# FLORIDA INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE



# Week 37: September 13th-19th, 2009

### Produced on: September 23, 2009

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### IN THIS ISSUE:

Ι.	Summarypa	age 1
П.	ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance Summary-Statewidepa	age 2
III.	ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance Summary-Regional	age 3
IV.	Florida Bureau of Laboratories Viral Surveillancepa	age 4
ν.	County Influenza Activity	age 5
VI.	Florida Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality Surveillance (FPIMSS) pa	age 6
VII.	Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)-Statewide	age 6
VIII.	Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)-Regionalpa	age 7
IX.	Notifiable Disease Reports-Novel H1N1-Hospitalizations	age 8
Χ.	Notifiable Disease Reports-Novel H1N1-Deathspa	age 9
XI.	Notifiable Disease Reports-Novel H1N1-Influenza-Associated Deaths Among Children pa	age 10

Weekly state influenza activity: Widespread



### I. SUMMARY

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The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) monitors influenza activity through multiple surveillance systems. This report is produced weekly in order to assist FDOH monitor the current influenza and novel H1N1 influenza situation. Data summarized in this report includes multiple sources: 1) emergency department syndromic surveillance as monitored through Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE); 2) laboratory data from the Bureau of Laboratories; 3) county influenza activity levels as reported by county health department epidemiologists; 4) the Florida Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality Surveillance System (FPIMSS); 5) Florida Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) providers; 6) novel H1N1 influenza notifiable disease data for special surveillance populations (deaths, hospitalized pregnant women, and those with life threatening illness) and pediatric influenza-associated mortality as reported in the Merlin system for notifiable disease surveillance; and 7) outbreaks or clusters of influenza-like illness (ILI) as reported through EpiCom. The criteria for influenza-like illness differ somewhat across the data systems.

These data sources indicate influenza-like illness activity increased sharply around week 34, coinciding with the start of the school year for students. ESSENCE data show a slight increase for week 37, but it is has not followed the same sharp increases we have seen over the past few weeks. ILINet did not show a net increase from last week, though the number of counties reporting widespread or localized activity did increase. The majority (98-100%) of the influenza viruses being detected are novel H1N1 influenza viruses. Virtually all infections due to the new virus are caused by strains that are sensitive to Tamiflu and Relenza.

Each week an activity code for the state as a whole is reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There are five possible categories: No Activity, Sporadic, Local, Regional, or Widespread. For week 37, Florida meets the CDC widespread activity definition: outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases in more than half the regions of the state with recent laboratory evidence of influenza in those regions. The CDC report can be viewed at <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm</a>

The graph below shows the progression of the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Florida influenza seasons as monitored by three of the seven surveillance systems: ILINet, Bureau of Laboratories viral surveillance, and county activity levels.



Find more information at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\_ctrl/epi/htopics/flu/index.htm

### II. ESSENCE SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY-STATEWIDE

Florida uses the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) for syndromic surveillance, which currently collects data from 121 hospitals. These data are processed into 11 different syndrome categories based on the patient's chief complaint. One of the categories is influenza-like illness (ILI), which is composed of chief complaints that include the words "influenza" or "flu", or either fever and cough or sore throat. The data are collected on a daily basis from participating hospital emergency departments (ED) across the state.

Overall activity for influenza-like illness remains well above expected levels for this time of year. In most areas it exceeds levels seen at the peak of normal influenza season, and exceeds the initial surge of worried well at week 17, 2009. The majority of the increase is occurring in younger age groups. These data are based on the patient's chief complaint and may not reflect the actual diagnosis.

Additional syndrome categories included below include asthma, fever or chills, lower respiratory infection, and pneumonia. These may represent more severe presentations of respiratory illness, or exacerbation of chronic respiratory illnesses, and are included to provide a comparison to the ILI category. The fever or chills category show significant increases in comparison to previous years, and closely resembles the ILI category. Asthma-related ED visits increased sharply at week 36, but has since declined to near expected values. Both lower respiratory infection and pneumonia categories do not show a difference from previous years.



## **III. ESSENCE SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY-REGIONAL**

The figures below describe emergency department chief complaint data from ESSENCE by Domestic Security Task Force Region (Region 2 does not have any participating facilities in ESSENCE and therefore is not displayed). All regions with reporting hospitals show very large increases in flu activity in the last few weeks coinciding with school opening. At the time novel H1N1 influenza was first identified (week 17, 2009), data from 5 of the 7 regions indicated large increases in patients presenting for care of influenza-like illness. Our interpretation of this peak is that it includes many individuals who we may classify as "worried well," others may be truly ill with a respiratory illness but in the absence of swine flu news may have stayed home to get better, and then of course some of these probably had some strain of influenza. The increase in ILI activity after week 21 are more likely to be associated with actual 2009 H1N1 influenza infection.

