

## RSC Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report for England

Week Number / Year

**49 / 2025**

Population

**16,977,774**

Dates

**01/12/2025 - 07/12/2025**

No. Practices

**1,639**

### 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

Rates of influenza-like illness (ILI) remain above the seasonal average and continue to climb in all regions, page 3. ILI rates for 1-4 year old are in the "High to very high" and 5-14 year old are in the "Medium to high" category, section E, page 5.

Virology swabbing positivity is above 20% with Influenza A and RSV the dominant circulating viruses, pages 3 and 4.

Rates of acute respiratory illness (ARI) have increased this week in all regions and all ages. ARI rates nationally remain below the seasonal average, page 7.

Rates of COVID-19 have increased in all age groups and in all regions, except the South, page 6..

Other comments:

- Rates of exacerbation in chronic lung disease (ECLD), page 8; ECLD – asthma exacerbation, page 9; URTI – Croup, page 11 are all above the seasonal average for this time of year.
- 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	367.9↘	314.4↘	↗ 53.4	16.9↘	14.1↘	↗ 2.8	14.0↘	11.7↘	↗ 2.3
Midlands And East	433.8	381.6	↗ 52.3	15.2↘	10.5↘	↗ 4.7	23.5↘	20.7↘	↗ 2.8
North	524.2↘	476.6	↗ 47.6	24.2↘	17.5↘	↗ 6.6	36.6	33.6	↗ 3.0
South	360.1↘	309.0↘	↗ 51.0	16.9↘	11.1↘	↗ 5.8	22.4↘	19.8	↗ 2.6
<b>National</b>	<b>419.8</b>	<b>369.4</b>	<b>↗ 50.4</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>↗ 5.1</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>↗ 2.6</b>
	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	84.5↘	67.7↘	↗ 16.8	270.1↘	235.8	↗ 34.3	0.6	0.3↘	↗ 0.3
Midlands And East	134.2↘	111.9↘	↗ 22.3	284.5↘	258.3↘	↗ 26.2	0.6	0.5↘	↗ 0.1
North	172.2↘	151.7↘	↗ 20.4	327.5↘	302.6	↗ 25.0	0.9↘	0.6	↗ 0.3
South	117.1↘	98.5↘	↗ 18.6	227.9↘	199.0↘	↗ 28.9	0.9↘	1.0↘	↗ -0.1
<b>National</b>	<b>128.3</b>	<b>109.1</b>	<b>↗ 19.1</b>	<b>274.5</b>	<b>246.2</b>	<b>↗ 28.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>↗ 0.1</b>

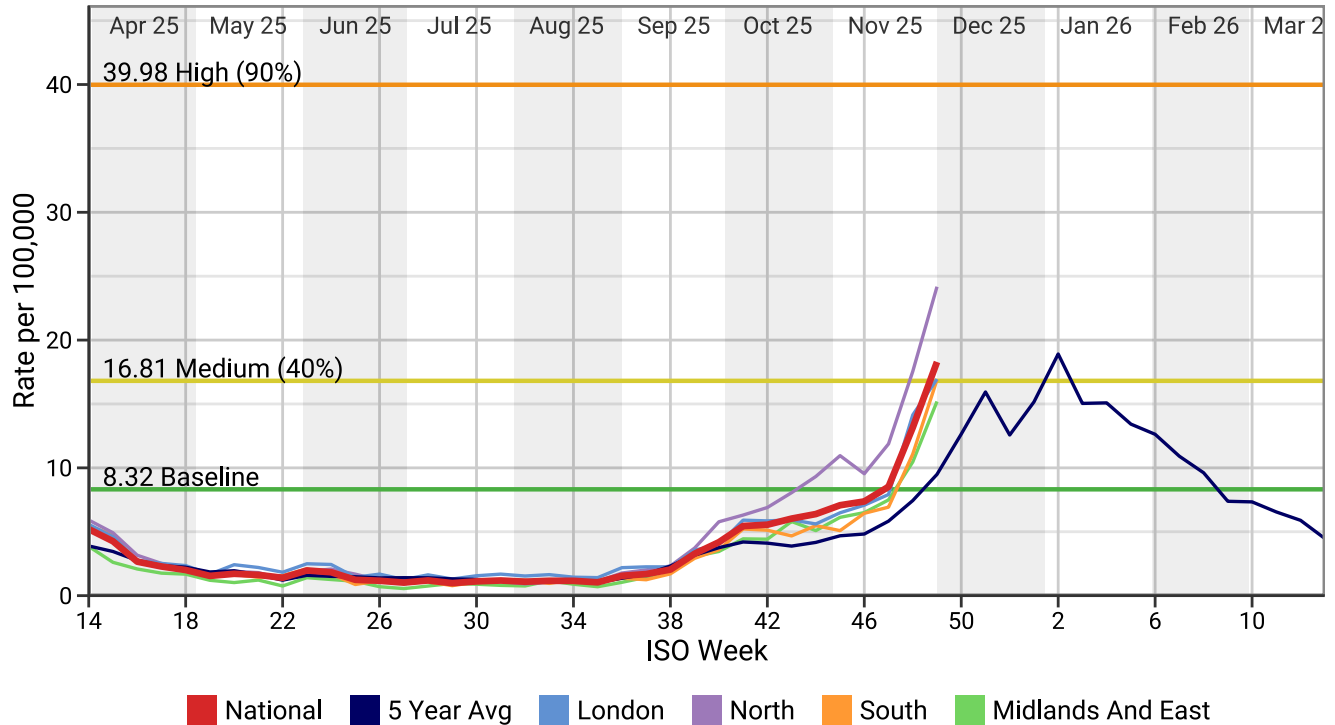
### Age Group Breakdown

	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	2,047.5↘	1,817.0↘	↗ 230.5	37.8	24.6	↗ 13.2	0.0↘	0.0↘	— 0.0
1-4yrs	2,010.1↘	1,836.2↘	↗ 173.9	38.7↘	28.0↘	↗ 10.6	2.3↘	3.5↘	↗ -1.2
5-14yrs	670.1↘	594.6	↗ 75.5	25.5↘	20.4↘	↗ 5.1	12.2↘	11.4↘	↗ 0.9
15-64yrs	278.8	240.6	↗ 38.2	16.9↘	12.3↘	↗ 4.6	19.4↘	17.4↘	↗ 2.0
65+yrs	361.6	309.2↘	↗ 52.4	13.5↘	8.1↘	↗ 5.5	56.7↘	50.2↘	↗ 6.5
<b>All ages</b>	<b>419.8</b>	<b>369.4</b>	<b>↗ 50.4</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>↗ 5.1</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>↗ 2.6</b>
	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	686.0↘	547.6	↗ 138.4	1,535.6	1,395.9↘	↗ 139.7	4.4↘	3.1↘	↗ 1.4
1-4yrs	440.7↘	393.4↘	↗ 47.4	1,726.3↘	1,561.6	↗ 164.7	0.3↘	0.3↘	↗ 0.0
5-14yrs	89.9↘	74.3↘	↗ 15.6	564.9↘	506.0↘	↗ 58.8	0.2↘	0.1↘	↗ 0.1
15-64yrs	85.7↘	72.9↘	↗ 12.8	171.9↘	151.5↘	↗ 20.5	0.7↘	0.6	↗ 0.1
65+yrs	216.4↘	181.5↘	↗ 35.0	96.5↘	86.3↘	↗ 10.3	1.5↘	1.3↘	↗ 0.2
<b>All ages</b>	<b>128.3</b>	<b>109.1</b>	<b>↗ 19.1</b>	<b>274.5</b>	<b>246.2</b>	<b>↗ 28.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>↗ 0.1</b>

