



Public Health

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Northeast Ohio Public Health Partnership



SHAKER HEIGHTS



Cleveland Department of Public Health

Cuyahoga County Public Health Collaborative

# Influenza Surveillance

## 2009-2010 Weekly Summary

### MMWR week 9 (2/28/2010-03/06/2010)

This report is intended to provide an overview of influenza related activity occurring within Cuyahoga County while providing some general information on the state activity. It will be published on a weekly basis (every Friday) and can be found at the following web site: [http://www.ccbh.net/ccbh/opencms/CCBH/pdf/ESI\\_Docs/H1N1/fluupdate.pdf](http://www.ccbh.net/ccbh/opencms/CCBH/pdf/ESI_Docs/H1N1/fluupdate.pdf)

*Note: This data are provisional and subject to change. Updates will be included in future reports.*

#### Ohio's Activity Level: Sporadic Activity

Small numbers of laboratory confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory confirmed influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in cases of ILI.

#### Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality

For MMWR week 9, 4.7% of all deaths reported to Cleveland Bureau of Vital Statistics were due to pneumonia (54.6% occurred in those 75 + years of age and 45.5% occurred in those 45-74 years). There were no influenza deaths reported during week 9. (Figure 1)

#### Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports

ILI Sentinel Providers in Cuyahoga County reported 0.9% of patients presented with ILI. Sentinel Providers across Ohio reported 0.4% of patients had ILI signs and symptoms (Figure 2). ILI is defined as a fever ( $\geq 100^{\circ}$  F), and cough and/or sore throat.

#### School Absenteeism

Participating schools in Cuyahoga County report absentee data on a weekly basis during the school year. The data is divided into two main groups. One group, the sentinel sites, represent a group of schools that have reported absentee data with the health department for the past seven years. The second group represent schools that have started to report absentee information starting this year (Figures 3a & 3b).

#### Laboratory Surveillance

Please refer to Table 2 for a summary of influenza lab results from specimens submitted to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory.

#### Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality

During MMWR week 9 there were no reported cases of influenza-associated hospitalization in Cuyahoga County (Figure 4). In Ohio, there have been 10 reports of pediatric influenza-associated mortality, seven of these were confirmed as Pandemic Influenza A H1N1 (as of 03/09/10). Since April 2009, there have been 51 confirmed Pandemic Influenza A H1N1-related deaths in Ohio among hospitalized patients.

#### ED visits and Over-the-Counter Medication Sales

Two syndromic surveillance systems, RODS and EpiCenter, are being used to provide weekly tracking of over-the-counter (OTC) drugstore product sales and the number of visits to hospital emergency departments (ED) throughout Cuyahoga County, respectively. The particular OTC items were selected as products most likely to be purchased to treat the expected symptoms of influenza in children. The hospital visit data focuses on emergency department patients complaining of influenza like illness along with a fever and is stratified by age intervals. Please refer to Figures 5 and 6. Figure 7 shows the trend of ED visits classified as constitutional syndrome. *Constitutional* syndrome includes (but is not limited to): body aches, generalized pain, fatigue, lethargic, weak, febrile, chills, flu, flulike, swollen glands, loss of appetite, etc..

For more information on national and world surveillance please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly).