Hospitals Reporting Emergency Department Data to Florida ESSENCE, September 22, 2009 (N=121)



Week

- 2007-2008 Percent -

-2008-2009 Percent

2006-2007 Percent -



# **IV. BUREAU OF LABORATORIES VIRAL SURVEILLANCE**

2,500

2.000

1.500

1,000

500

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Number of Specimens Tested

As 4:30 p.m. September 22, 127 specimens with a lab event date during week 37 were tested by the Bureau of Laboratories. Of those, 76 (60%) were positive for influenza. Of the 76 positive for influenza, 76 (100%) were novel H1N1 influenza. Please note that lab event date\* is defined as the earliest of the following dates associated with the lab: date collected, date received by the laboratory, date reported, or date inserted.

Enhanced laboratory testing activities in response to novel H1N1 influenza activity was initiated in week 17. Increased testing lead to an increase in the total number of positive influenza isolates identified. Laboratory information is preliminary and may change as additional results are received. Totals from previous weeks will be adjusted to reflect correct specimen numbers.



Number of Specimens Tested by Florida Bureau of Laboratories and Percent Positive for Influenza by Lab Event Date\* 2008-2009 (Weeks 40-37) as Reported by 4:30 p.m. September 22, 2009

Week

Total Number Tested

Percent Positive





Week Alachua Baker	ay official	2 2																									, 2009																				
	ő Ö å		Broward Charlott	Citrus Clay	Collier Columbia	Miami-Dade	DeSoto	Duval	Escambia	Flagler Franklin	Glades	Gadsden Gilchrist	Gulf	Hamilton	Hardee Hendry	Hernando	Highlands	Hillsborough	Holmes Indian Divor	Jackson	afaye	Lake	Leon		Liberty	Madison Manatee	Marion	-E 1	Monroe Nassau	Okaloosa	Okechobee	Osceola	Palm Beach	Pasco	Pinellas Polk	Putnam	Santa Rosa		St. Johns	St. Lucie	Sumter	Suwannee	Laylor Union	Volusia	Wakulla Walton	Washington	Out of State Total
32 A 1	2	2	7	1	4	1	3	1 6		1		2					3	13		3		2	7 3	3		6	1					1 3	5	1	3 2	2	3		5 4	4			1	2		2	11
B																																															
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36 A 5	11		2	4 5		11		1 13	4	2		1		1	1	2	2	6		6 3	3	2	2 7	2			1	2			2	1 1	3		3 1	2			8 3	3 2	1			1	2		13
B																																															
37 A 2	9			2		7		4		4										3		1	7	4			4	1				2	2				1	-	10 3	3 6				4			7
B																																															

## V. COUNTY INFLUENZA ACTIVITY

As of 6:00 p.m. September 22, 2009, a total of 54 (80.6%) counties had reported their weekly level of influenza activity. *Please note that data reported by counties after the deadline are recorded but may not be included in the activity map below.* 

Activity Level	Number of counties	Counties
No Report	13	Calhoun, Columbia, Dixie, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Jefferson, Lee, Liberty, Madison, Monroe, Taylor, Volusia, Washington
No Activity	0	
Sporadic	10	Broward, Franklin, Glades, Hendry, Holmes, Leon, Okeechobee, Pasco, St. Johns, Sumter
Localized	25	Alachua, Bay, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Dade, Desoto, Escambia, Flagler, Gulf, Hamilton, Highlands, Indian River, Jackson, Lake, Levy, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Osceola, Pinellas, Putnam, Union, Wakulla, Walton
Widespread	19	Baker, Brevard, Charlotte, Collier, Duval, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lafayette, Manatee, Okaloosa, Orange, Palm Beach, Polk, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Lucie, Suwannee

Number of Counties Reporting Localized or

Map of Weekly County Influenza Activity for Week 37 (ending September 19, 2009) as Reported by 6:00 p.m. September 22, 2009





The number of counties reporting localized or widespread influenza activity has been increasing over the past weeks and is now at 39 (58%). This is unusual for this time of year and similar to what we expect during the normal winter influenza season

### COUNTY INFLUENZA ACTIVITY LEVEL DEFINITIONS

#### 0 = No Activity:

Overall clinical activity remains low with no laboratory confirmed cases<sup>†</sup> in the county.

#### 1 = Sporadic:

- a. Isolated cases of laboratory confirmed influenza<sup>†</sup> in the county.
- b. An ILI<sup>§</sup> outbreak in a single setting<sup>‡</sup> in the county. (No detection of decreased ILI<sup>§</sup>
- activity by surveillance systems\*)

#### 2 = Localized:

- a. ILI<sup>§</sup> activity detected by a *single* surveillance system\* within the county.
- ILI<sup>§</sup> activity has not been detected by *multiple* ILI surveillance systems.)
- b. Two or more outbreaks (ILI<sup>§</sup> or lab confirmed<sup>†</sup>) detected in a *single* setting<sup>‡</sup> in the county.

