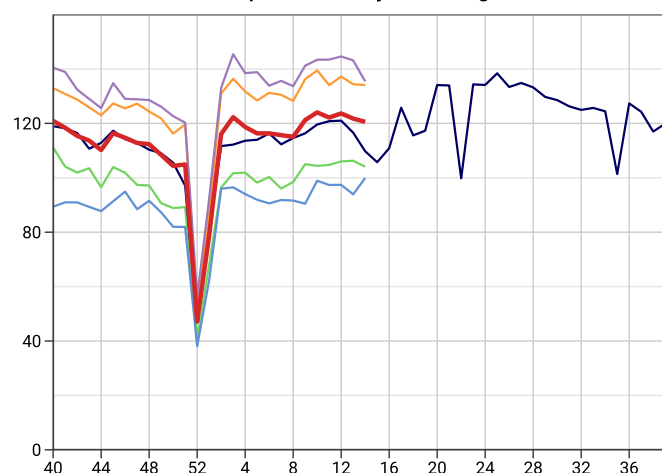
Impetigo (ICD10: L01)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
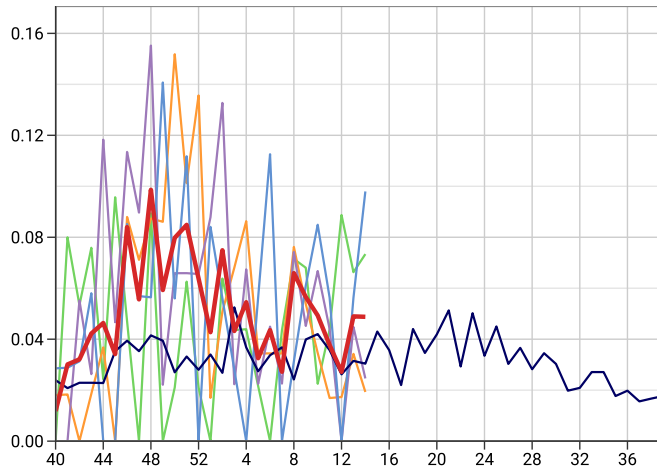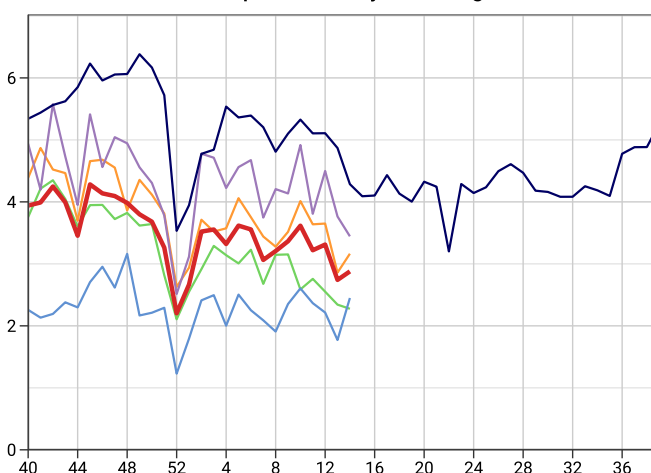
National | 5 Year Avg | London | North | South | Midlands And East
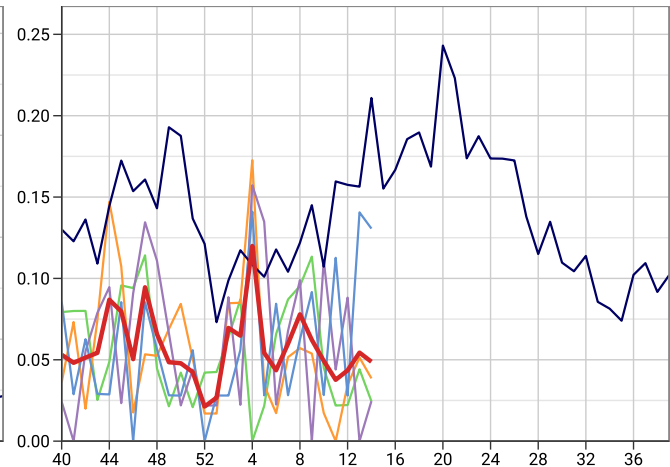
Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)