**Table 1. Summary of Cuyahoga County Influenza Data**

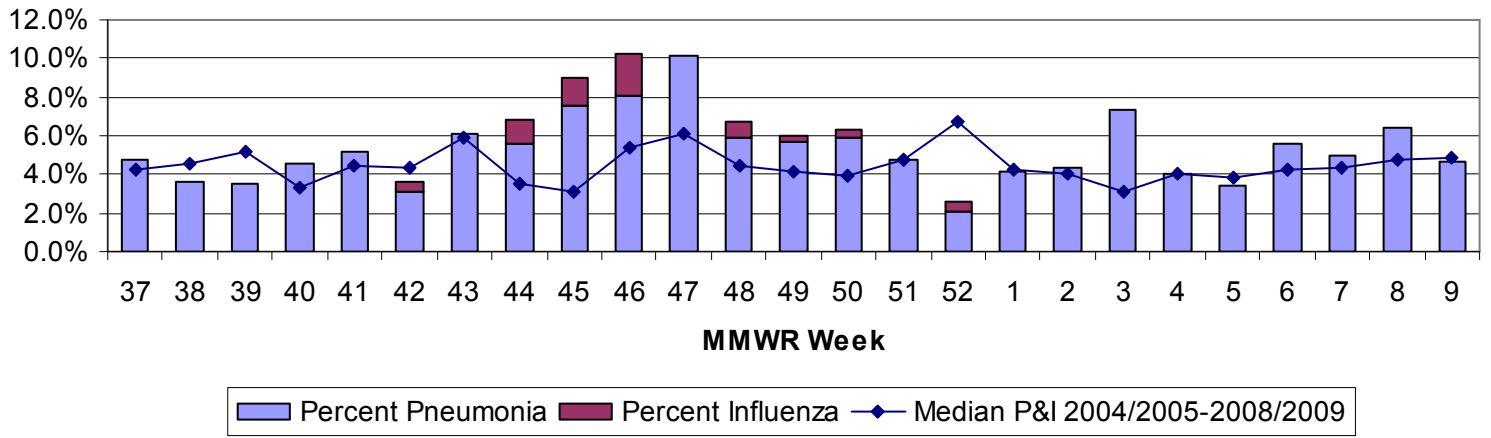
Influenza (Flu) Indicator	Activity Compared to Previous Week	General Trend for the Season
Deaths due to influenza and pneumonia	decreased	Peaked in week 47 and had a low in week 52.
Influenza like illness (ILI) doctor visits	decreased	Peaked in week 42 and hit a low in week 48. There was a smaller peak in week 52.
School absenteeism due to <b>ILLNESS ONLY</b> (among new sites recruited this year)	Cleveland: increased Northeast: increased Northwest: decreased Southeast: increased Southwest: increased	Peaked in weeks 42 and 43. Seems to be decreasing again after a smaller peak in weeks 3 and 4.
School absenteeism due to <b>ALL CAUSES</b> – sentinel sites	decreased	Peaked in week 42. Seems to be decreasing again after a gradual increase weeks 2-weeks 6. Currently below the 5 year median.
School absenteeism due to <b>ALL CAUSES</b> – new sites recruited this year	Northeast: increased Northwest: no data Southeast: no data Southwest: decreased	Peaked in weeks 42 and 43. Reporting has been poor except in the Southeast which is mirroring the sentinel sites.
Influenza associated hospitalizations	stable	Hit a peak in week 43 and has stabilized since week 49.
Emergency room visits due to influenza like illness	decreased	Peaked in week 42 and hit a low in week 46, there has been a gradual increase since week 1.
Sales of over-the-counter medications used to treat influenza like illness	stable	Peaked in week 42 and hit a low in week 46, there has been a gradual increase since week 1.
Emergency room visits due to constitutional syndrome	stable	Peaked in week 42 and has been fairly stable since week 46.

**Table 2. Cumulative Influenza Results Reported by the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory for the 2009-2010 Influenza Season (as of 03/01/2010)<sup>1</sup>**

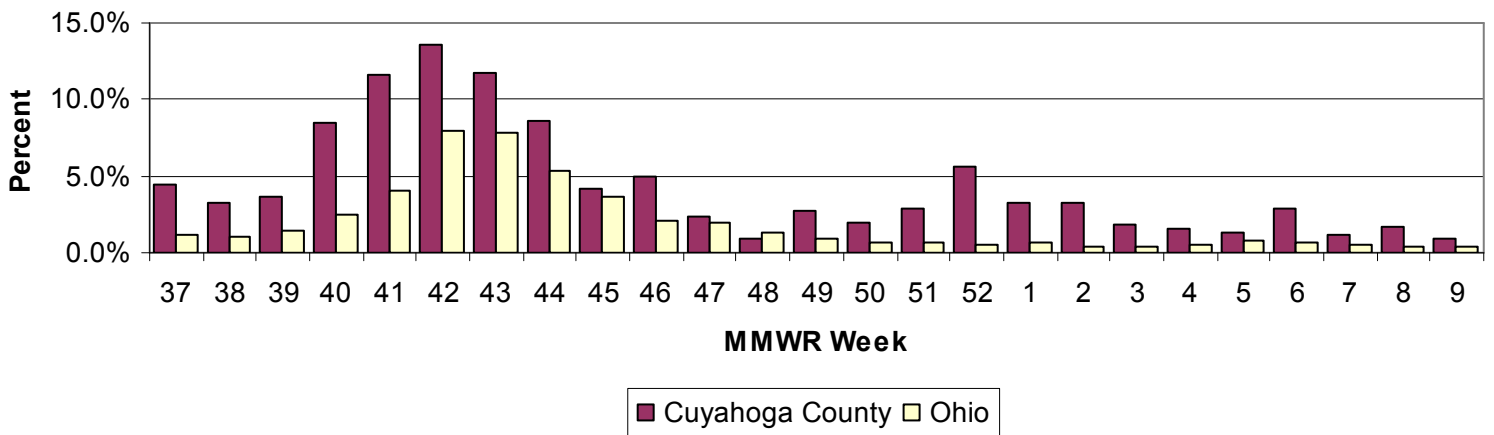
	# Culture Seasonal A/(H1)	# Culture B	# PCR Seasonal A/(H1)	# PCR Seasonal A/(H3)	# PCR B	# PCR Pandemic A/(H1)	# PCR Pandemic A/(H1) Inconclusive <sup>2</sup>	# PCR Not Detected	Total Tested
<b>Cuyahoga County</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>450</b>
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1191</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1790</b>	<b>3012</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data is from tests conducted at the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory, commercial lab results are not included<sup>2</sup> These specimens have test results that are PCR positive for influenza A but positive for only one of the two H1N1 indicators (either Swine Flu A or Swine H1) OR they have mixed results after multiple tests were run (e.g. positive for Swine Flu A the first time then negative when run again).