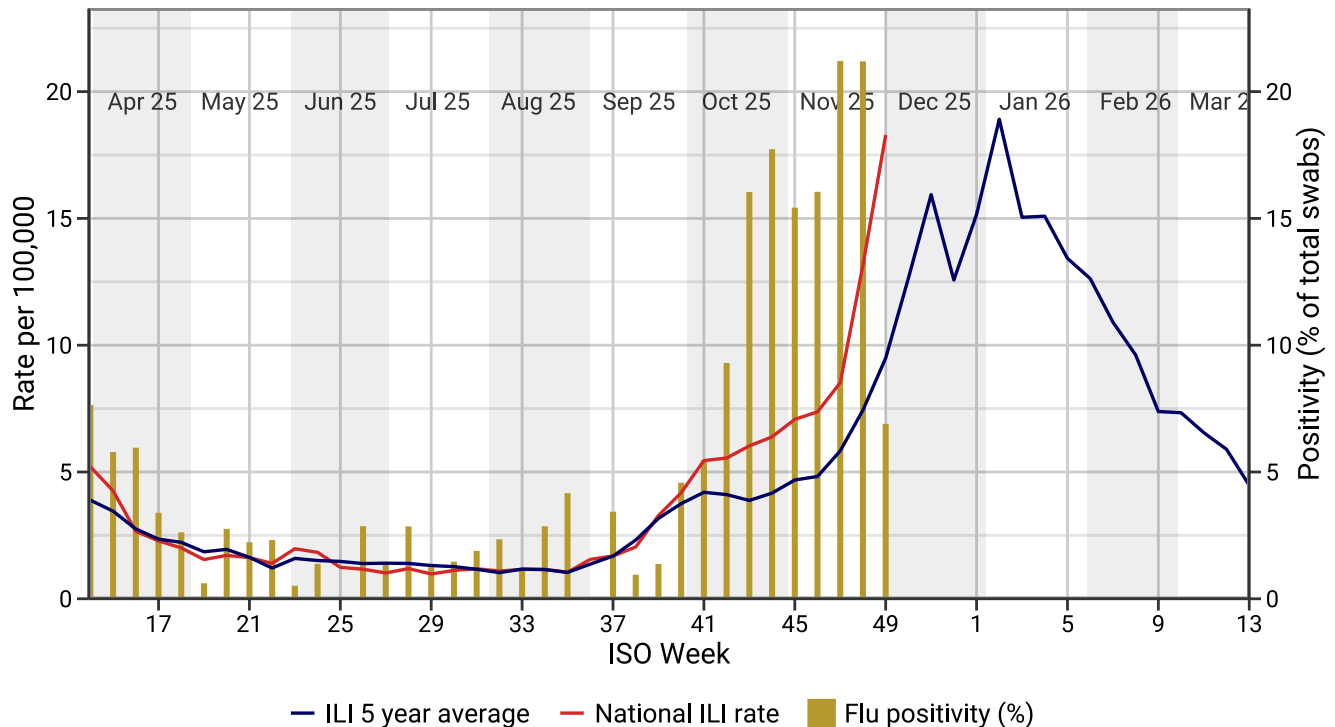
## 2024/25 Focus

### (A) Influenza-like Illness: national incidence rate by region

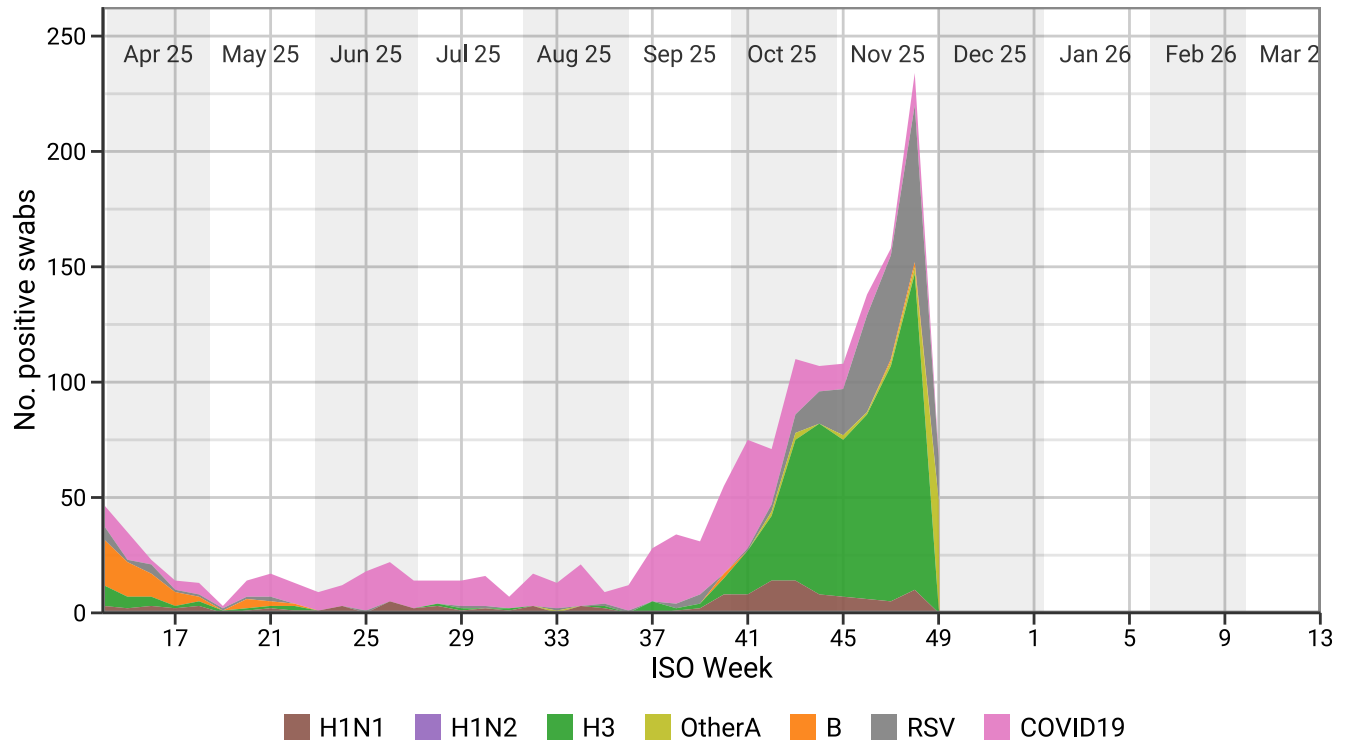
The horizontal lines in the following graph are thresholds derived from the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) model. See p20 for more information.



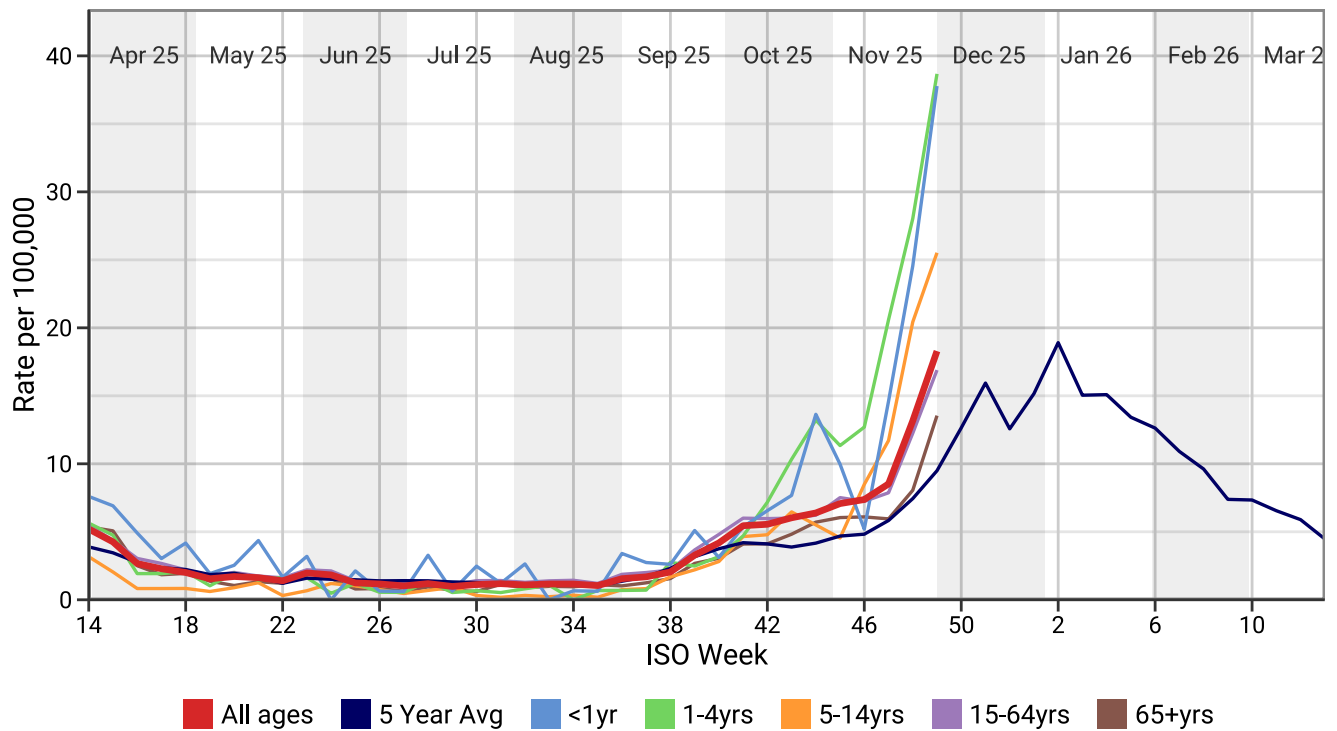
### (B) RCGP/UKHSA influenza virology swab surveillance



(C) RCGP/UKHSA RSV, influenza and SARS-CoV-2 virology swab surveillance (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.

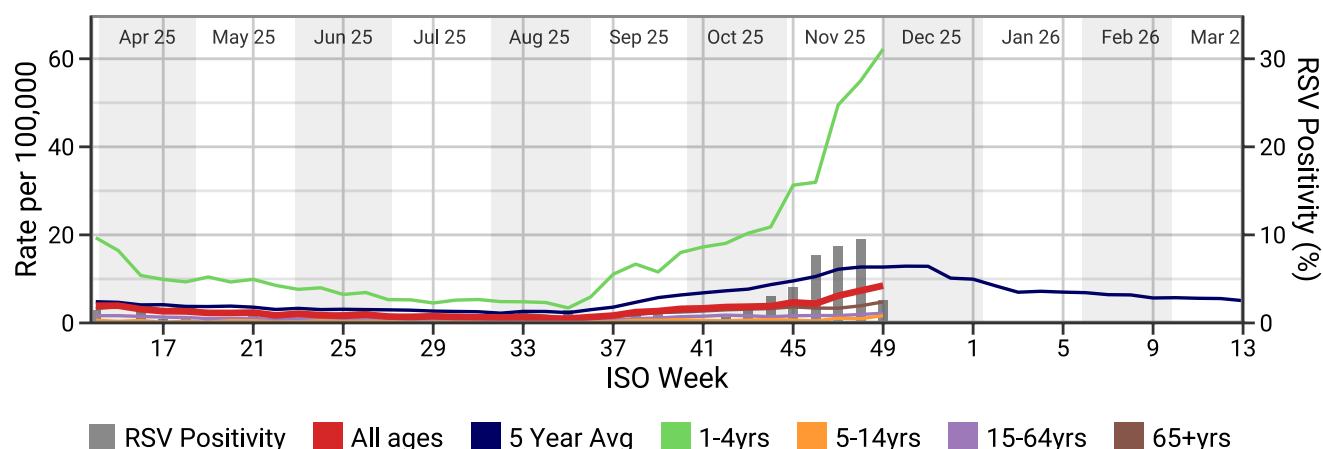
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1-4yrs	5.6	4.8	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.0	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.6	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.5	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.5
5-14yrs	3.2	2.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.3	0.3	0.7	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.2
15-64yrs	5.5	4.4	3.0	2.7	2.2	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.6	2.2	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.4
65+yrs	5.4	5.1	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.6	1.1
All ages	5.2	4.3	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.4	2.0	1.8	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.2
	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1-4yrs	0.8	1.1	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	2.8	2.5	3.2	4.7	7.2	10.3	13.2	11.3	12.7	20.6	28.0	38.7
5-14yrs	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.8	1.7	2.2	2.8	4.6	4.8	6.5	5.5	4.5	8.5	11.7	20.4	25.5
15-64yrs	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.9	2.0	2.2	3.7	4.8	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.2	7.5	7.2	7.9	12.3	16.9
65+yrs	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.6	2.7	3.1	4.1	4.1	4.8	5.7	6.0	6.1	5.9	8.1	13.5
All ages	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.7	2.0	3.3	4.2	5.4	5.6	6.0	6.4	7.1	7.4	8.5	13.2	18.3

	Below Threshold	Threshold to medium	Medium to high	High to very high	Above very high
1-4yrs	<7.86	7.86 to 16.38	16.38 to 30.29	30.29 to 39.75	39.75+
5-14yrs	<5.17	5.17 to 11.83	11.83 to 29.13	29.13 to 43.38	43.38+
15-64yrs	<9.81	9.81 to 18.31	18.31 to 44.31	44.31 to 65.49	65.49+
65+yrs	<8.10	8.10 to 14.49	14.49 to 37.90	37.90 to 57.96	57.96+
All Ages	<8.32	8.32 to 16.81	16.81 to 39.98	39.98 to 58.62	58.62+

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

Children under 1 year old are omitted from the following graph.

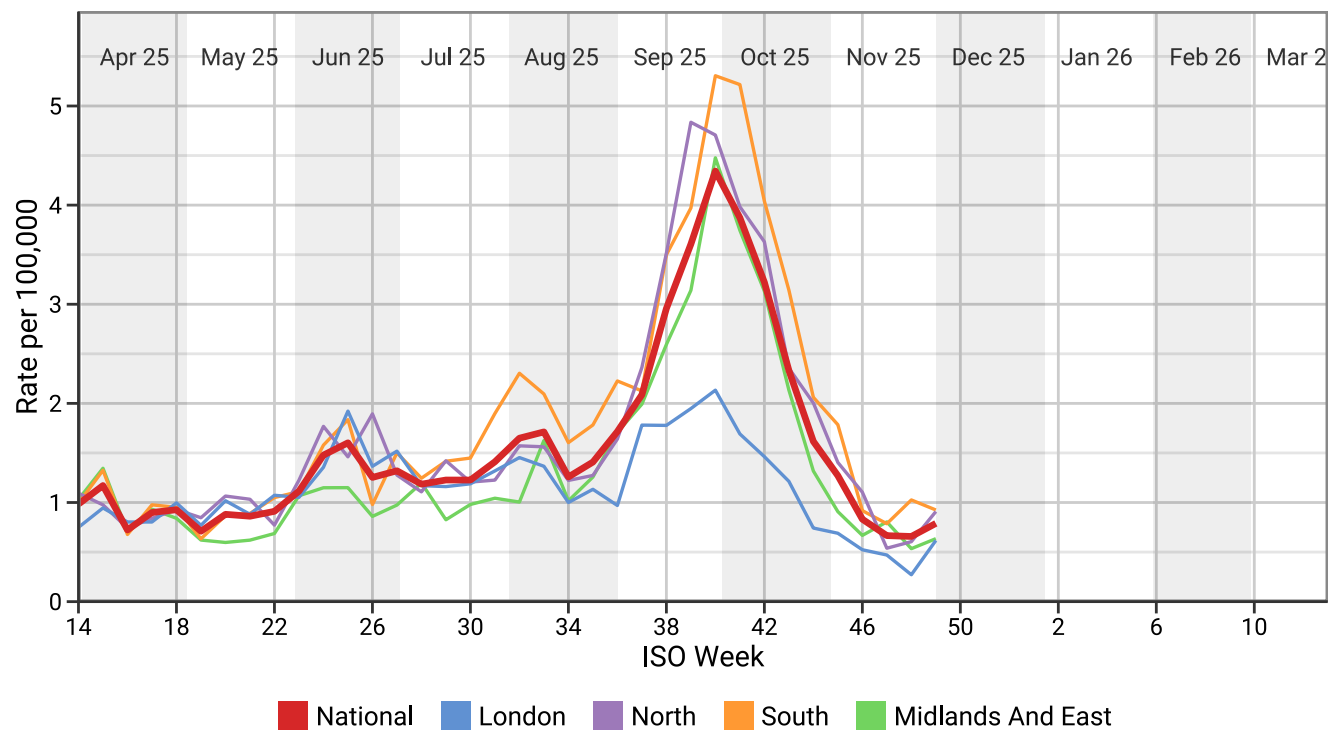
**Weekly incidence rates of influenza-like illness, and acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis (per 100,000)**