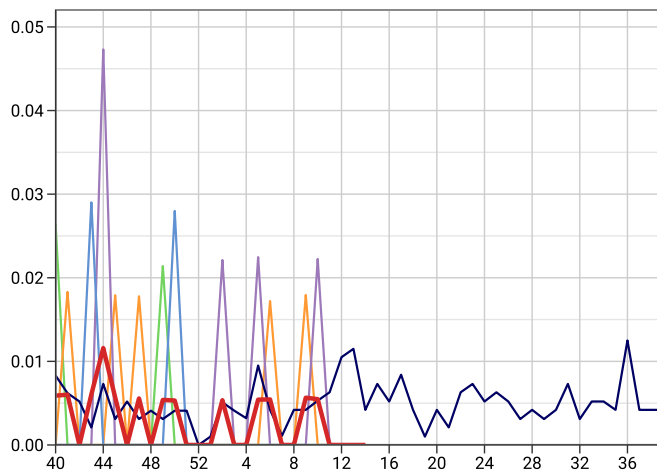Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
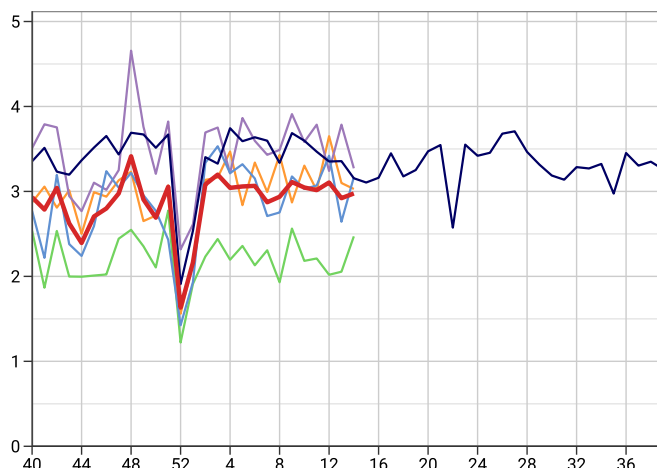
Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)
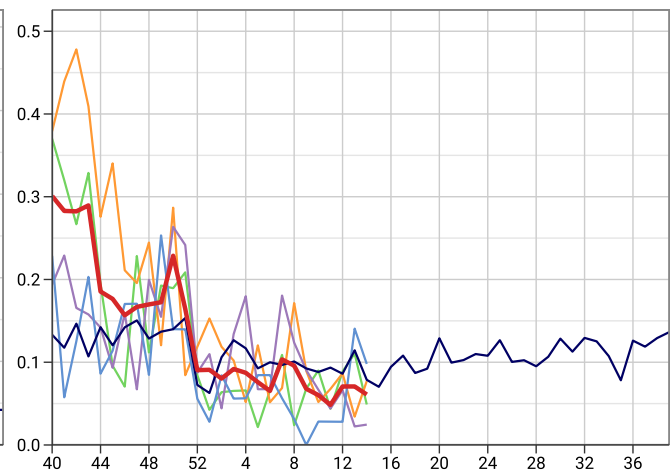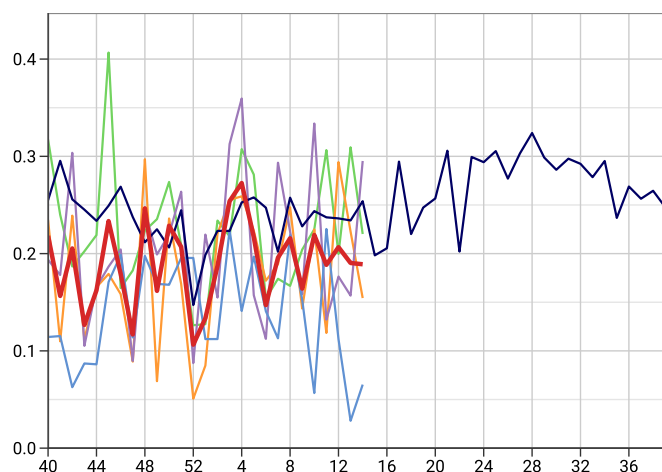Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
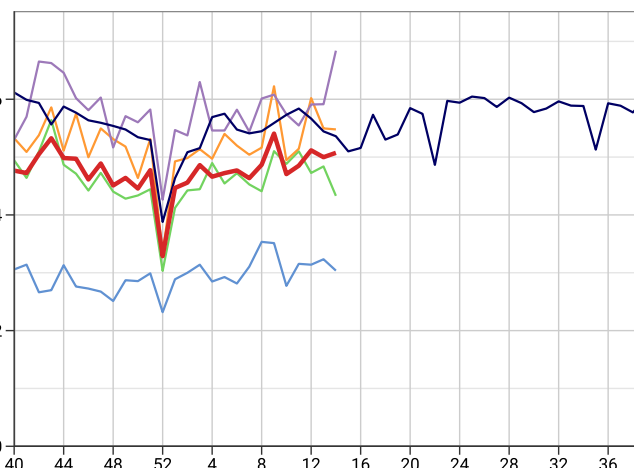
6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