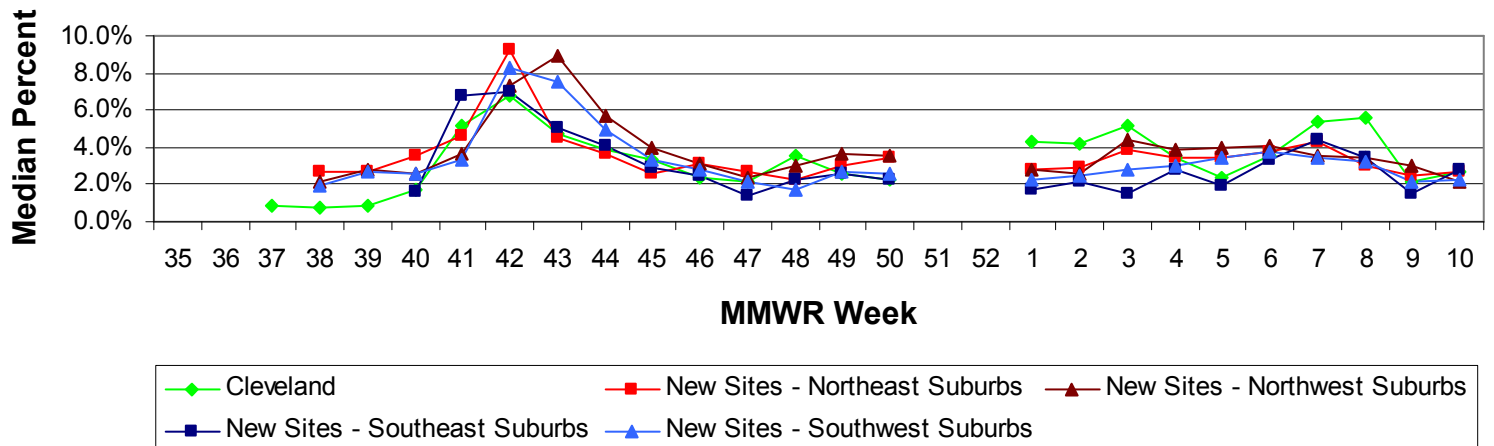
**Figure 1. Percentage of Deaths due to Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I), Cleveland 2009-2010**



**Figure 2. Percent Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Visits, U.S. Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance Network, 2009-2010**

