



# Miami-Dade County Health Department Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control Influenza/Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report Week 1: 12/31 – 1/6/2007

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## Report Summary

The Weekly Influenza/Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report includes information from the following data sources:

1. 911 Surveillance
2. Hospital Emergency Department Surveillance
3. Outbreak Report

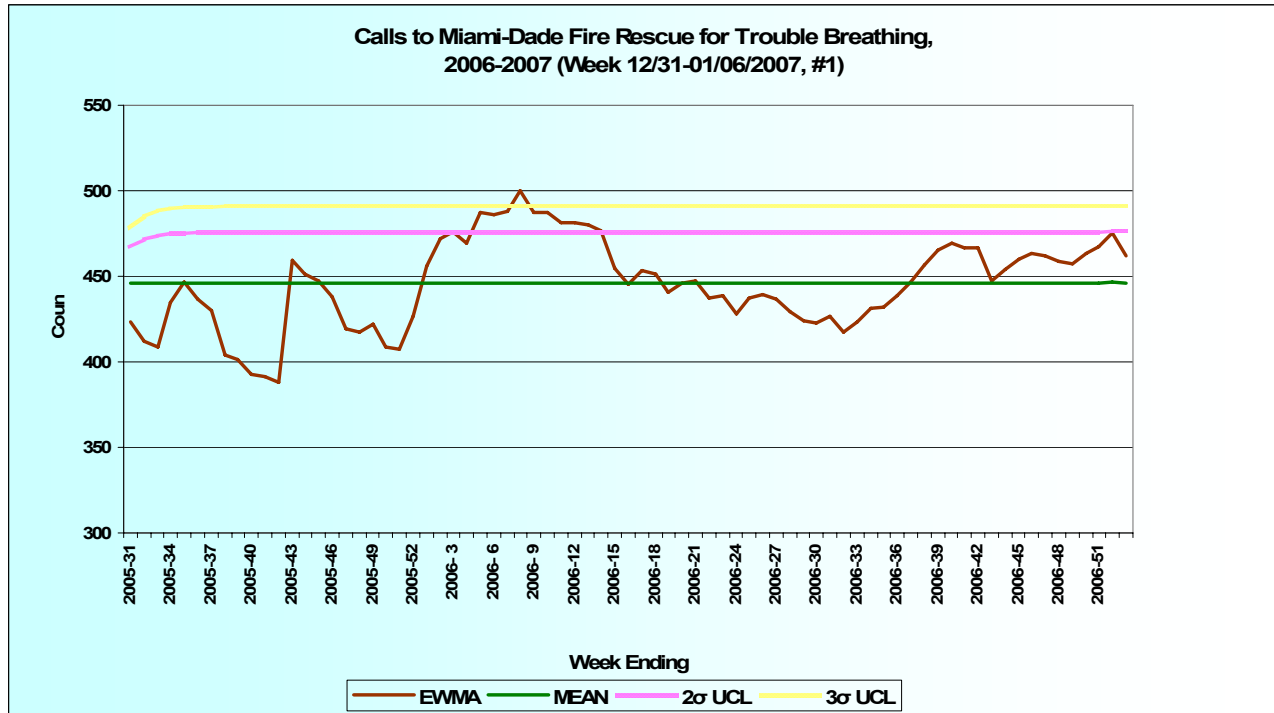
Each reporting week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday.

## Methods

An exponentially weighted moving average (EWMA) is calculated based on historical data from 2006 - 2007. EWMA is used to determine whether a process is in a state of statistical control and to detect shifts in the process average. The Upper Control Limits (UCL) are at 2 and 3 standard deviations above the mean. Increased activity is determined based on a threshold that is 2 standard deviations above the historical mean.

## 911 Surveillance

On a daily basis, the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control monitors 911 medical calls placed to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR). All medical calls are placed into categories by MDFR staff. The “trouble breathing” category is used to monitor respiratory illness.