Disorders of Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
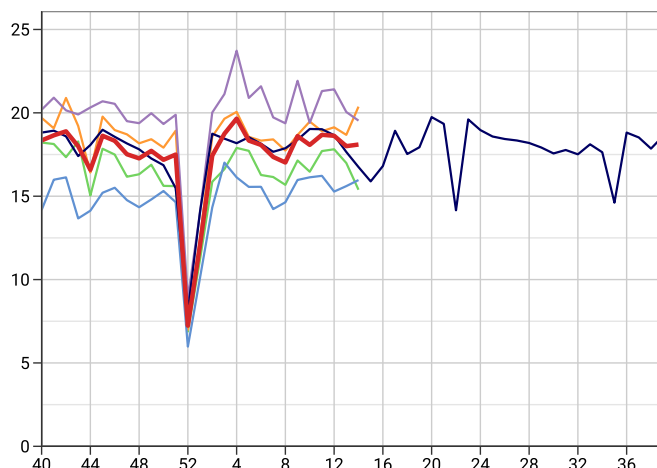
Meningitis/Encephalitis (ICD10: A170-A171,A390,A38-A85,A87,G00-G05), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
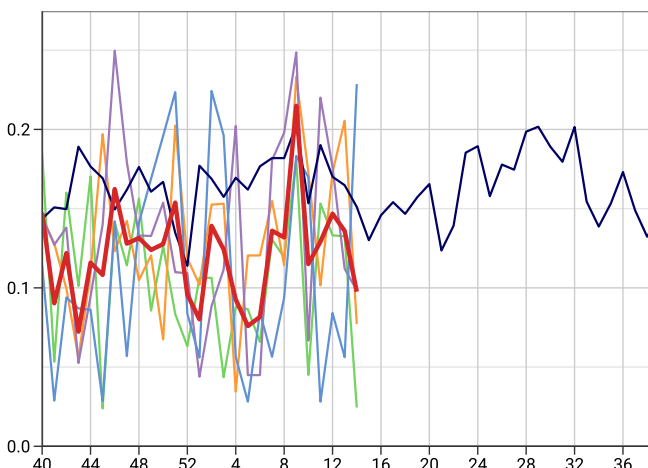
Symptoms of Nervous & Musculoskeletal Systems (ICD10: R25-R29), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
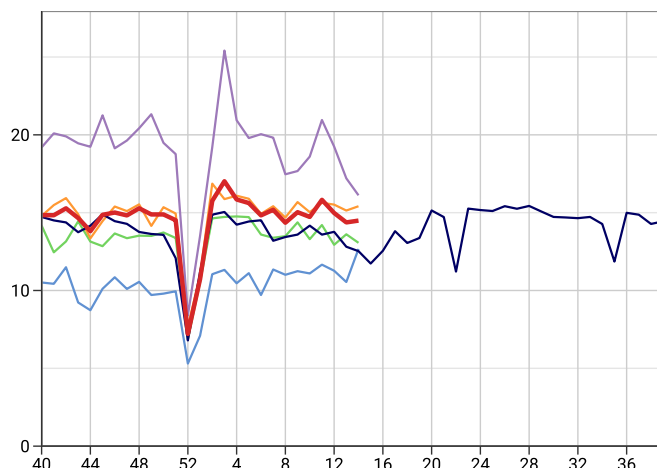
7. Genitourinary System Disorders