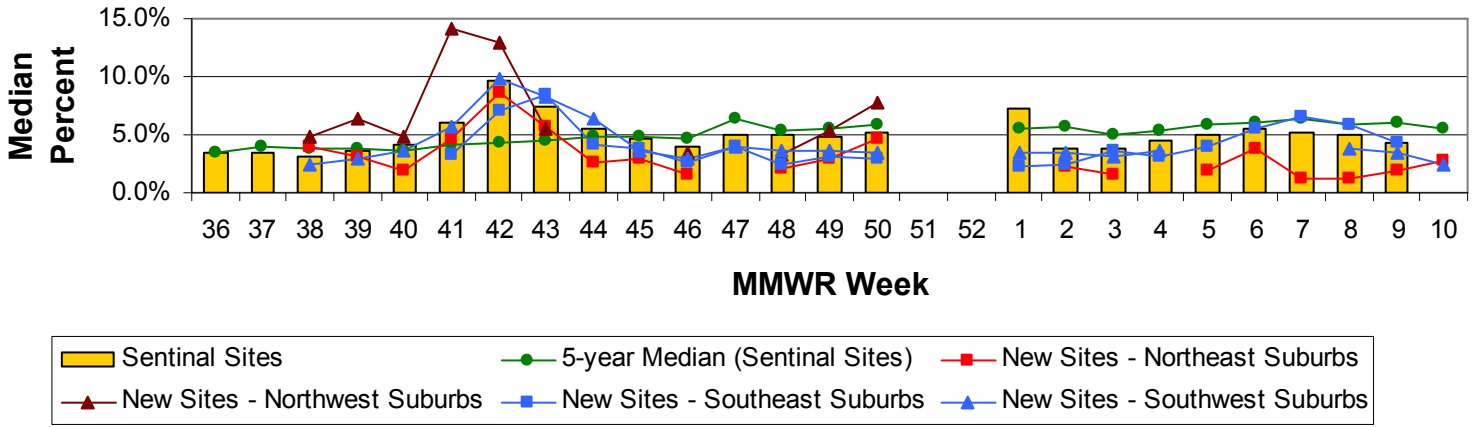


**Figure 3a. School Absenteeism Due to any Illness - Cuyahoga County, 2009-2010\***



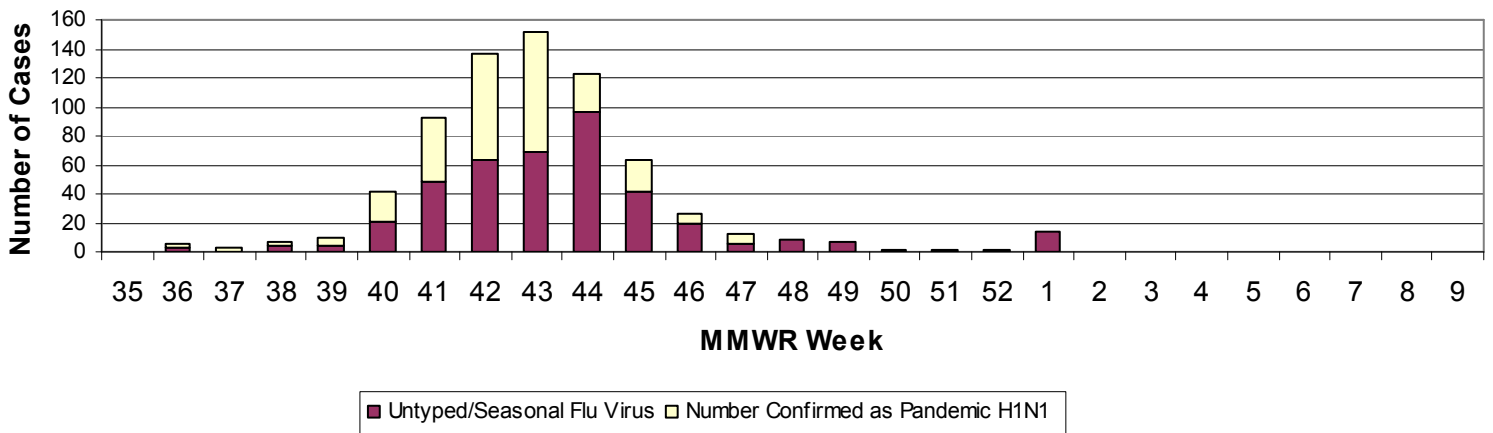
\* Absentee data from new reporting sites are available for the current MMWR week. All other data in this report is for the previous MMWR week.