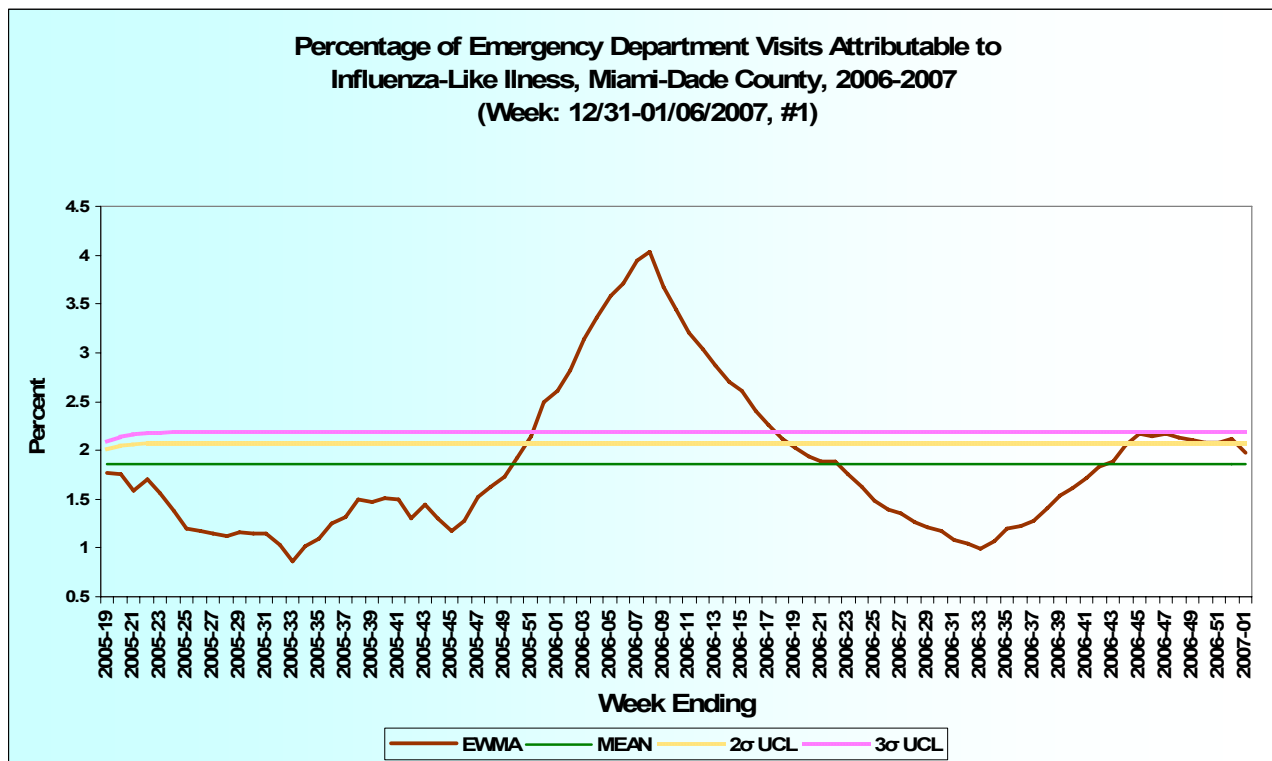


During Week 1, there was a decrease in the number of calls to the 911 Call Center and the number of call due to “trouble breathing” is still below 2 standard deviations from the mean. The EWMA for this week was 462 and for 2006 it was 455.