Legend: National | 5 Year Avg | London | North | South | Midlands And East

Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
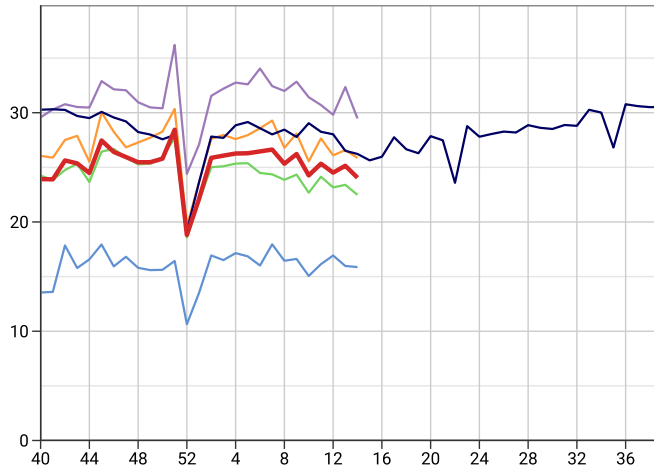
8. Other Disorders

Strep Sore Throat, Scarlatina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average
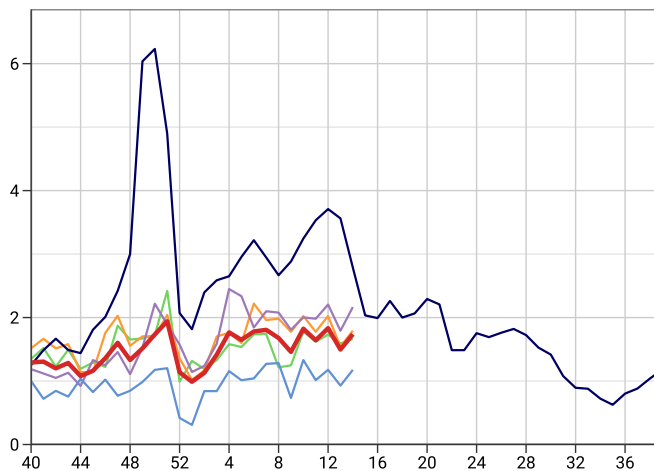
Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2024/25 compared with 5 year average

9. Tabular Summary by Disease
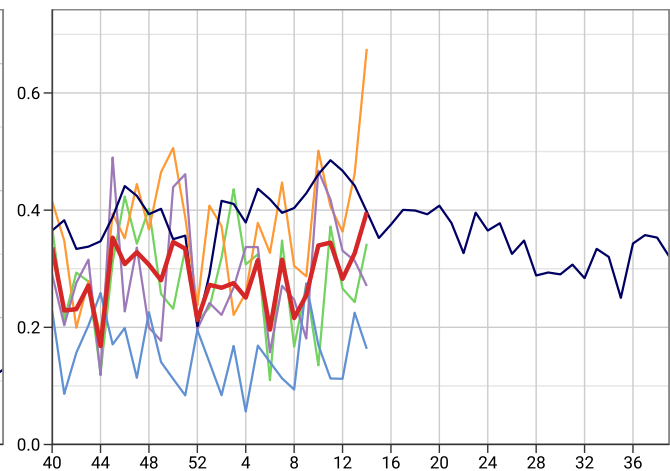
	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14
Dates	10/03/2025 - 16/03/2025	17/03/2025 - 23/03/2025	24/03/2025 - 30/03/2025	31/03/2025 - 06/04/2025
Population	18,573,193	18,390,888	18,387,061	16,398,684
Practice Count	1,719	1,705	1,710	1,523