**Figure 3b. Total School Absenteeism (i.e. due to any reason) - Suburban Cuyahoga County, 2009-2010\***



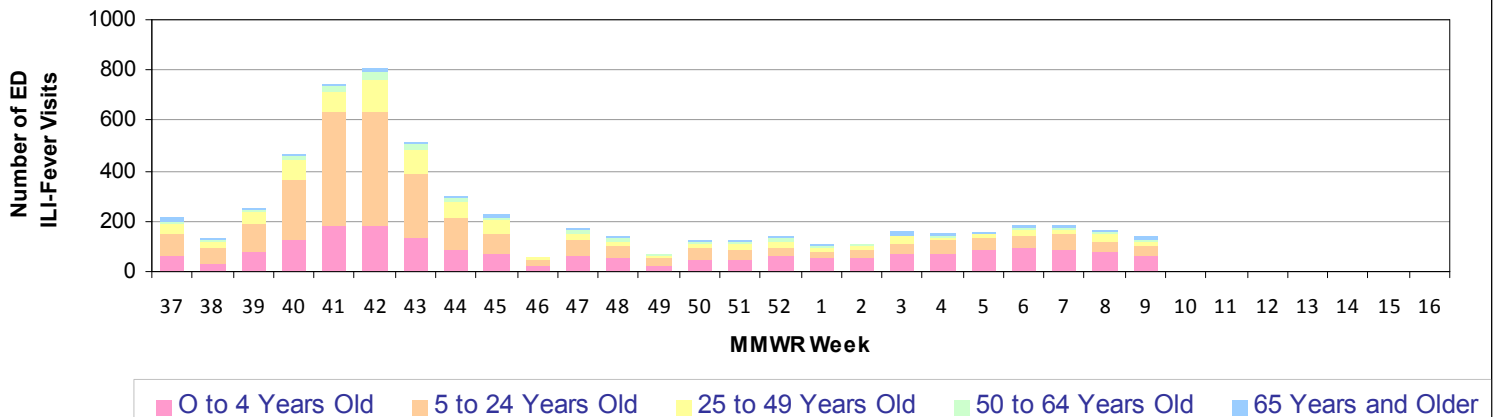
\* Absentee data from new reporting sites are available for the current MMWR week. All other data in this report is for the previous MMWR week.

**Figure 4. Number of Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations in Cuyahoga County (using date reported to health department), 2009-2010\***

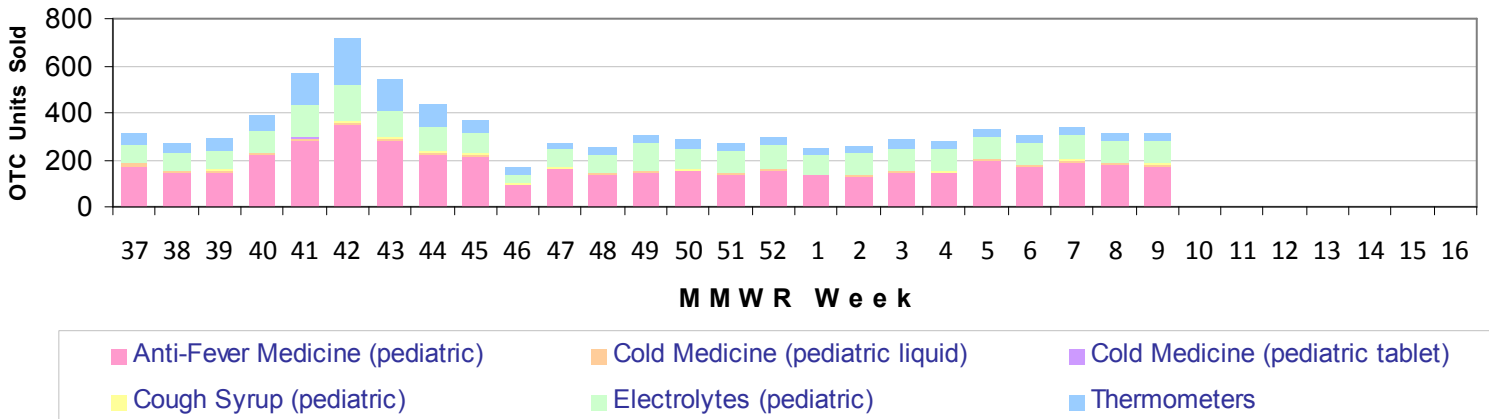


\* The yellow represents hospitalizations that are confirmed as Pandemic A H1N1 by PCR testing. Purple represents hospitalizations with any positive test for flu including specimens that are not typed and ones that are typed as seasonal flu viruses. A large number of specimens are never typed; therefore, a significant portion of the purple may represent Pandemic A H1N1.