	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
<1yr	37.8	448.2
1-4yrs	38.7	62.2
5-14yrs	25.5	1.6
15-24yrs	22.8	1.0
25-44yrs	16.8	2.1
45-64yrs	14.0	2.9
65-74yrs	10.1	4.9
75-84yrs	12.8	4.1
85+yrs	27.6	6.1
All ages	18.3	8.5

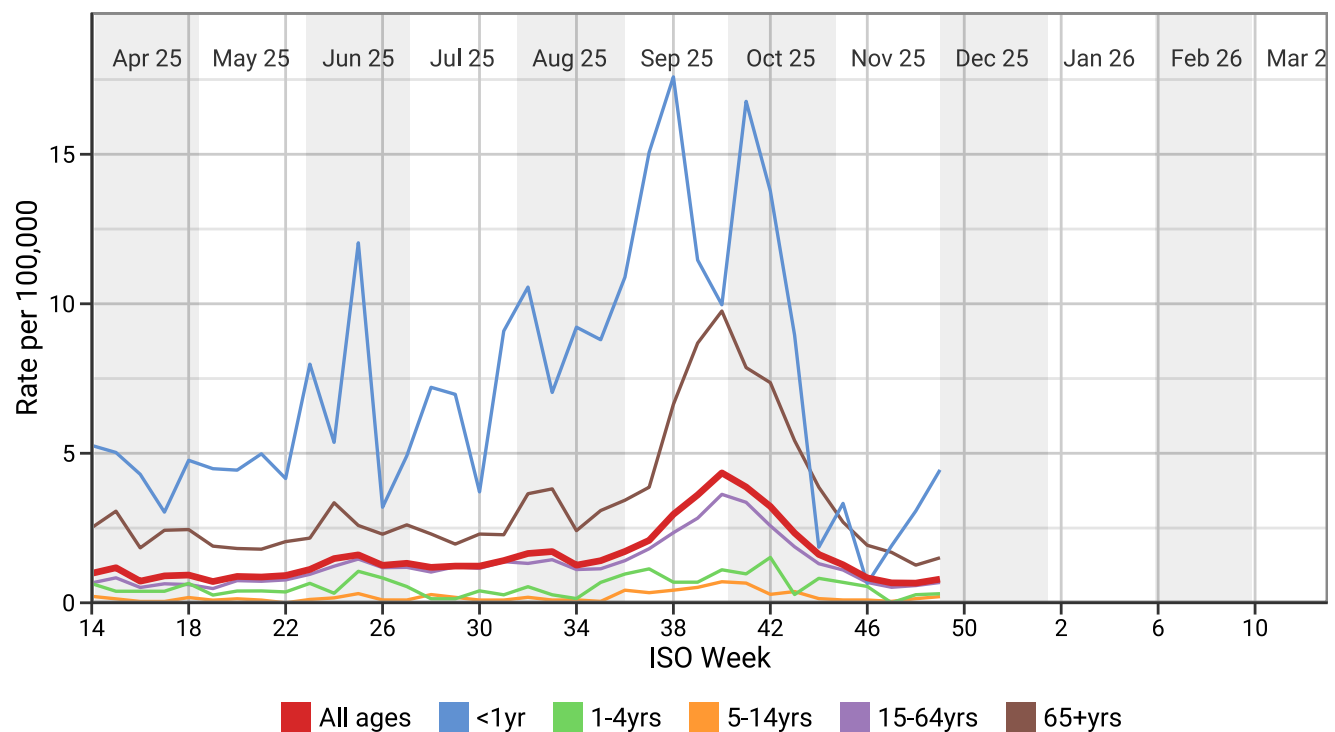
  

	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	ARI-Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis
London	16.9	6.0
Midlands And East	15.2	8.4
North	24.2	10.6
South	16.9	8.4
National	18.3	8.5

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

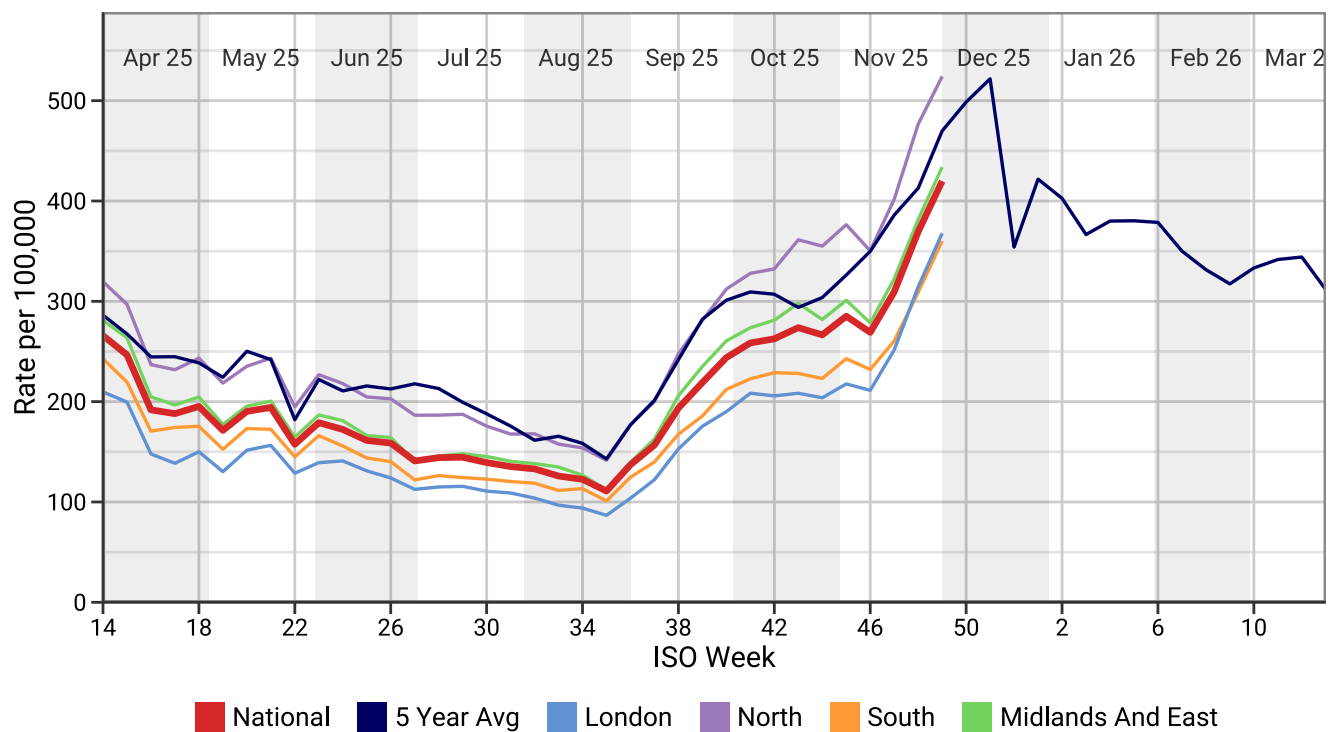


(H) COVID-19: national incidence rate by age band

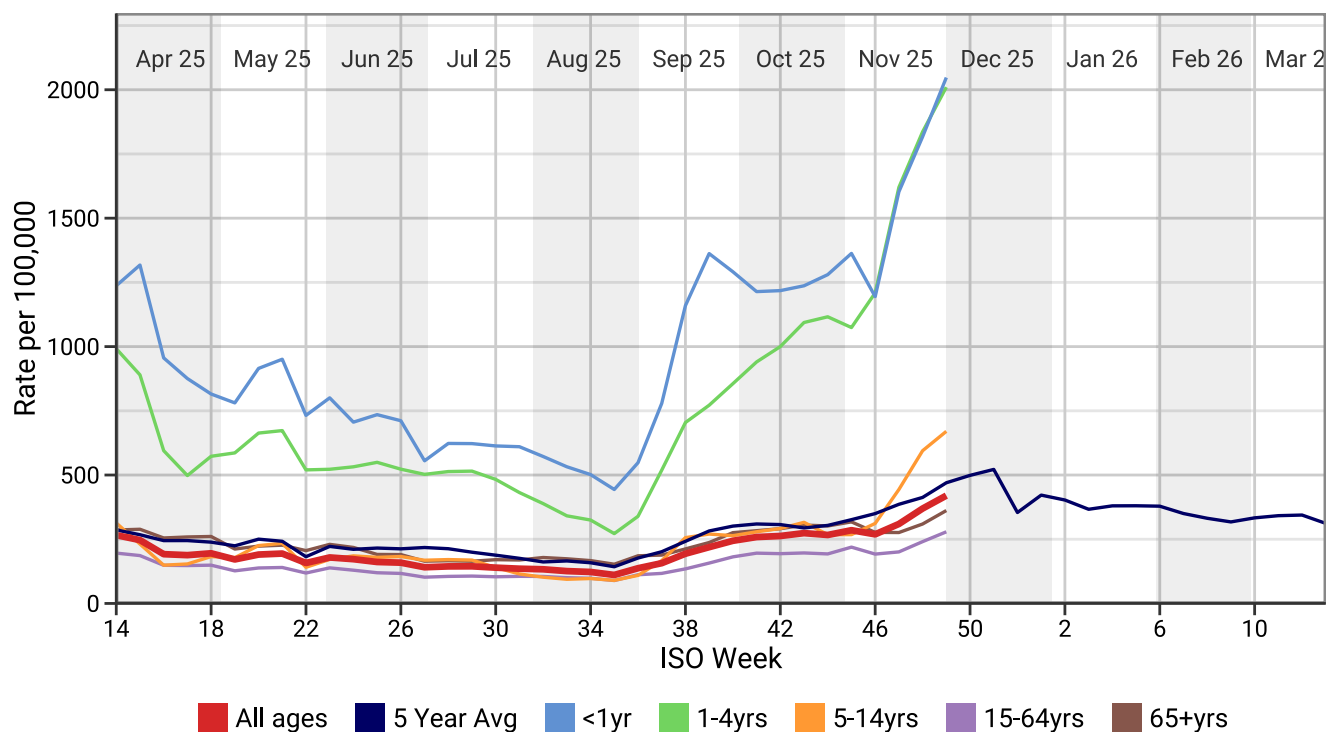


# 1. Respiratory Infections

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



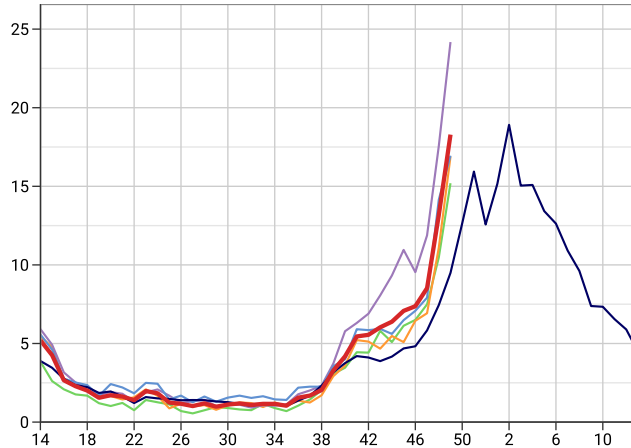
## (J) Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI): national incidence rate by age band