Disease	Week 11		Week 12		Week 13		Week 14	
	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count
Acute Bronchitis	1.9	350	1.7	318	1.8	324	1.7	284
Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI)	265.0	49,228	264.1	48,579	259.9	47,787	249.3	40,881
Allergic Rhinitis	11.7	2,179	11.6	2,131	11.9	2,189	17.4	2,854
Asthma	10.9	2,016	10.2	1,868	10.2	1,884	10.2	1,671
Bronchiolitis	1.7	318	1.9	355	1.8	328	1.8	291
Bullous Dermatoses	0.2	35	0.2	38	0.2	35	0.2	31
COVID-19	0.6	108	0.8	139	0.9	169	0.8	128
Chickenpox	4.3	800	4.2	769	3.7	683	4.5	741
Conjunctival Disorders	17.1	3,170	17.7	3,252	17.0	3,130	17.9	2,939
Croup	2.1	389	2.4	450	2.2	408	2.0	329
ECLD - COPD exacerbations	7.0	1,301	6.5	1,198	6.6	1,218	6.5	1,073
ECLD - asthma exacerbations	10.5	1,951	10.6	1,950	10.3	1,902	10.7	1,752
Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)	17.3	3,215	16.9	3,112	16.8	3,094	17.1	2,802
Herpes Simplex	3.0	560	3.1	571	2.9	537	3.0	488
Herpes Zoster	4.9	901	5.1	941	5.0	919	5.1	832
Impetigo	3.2	598	3.3	609	2.7	504	2.9	472
Infected Insect Bites	2.0	378	1.7	311	1.7	319	1.9	317
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	8.8	1,626	9.1	1,678	8.7	1,600	8.7	1,419
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.3	64	0.3	52	0.3	60	0.4	65
Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	6.6	1,233	6.2	1,135	5.6	1,027	4.8	793
Laryngitis	1.2	220	0.9	169	1.0	192	1.1	173
Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)	85.9	15,949	83.5	15,356	83.6	15,379	81.2	13,323
Measles	0.0	7	0.0	5	0.0	9	0.0	8
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.1	24	0.1	27	0.1	25	0.1	16
Mumps	0.0	7	0.0	8	0.1	10	0.0	8
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	2.8	514	2.5	462	2.8	509	2.4	397
Peripheral Nervous Disease	18.7	3,470	18.6	3,425	18.0	3,310	18.1	2,968
Pneumonia	3.4	633	3.6	659	3.6	667	3.6	583
Rubella	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Scabies	3.4	639	3.6	669	3.0	559	3.0	492
Sinusitis	20.8	3,866	20.6	3,788	20.5	3,772	20.2	3,308
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	79.4	14,741	80.4	14,794	77.4	14,240	76.4	12,536
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	1.6	305	1.8	337	1.5	275	1.7	285
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	122.1	22,685	123.7	22,743	121.8	22,390	120.6	19,772
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	15.8	2,939	15.0	2,755	14.4	2,643	14.5	2,376
Tonsillitis and Pharyngitis	37.7	7,010	38.0	6,985	36.9	6,783	34.7	5,692
Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)	172.3	32,008	173.1	31,840	168.9	31,051	161.7	26,523
Urinary Tract Infections	25.3	4,705	24.5	4,509	25.1	4,623	24.1	3,944
Viral Hepatitis	0.3	62	0.2	44	0.2	41	0.3	41
Whooping Cough	0.0	9	0.1	13	0.1	13	0.1	10

Further Information

Focus on winter respiratory infections and infections with epidemic or pandemic infection

A key role of the RSC is to monitor conditions that cause winter pressures on the NHS, as well as provide early warnings of outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics. The RSC has been collecting data on infections since 1957, conducting sentinel surveillance since 1967 (with virology added in 1993), and serosurveillance from 2000.