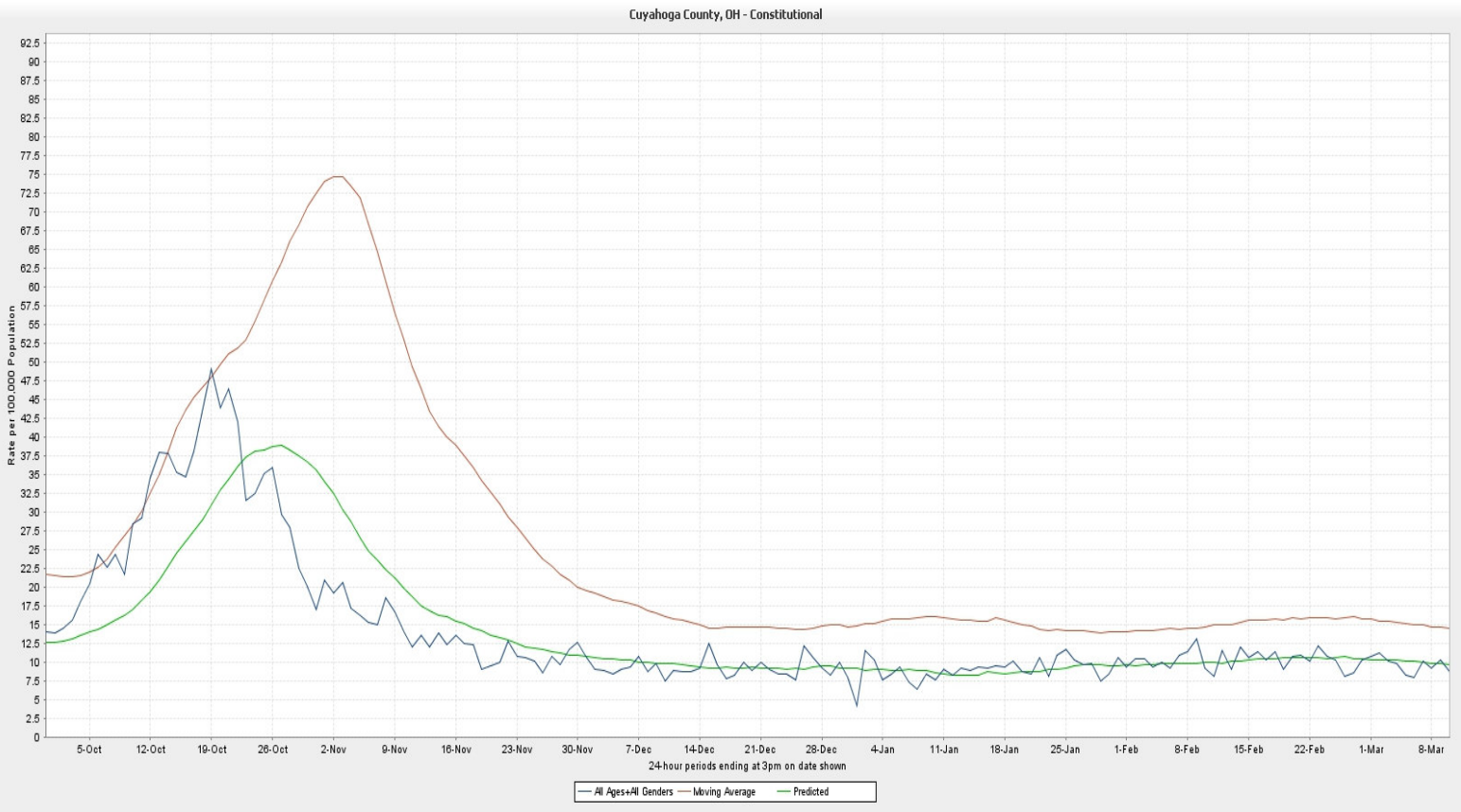
**Figure 5. Visits to Cuyahoga County Hospital Emergency Departments for Influenza-Like and Fever Symptoms By Age Groups, 2009-2010**



**Figure 6. Average Weekly Sales of Cuyahoga County Drugstore Over-the-Counter (OTC) Products by Selected Products, 2009-2010**



**Figure 7. Emergency Department Visits due to “Constitutional Syndrome”, Cuyahoga County 10/01/09-3/10/10**



The predicted value is the **expected number of cases** for a particular time period given what was observed in the recent past and appears as a green line on the chart. The **threshold** is predicted by the *Moving Average* algorithm and appears as the red line four standard deviations above the predicted count. The **total counts** are the actual number of ED registrations for Cuyahoga County and shown as a blue line.