## Respiratory Infections - by region

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

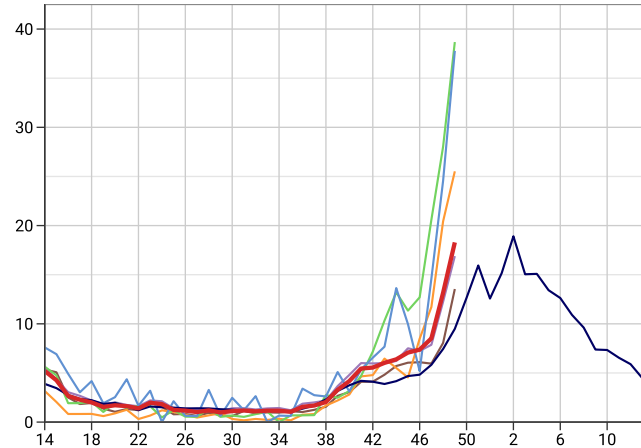
**Influenza-like illness (ILI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



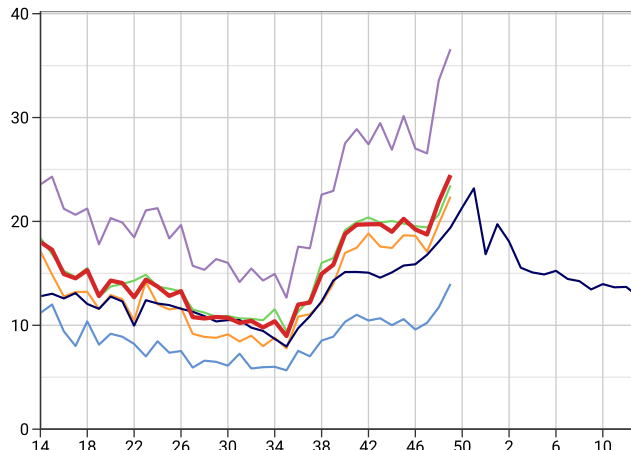
## Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

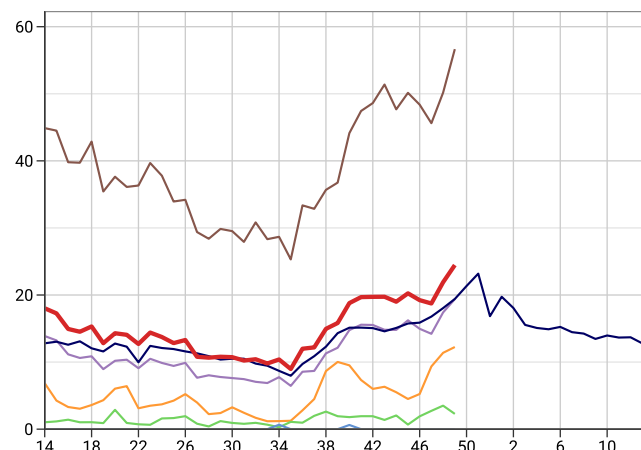
**Influenza-like illness (ILI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



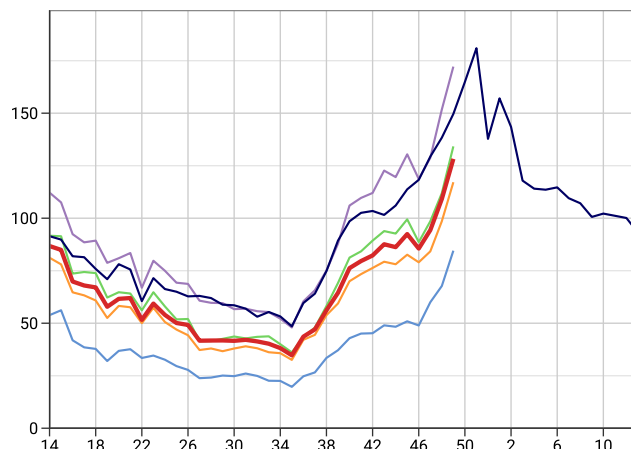
**Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



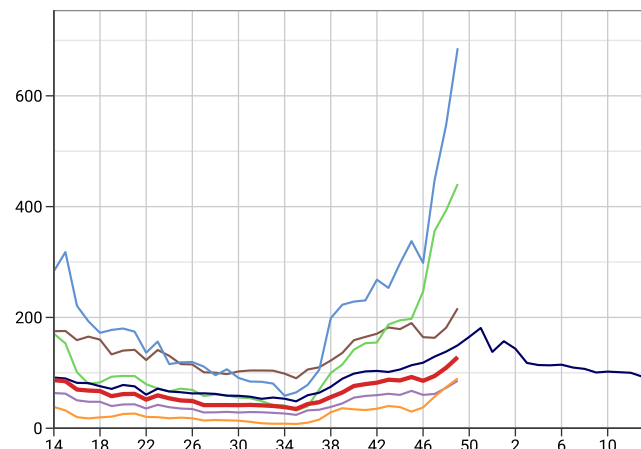
**Exacerbations of Chronic Lung Disease (ECLD)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average

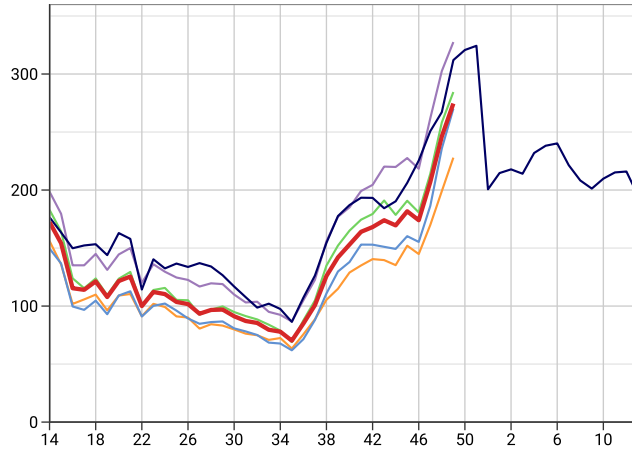




## Respiratory Infections - by region

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

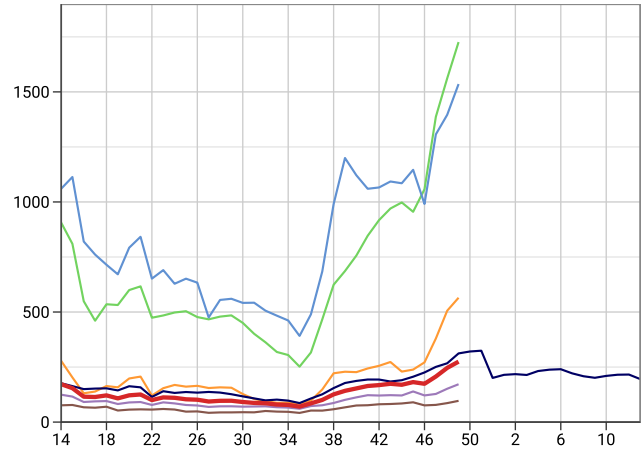
**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



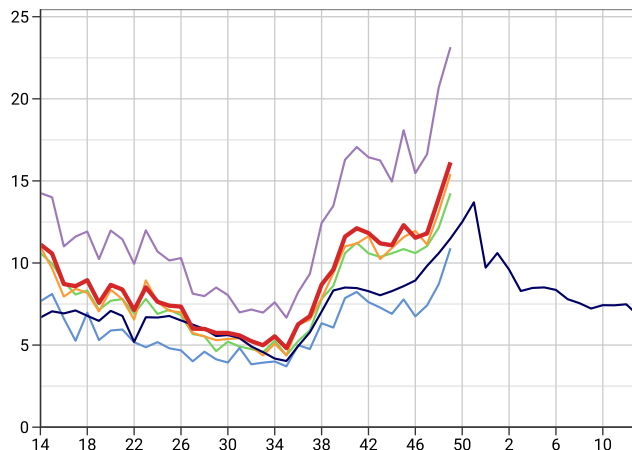
## Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

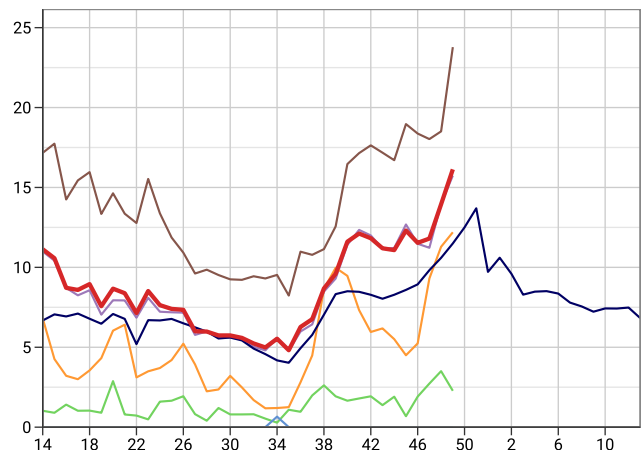
**Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



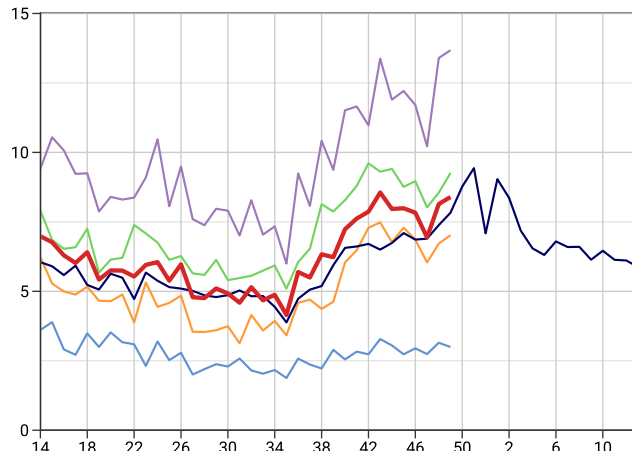
**ECLD - Asthma Exacerbations**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



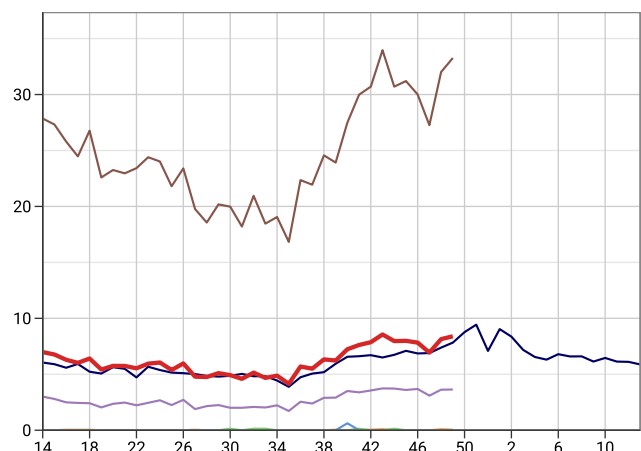
**ECLD - Asthma Exacerbations**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**ECLD - COPD Exacerbations**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



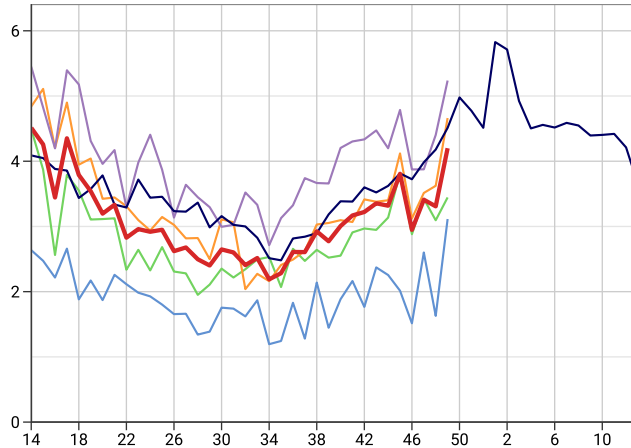
**ECLD - COPD Exacerbations**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