## Hospital Emergency Department Surveillance

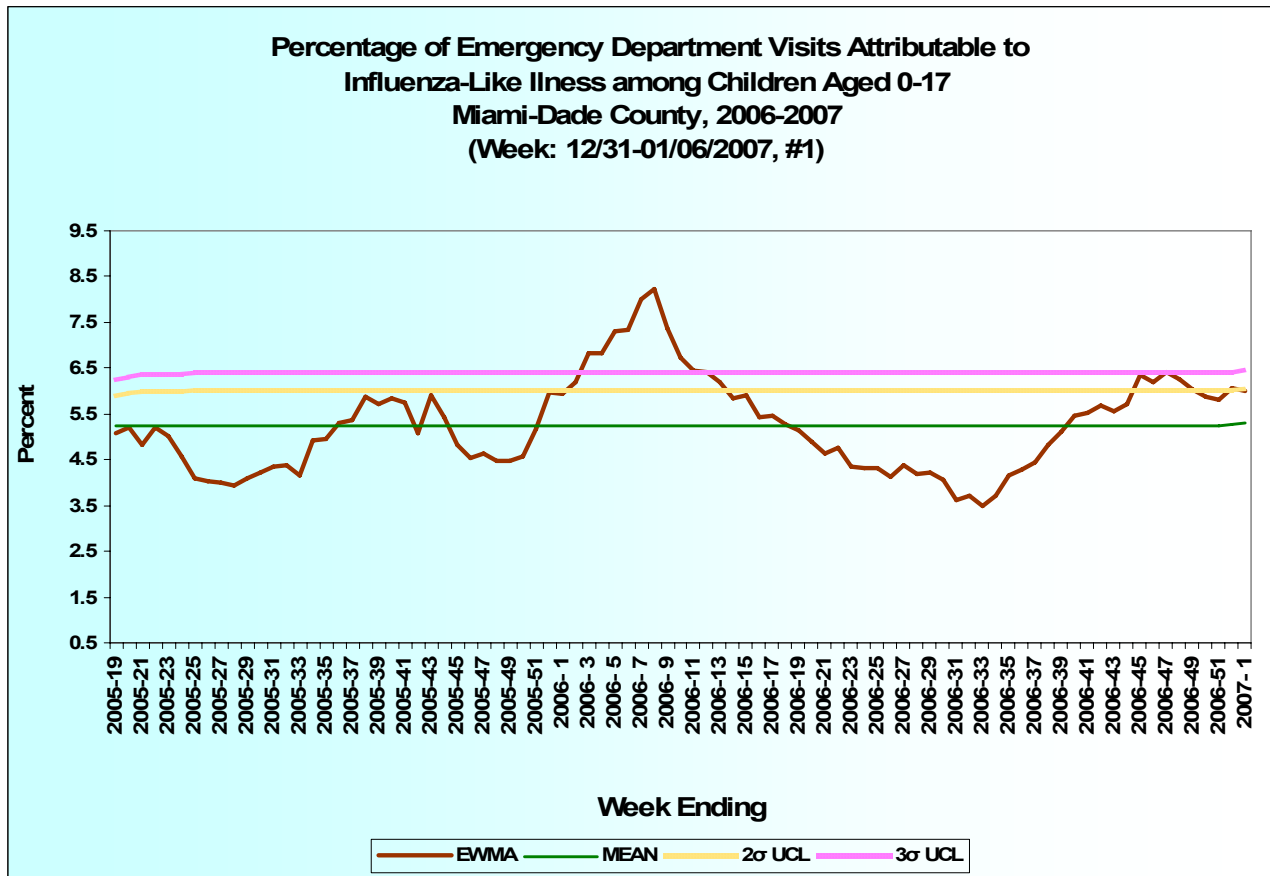
On a daily basis, selected Miami-Dade County hospitals electronically transmit hospital emergency department data to the Miami-Dade County Health Department. This data is then categorized into 10 distinct syndromes. The influenza-like illness (ILI) syndrome consists of fever with either cough or sore throat. It can also include a chief complaint of “flu”. Each week, staff will determine the percentage of all emergency department visits that fall into the ILI category.

### Influenza-Like-Illness, All Ages



During this week (Week Ending 01/06/2007), influenza-like illness activity slightly decreased and is no longer 2 standard deviations above the mean. About 1.64 percent of emergency department visits were attributed to influenza-like illness, compared with 2.91 percent observed during the same week last year. Overall, there has been an increase in influenza-like activity since August (Week 33).

## Influenza-Like-Illness, Children Aged 0-17



During this week (Week Ending 01/06/2007), there was a slight decrease in influenza-like illness seen among children. The activity level was below 2 standard deviations from the mean. About 4.56 percent of emergency department visits were attributed to influenza-like illness, compared with 5.84 percent observed during the same week last year.

## Outbreak Reports

No influenza-like/respiratory illness outbreaks were reported during Week 1 (Week ending 01/06/07).