Pages 2-6 of this report focus on influenza-like illness (ILI), virology data, and acute respiratory infections (ARI). ILI is the name given to clinically identified flu cases, around half of which will be due to the influenza virus (the other half will be due to other viruses).

Measuring the level of circulating influenza

The level of influenza-like illness (ILI) is reported using intensity thresholds (Graph A, page 2 and Table E, page 4). These are calculated using the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM). MEM works by identifying seasonal epidemic peaks and then calculating a baseline threshold and intensity levels based on pre- and post-epidemic rates. This provides a better measure of severity of ILI than simply comparing it to the five-year average rate.

The MEM intensity levels for ILI are defined as follows:

Threshold to Medium	Below 40% percentile
Medium to High	From 40% to below 90% percentile
High to Very High	From 90% to below 97.5% percentile
Above Very High	At or above 97.5% percentile

The MEM methodology is used by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to standardise reporting of influenza activity.

More information about MEM can be found at:

https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/acute-respiratory-infections-eueea-epidemiological-update-and-current-public-health

Rate of monitored conditions

Our monitored conditions are reported as the number of new cases each week per 100,000 population. We refer to this as the 'weekly incidence'. All conditions are shown with males and females combined.

The report's population, also called the denominator, is the registered population of RSC practices who share anonymised data for this report. The denominator varies weekly as patients register and deregister; additionally, a practice's data may not be included if there is an issue with data extraction.

Five-year averages

In addition to weekly incidence rates, we plot a five-year average for most conditions. Previously a ten-year average was used, but this window was shortened to reflect faster changes in seasonal variations and therefore enable a more meaningful comparison to relevant historic trends. COVID-19 pandemic years are excluded from this calculation for some conditions.

Regional rates of monitored conditions

In addition to a national rate, we present regional rates for all monitored conditions for four regions of England. The four RSC regions are aggregated NHS regions:

North	NHS North East and Yorkshire, and North West regions
Midlands and East	NHS East of England and Midlands regions
South	NHS South East and South West regions
London	NHS London region

Reporting of acute respiratory infections (ARI) by age band

In addition to regional rates, we report rates by age band for ARI. We display five age bands: those aged under 1 year, 1-4 years, 5-14 years, 15-64 years, and those aged 65 years and over. We subdivide ARI into four categories:

- **influenza-like illness** (ILI);
- **exacerbations of chronic lung disease** (ECLD), mainly asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD);
- **lower respiratory tract infections** (LRTI), including bronchitis and pneumonia;
- **upper respiratory tract infections** (URTI), including tonsilitis and sinusitis.

More information about our classification of ARI can be found at:

https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2024.29.35.2300682

About the RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC)

What we do

Established in 1957, the Oxford-Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC) 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 provides weekly reports about health and disease: the Weekly Returns Service (WRS). The WRS has been produced since 1967, in collaboration with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and its predecessor bodies. The University of Oxford currently provides the WRS on behalf of RCGP and UKHSA.

The RSC is active in research and surveillance. In addition to the WRS, the RSC contributes data to UKHSA's Syndromic Surveillance system, and supports vaccine effectiveness studies. The role of general practice members of the RSC is set out in an annual commissioning letter.

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

www.rcgp.org.uk/representing-you/research-at-rcgp/research-surveillance-centre

Our data extraction process and governance

Data are extracted on behalf of the RSC from practice computerised medical record systems, twice a week by Magentus Data Management, or daily by EMIS-X Analytics (EXA).

Data are pseudonymised as close to source as possible. Data are held on secure servers at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences (NDPCHS) at the University of Oxford. Our systems meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Further information about the NHS England approval of the RSC's data security can be found at:

https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/OrganisationSearch/EE133863-MSD-NDPCHS

What the data is used for

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 the UK Health Security Agency.

In addition to the WRS, the data are 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.

Get in touch

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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