## Respiratory Infections - by region

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

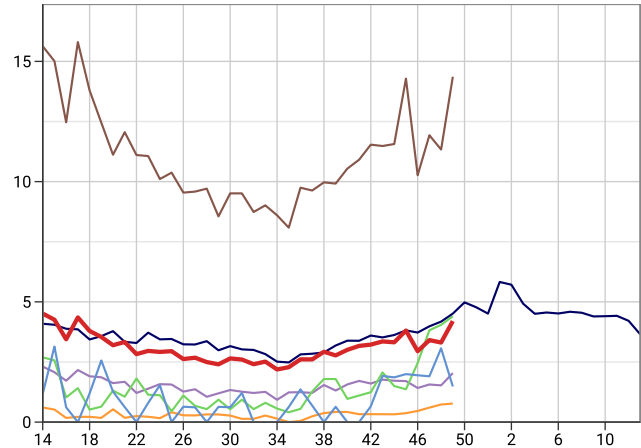
**LRTI - Pneumonia**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



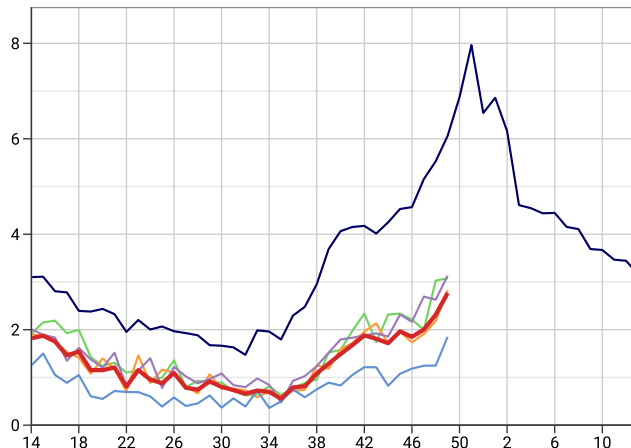
## Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

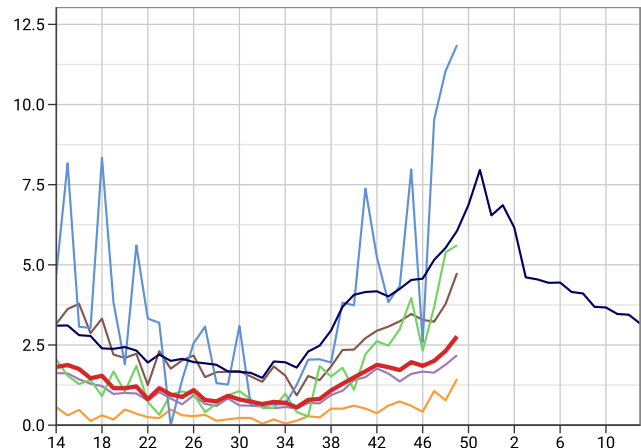
**LRTI - Pneumonia**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



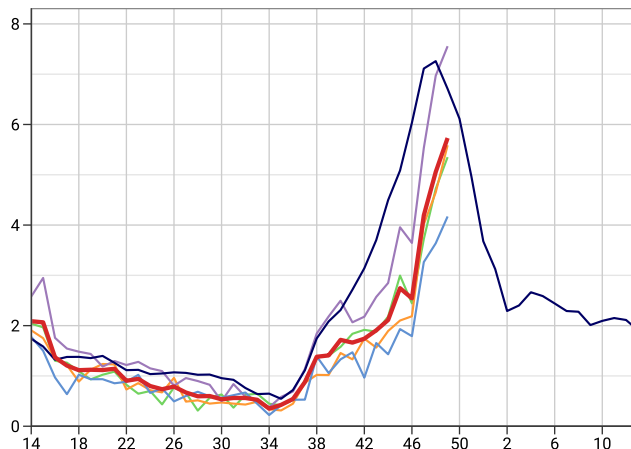
**LRTI - Acute Bronchitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



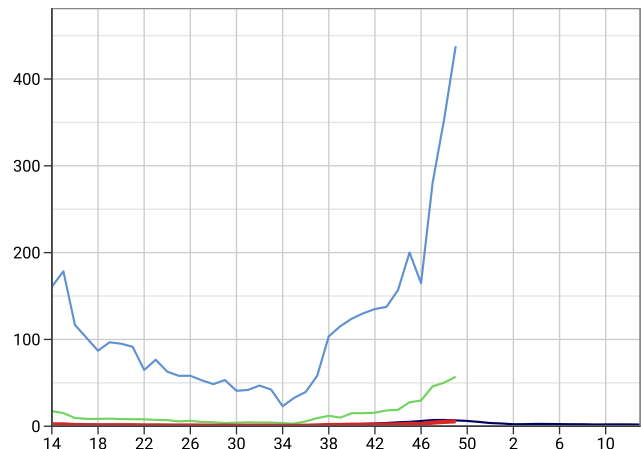
**LRTI - Acute Bronchitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**LRTI - Bronchiolitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



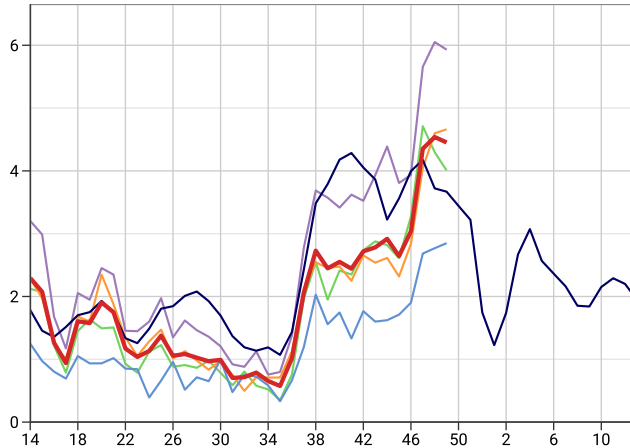
**LRTI - Bronchiolitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



## Respiratory Infections - by region

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

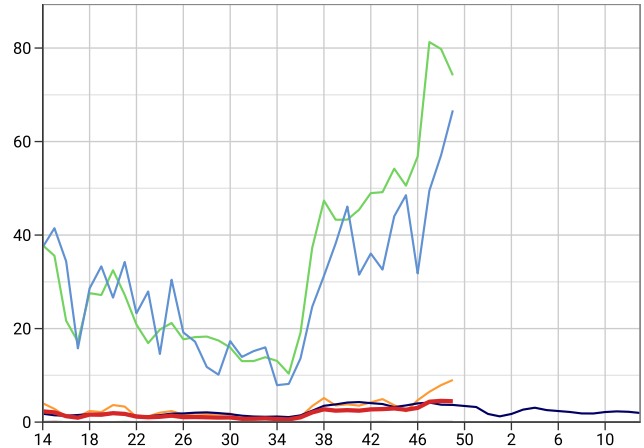
**URTI - Croup**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



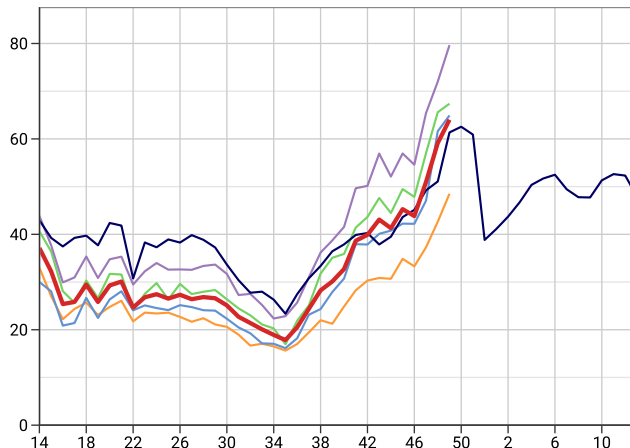
## Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

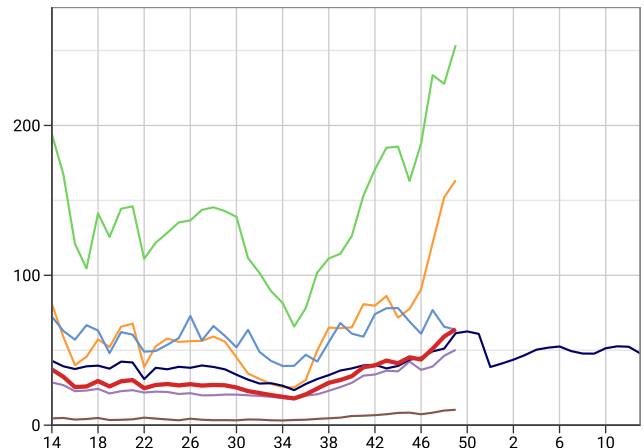
**URTI - Croup**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



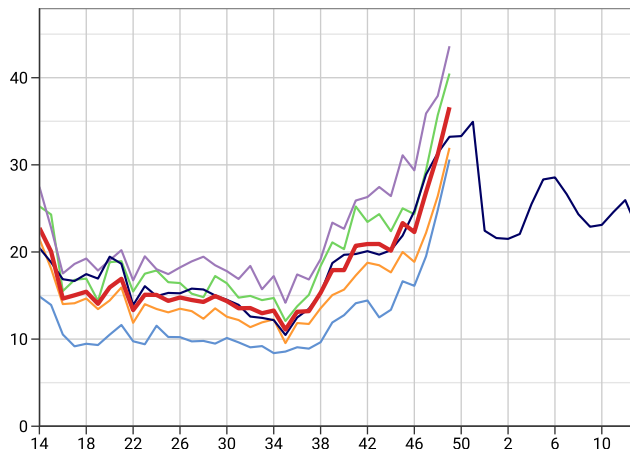
**URTI - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



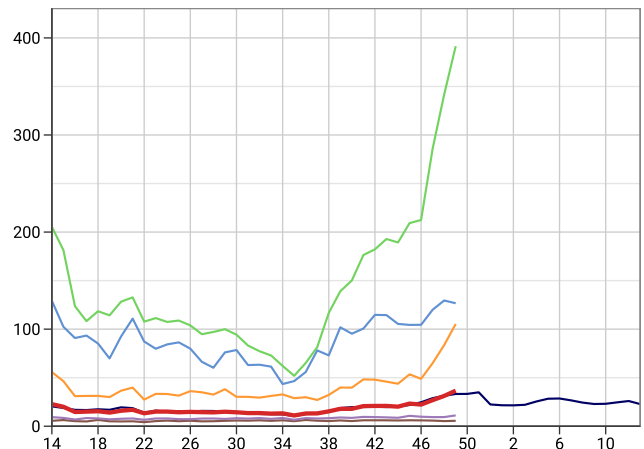
**URTI - Tonsillitis/Pharyngitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**URTI - Otitis Media**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



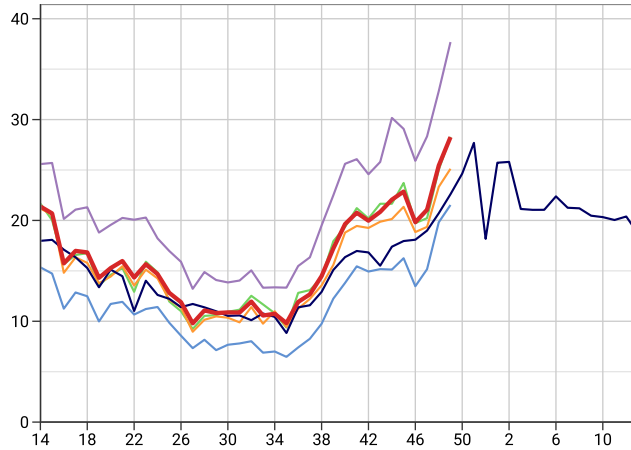
**URTI - Otitis Media**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



## Respiratory Infections - by region

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

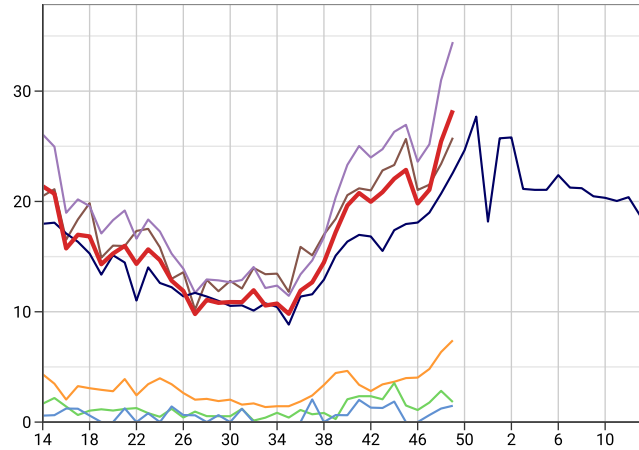
**URTI - Sinusitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



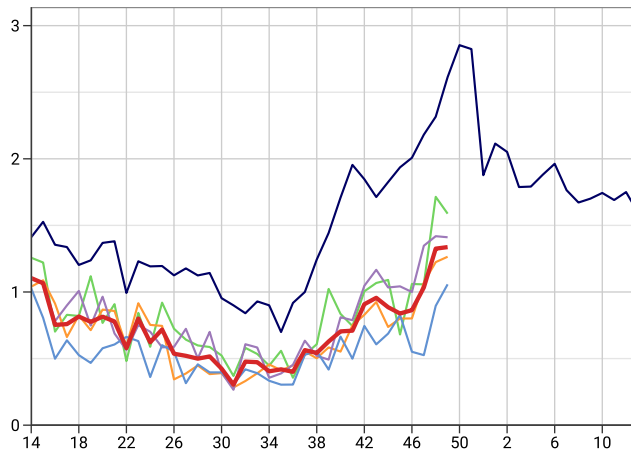
## Respiratory Infections - by age band

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

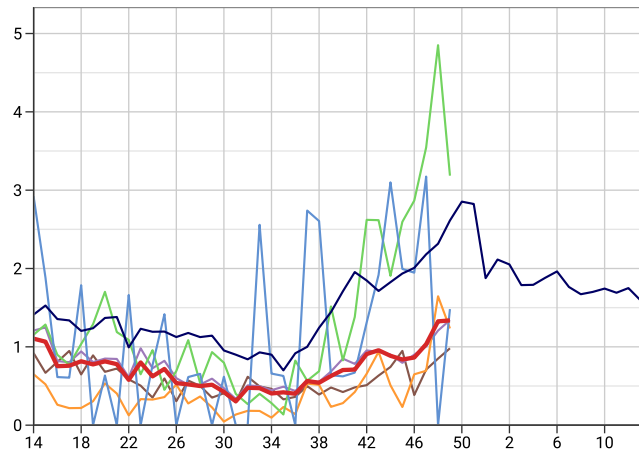
**URTI - Sinusitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**URTI - Laryngitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



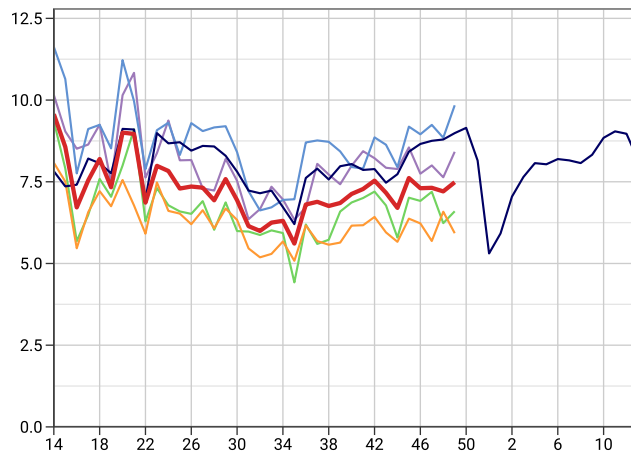
**URTI - Laryngitis**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by age band for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



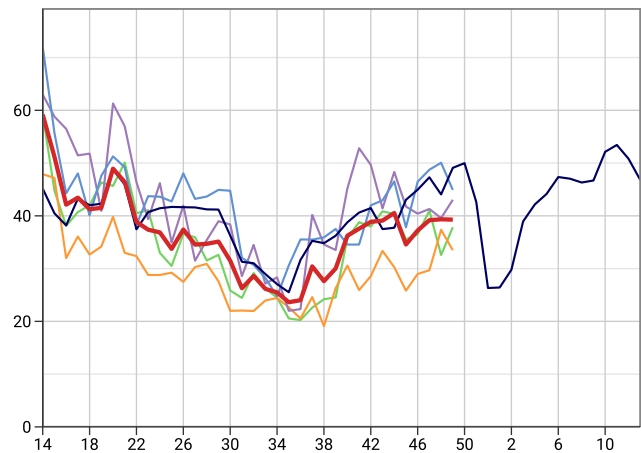
## 2. Water and Food Borne Disorders

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

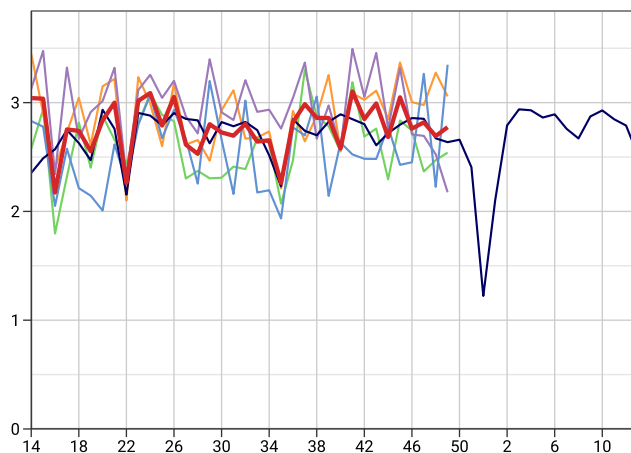
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



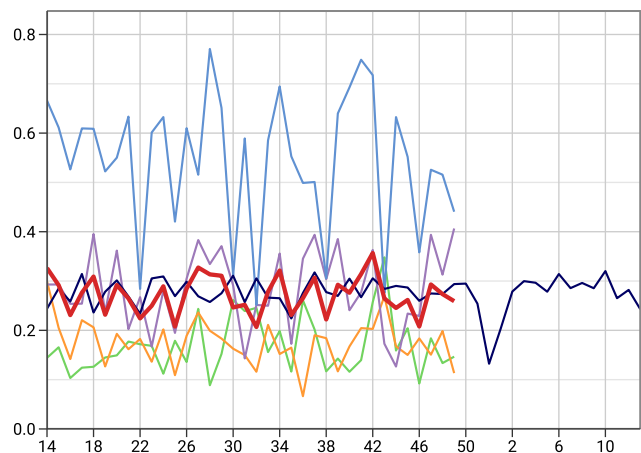
**Infectious Intestinal Disease (ICD10: A00-A09)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 0-4 years) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Non-Infective Enteritis and Colitis (ICD10: K50-K52)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



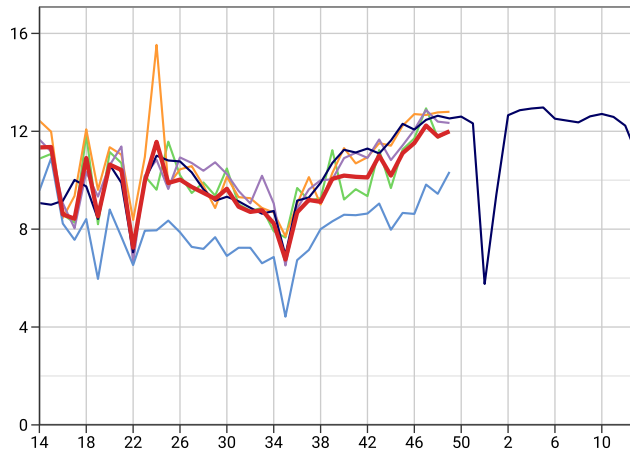
**Viral Hepatitis (ICD10: B15-B19)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



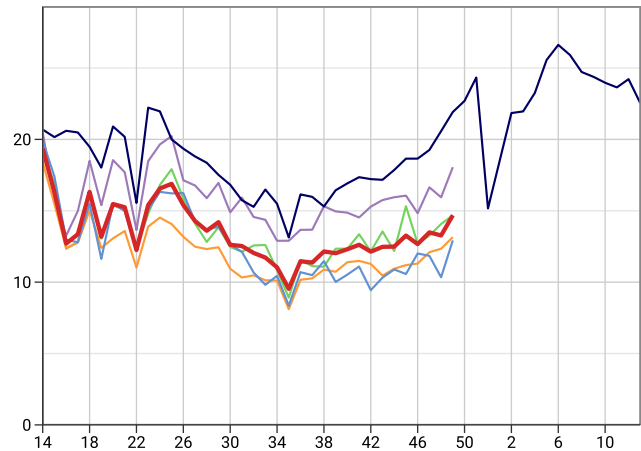
### 3. Environmentally Sensitive Disorders

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

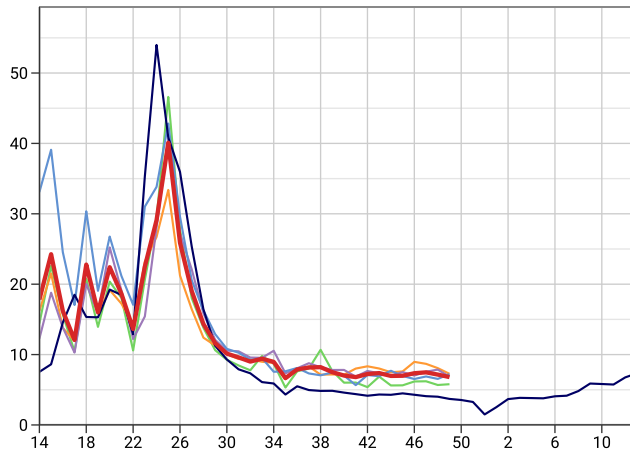
**Asthma (ICD10: J45-J46)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



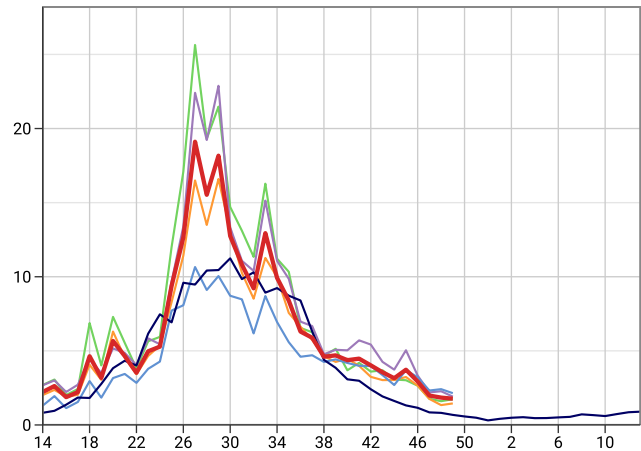
**Disorders of Conjunctiva (ICD10: H10-H13)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Hayfever / Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



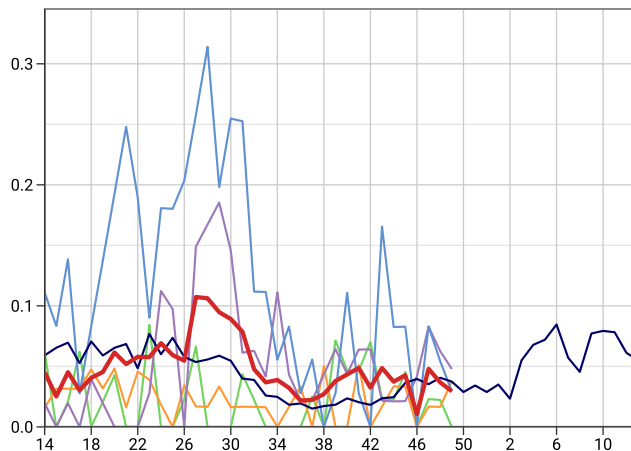
**Infected Insect Bites**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



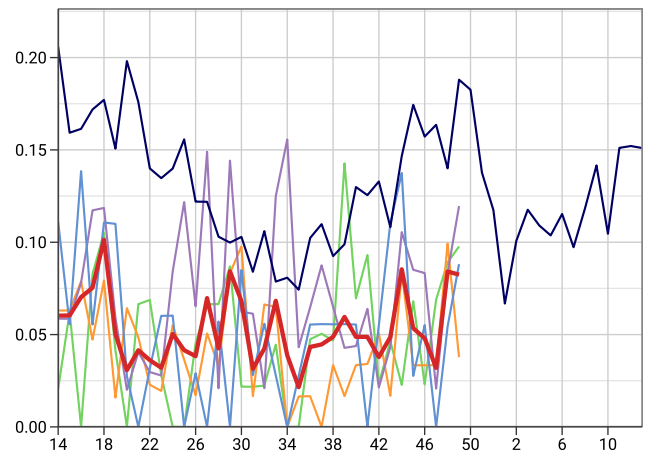
## 4. Vaccine Sensitive Disorders

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

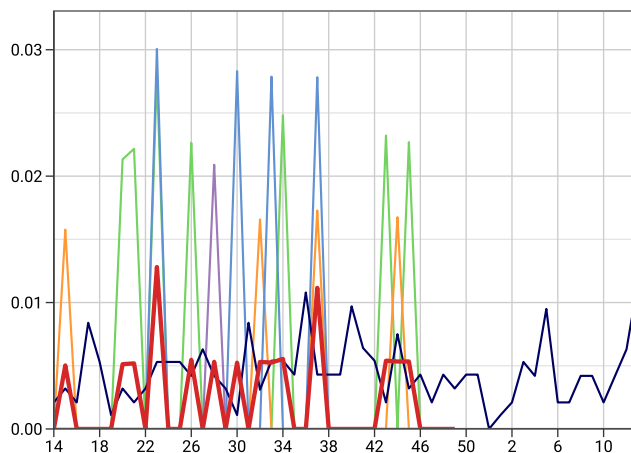
**Measles (ICD10: B05)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



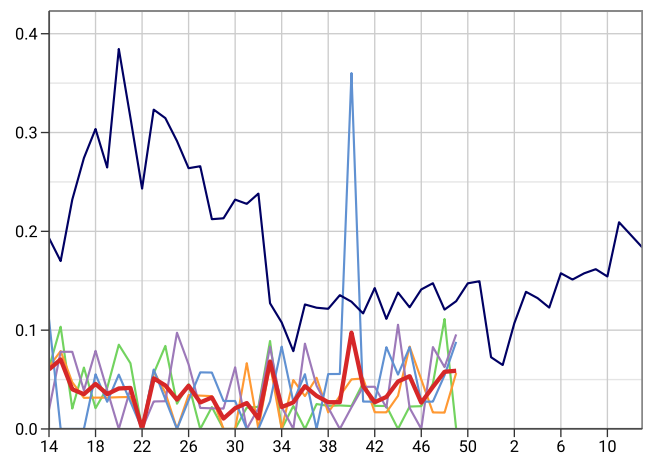
**Mumps (ICD10: B26)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Rubella (ICD10: B06)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



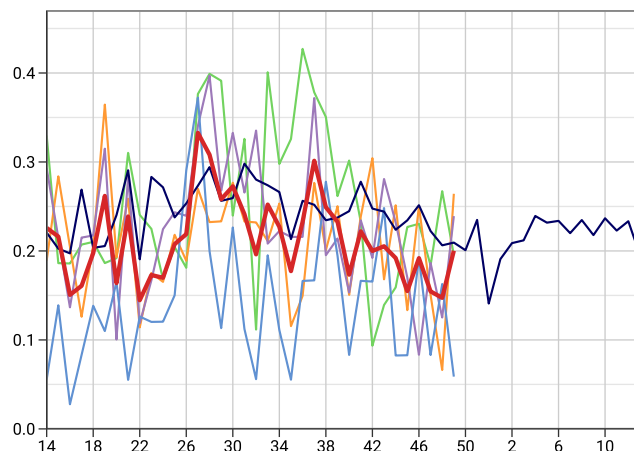
**Whooping Cough (ICD10: A37)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



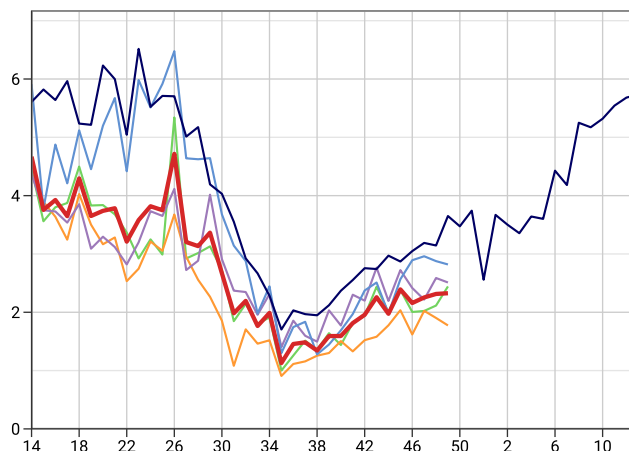
## 5. Skin Contagions

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

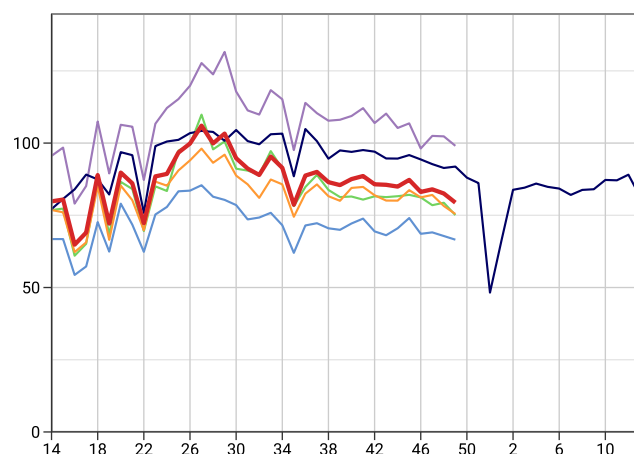
**Bullous Dermatoses (ICD10: L10-L14)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



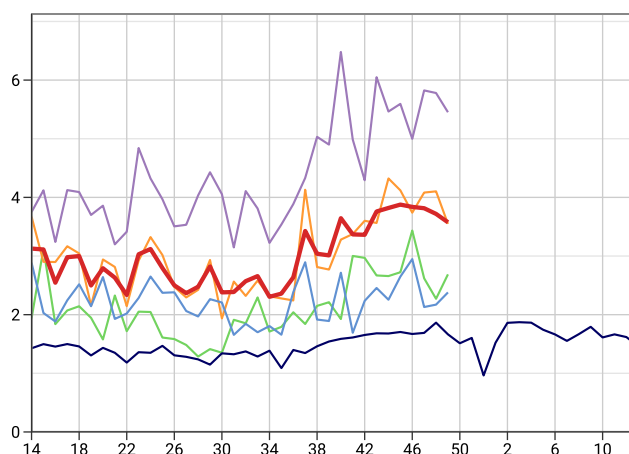
**Chickenpox (ICD10: B01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



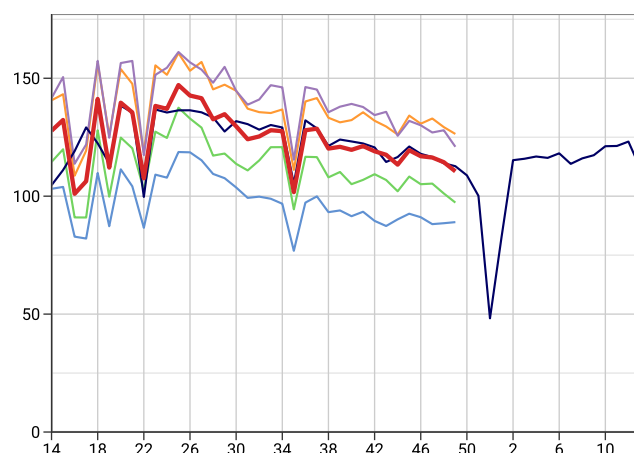
**Infections of Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue (ICD10: L00-L08)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



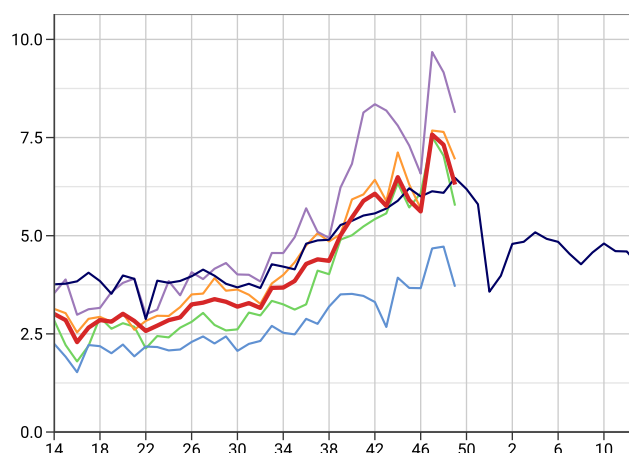
**Scabies (ICD10: B86)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Symptoms of Skin & Integument Tissue (ICD10: R20-R23),**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



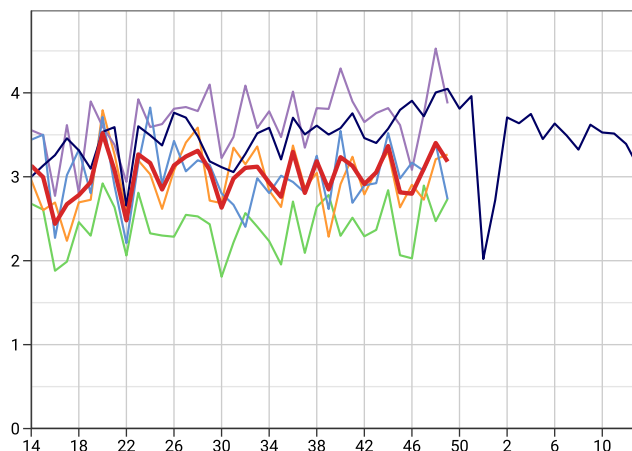
**Impetigo (ICD10: L01)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



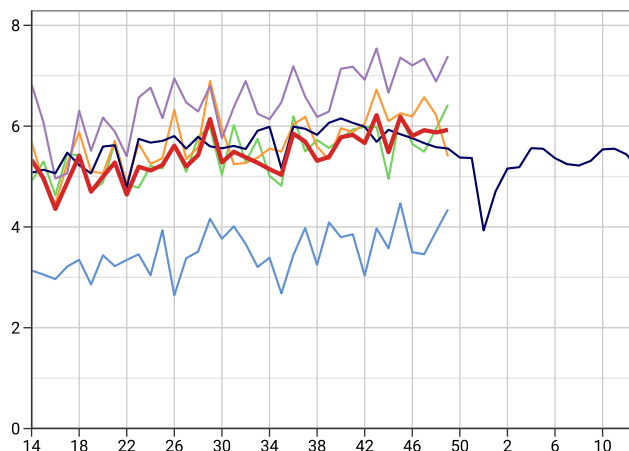


■ National 
 ■ 5 Year Avg 
 ■ London 
 ■ North 
 ■ South 
 ■ Midlands And East

**Herpes Simplex (ICD10: B00)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average

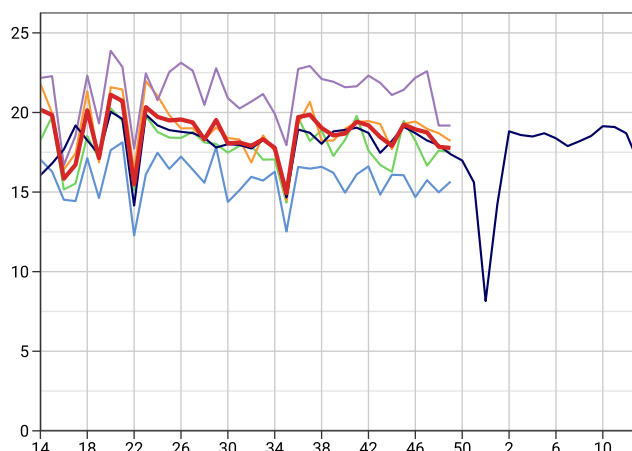


**Herpes Zoster (ICD10: B02)**  
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average

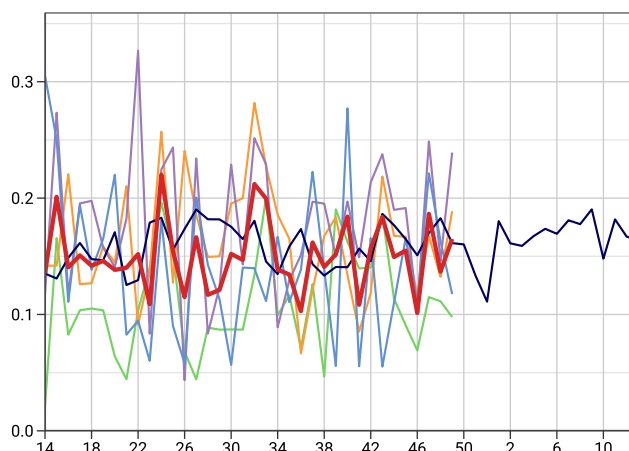


## 6. Disorders Affecting the Nervous System

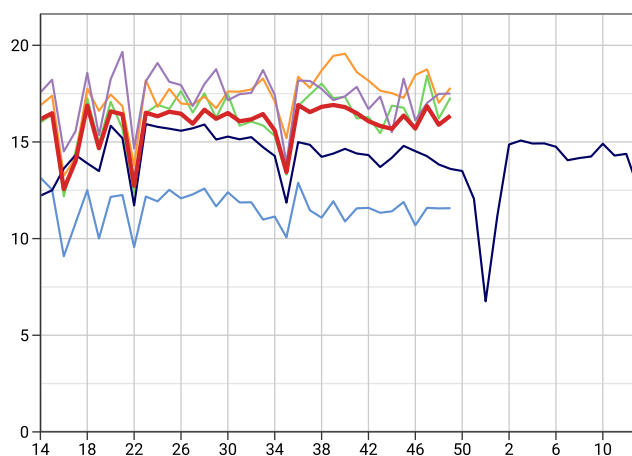
**Disorders of Peripheral Nervous System (ICD10: G50-G64,G70-G72), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average**



**Meningitis/Encephalitis (ICD10: A170-A171,A390,A38-A85,A87,G00-G05), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average**



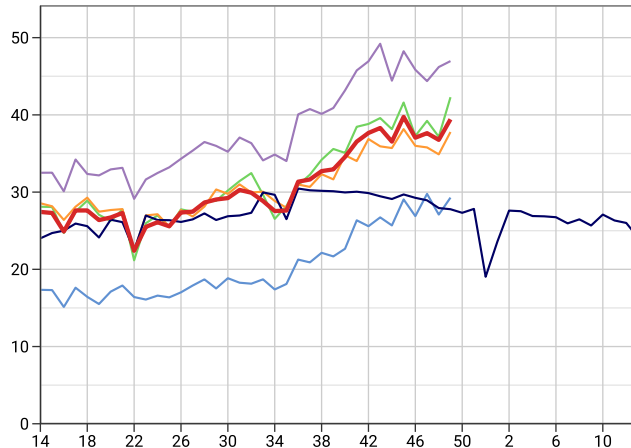
**Symptoms of Nervous & Musculoskeletal Systems (ICD10: R25-R29), Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average**



## 7. Genitourinary System Disorders

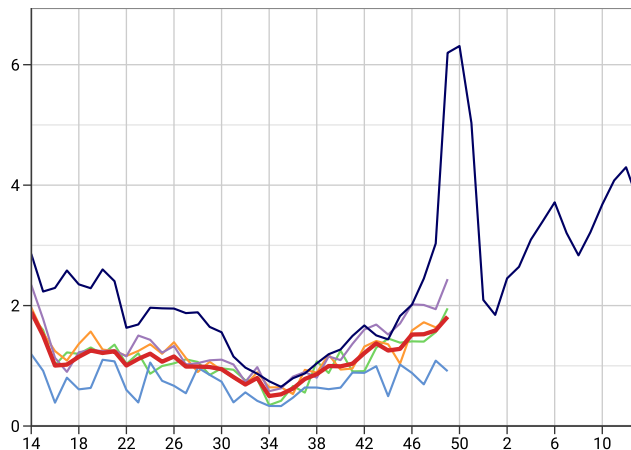
■ National 
 ■ 5 Year Avg 
 ■ London 
 ■ North 
 ■ South 
 ■ Midlands And East

**Urinary Tract Infection/Cystitis (ICD10: N30,N390)**  
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26  
 compared with 5 year average

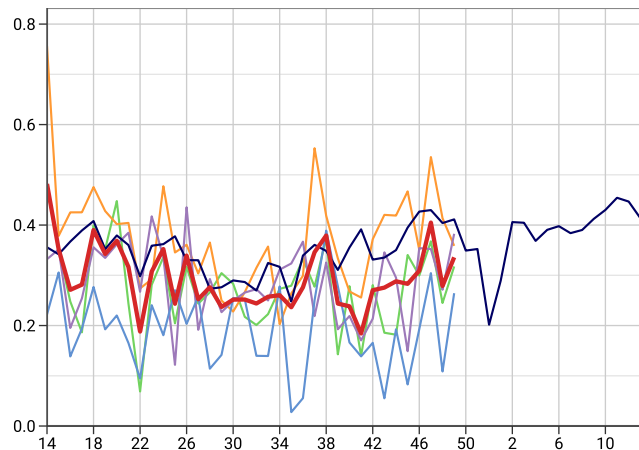


## 8. Other Disorders

**Strep Sore Throat, Scarletina and Peritonsillar Abscess (ICD10: A38,J020,J36),** Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



**Infectious Mononucleosis (ICD10: B27)**  
 Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26  
 compared with 5 year average



## 9. Tabular Summary by Disease

	Week 46	Week 47	Week 48	Week 49
Dates	10/11/2025 - 16/11/2025	17/11/2025 - 23/11/2025	24/11/2025 - 30/11/2025	01/12/2025 - 07/12/2025
Population	18,760,641	18,768,267	19,012,893	16,977,774
Practice Count	1,781	1,784	1,795	1,639

	Week 46		Week 47		Week 48		Week 49	
Disease	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count
Acute Bronchitis	1.8	347	2.0	376	2.3	440	2.8	470
Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI)	269.0	50,475	309.4	58,074	369.4	70,242	419.8	71,279
Allergic Rhinitis	7.4	1,379	7.5	1,403	7.2	1,361	6.8	1,155
Asthma	11.5	2,161	12.2	2,296	11.8	2,241	12.0	2,037
Bronchiolitis	2.5	477	4.2	787	5.1	961	5.7	973
Bullous Dermatoses	0.2	36	0.2	29	0.1	28	0.2	34
COVID-19	0.8	156	0.7	125	0.7	125	0.8	134
Chickenpox	2.2	405	2.3	423	2.3	440	2.3	395
Conjunctival Disorders	12.7	2,376	13.5	2,531	13.3	2,523	14.7	2,493
Croup	3.0	570	4.4	817	4.5	863	4.5	756
ECLD - COPD exacerbations	7.8	1,469	6.9	1,302	8.1	1,548	8.4	1,425
ECLD - asthma exacerbations	11.5	2,164	11.8	2,215	13.9	2,652	16.1	2,739
Exacerbations of chronic lung disease (ECLD)	19.2	3,608	18.7	3,517	21.9	4,164	24.5	4,153
Herpes Simplex	2.8	525	3.1	581	3.4	647	3.2	540
Herpes Zoster	5.8	1,089	5.9	1,111	5.9	1,117	5.9	1,006
Impetigo	5.6	1,054	7.6	1,422	7.3	1,391	6.3	1,070
Infected Insect Bites	2.9	551	2.0	372	1.8	351	1.8	301
Infectious Intestinal Diseases	7.3	1,370	7.3	1,373	7.2	1,370	7.5	1,271
Infectious Mononucleosis	0.3	58	0.4	76	0.3	53	0.3	57
Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	7.4	1,383	8.5	1,599	13.2	2,502	18.3	3,105
Laryngitis	0.9	162	1.0	194	1.3	252	1.3	227
Lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI)	85.6	16,050	94.3	17,701	109.1	20,751	128.3	21,777
Measles	0.0	2	0.0	9	0.0	7	0.0	5
Meningitis and Encephalitis	0.1	19	0.2	35	0.1	26	0.2	28
Mumps	0.0	9	0.0	6	0.1	16	0.1	14
Non-infective Enteritis and Colitis	2.8	518	2.8	529	2.7	512	2.8	471
Peripheral Nervous Disease	18.9	3,553	18.7	3,518	17.8	3,392	17.8	3,017
Pneumonia	2.9	553	3.4	640	3.3	629	4.2	713
Rubella	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Scabies	3.8	720	3.8	716	3.7	707	3.6	607
Sinusitis	19.8	3,718	21.1	3,952	25.4	4,837	28.3	4,798
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections	83.1	15,589	84.0	15,762	82.5	15,695	79.4	13,479
Strep Throat and Peritonsillar Abscess	1.5	285	1.5	286	1.6	302	1.8	308
Symptoms involving Skin and Integument Tissues	116.9	21,940	116.4	21,844	114.4	21,752	110.5	18,766
Symptoms involving musculoskeletal	15.7	2,945	16.9	3,163	15.9	3,021	16.4	2,777
Tonsillitis and Pharyngitis	43.8	8,223	51.0	9,569	59.1	11,244	64.0	10,869
Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI)	174.0	32,639	206.9	38,838	246.2	46,819	274.5	46,612
Urinary Tract Infections	37.0	6,950	37.6	7,063	36.8	6,990	39.4	6,694
Viral Hepatitis	0.2	39	0.3	55	0.3	52	0.3	44
Whooping Cough	0.0	5	0.0	8	0.1	11	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:

<b>Threshold to Medium</b>	Below 40% percentile
<b>Medium to High</b>	From 40% to below 90% percentile
<b>High to Very High</b>	From 90% to below 97.5% percentile
<b>Above Very High</b>	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://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22897919/>

### 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:

<b>North</b>	NHS North East and Yorkshire, and North West regions
<b>Midlands and East</b>	NHS East of England and Midlands regions
<b>South</b>	NHS South East and South West regions
<b>London</b>	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 tonsillitis 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](http://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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