#### AND

c. Recent (within past three weeks) laboratory evidence<sup>†</sup> of influenza activity in the county.

#### 3 = Widespread:

- a. An increase in ILI<sup>§</sup> activity detected in ≥2 surveillance systems in the county.
- b. Two or more outbreaks ((ILI§ or laboratory confirmed<sup>†</sup>) detected in *multiple* settings<sup>‡</sup>
- in the county.
- No Report: (No report was received from the county at the time of publication)
- <sup>†</sup> Laboratory confirmed case = case confirmed by rapid diagnostic test, antigen detection, culture, or PCR.
- <sup>§</sup>ILI = Influenza-like illness, fever <sup>3</sup> 100°F AND sore throat and/or cough *in the absence* of another known cause.

\*ILI surveillance system activity can be assessed using a variety of surveillance systems including sentinel providers, school/workplace absenteeism, long-term care facility (LTCF) surveillance, correctional institution surveillance, hospital emergency department surveillance and laboratory surveillance.

# VI. FLORIDA PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZA MORTALITY SURVEILLANCE

The Florida Department of Health started the Florida Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality Surveillance System (FPIMSS) in 2006 in order to more timely assess the number of pneumonia and influenza deaths occurring in the state. This system was modeled on the CDC's 122 cities surveillance system. Each week, the vital statistics office in the 24 most populous counties in Florida manually reviews the death certificates received for the previous week. Any mention of pneumonia or influenza on the death certificate, with certain prescribed exceptions, is counted as a pneumonia or influenza death. These counts, by age group, are then reported to the state via the EpiGateway web-interface.

All 24 of the 24 participating counties reported data to FPIMSS for week 37 (ending September 19, 2009) as of 9:30 a.m. September 23, 2009. One hundred thirty-seven deaths were reported, which was above the expected deaths, but below the epidemic threshold. The majority of the deaths are in those aged 45 years and older.



All 24 of the 24 participating counties reported their data for week 37. The 137 deaths for week 37 was above the expected number of deaths, but below the epidemic threshold.



All 24 of the 24 participating counties reported their data for week 36 as of 9:30 a.m. September 23, 2009. The highest number of pneumonia and influenza deaths has occurred in those over 45.

# VII. ILINET INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS-STATEWIDE

During week 37, 4.56% of patient visits to Florida ILINet sentinel providers were due to ILI\*. This percentage is above the statewide threshold for moderate activity of 2.98%\*\*. The percentage of visits ranged from 2.44% in the Southeast to 10.17% in the Northcentral region. As of 8:00 a.m. September 23, 2009, only 46.8% of ILINet sentinel providers across the state had reported. Numbers will change as more reports are received. Data from previous weeks will be updated as additional reports are received.



\*ILI = Influenza-like illness, fever >100°F AND sore throat and/or cough *in the absence* of another known cause. \*\*The 2008—09 threshold for moderate activity is calculated from ILINet data. The threshold for moderate activity is the mean percentage of patient visits for ILI during influenza weeks for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations. Only weeks with 10% or greater of laboratory specimens testing positive are included in the calculation. Due to wide variability in regional level data, it is not appropriate to apply the state baseline to regional data. ^There was no week 53 during the 2006-07 and 2007-08 seasons; the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of weeks 52 and 1.

### Page 6

### VIII. ILINET INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS-REGIONAL

The table below shows the weighted ILI activity by Domestic Security Task Force Region (RSTDF) as reported by Florida ILINet physicians for week 37 (ending September 19, 2009). The graphs below include ILI activity as reported by sentinel physicians for the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 seasons through week 37.



Percentage of Visits for Influenza-Like Illness Reported by ILINet Sentinel Providers by RSTDF Region, 2006-07 (Weeks 40-20), 2007-08 (Weeks 40-20), 2008-09 (Weeks 40-37) as Reported by 8:00 a.m. September 23, 2009 Please refer to table above for the number of providers reporting for each region. Data should be interpreted with caution, due to the low number of providers reporting in some regions. Numbers will change as more data are received. All regions except Region 1 (Northwest) are seeing large increases in activity.





Page 7

# IX. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE REPORTS: NOVEL H1N1 HOSPITALIZATIONS

Although the number of cases, hospitalizations\*, and deaths continues to rise, there is no evidence that the virus has changed to a more virulent form, either in Florida, the rest of the US, or elsewhere in the world.

\*Please note that under the current surveillance strategy, case reporting is only required for confirmed or probable cases of novel H1N1 influenza in a) patients with life-threatening illness, b) pregnant women who are hospitalized, and c) deaths. Use caution when interpreting hospitalization data, as only hospitalized patients with lifethreatening illness should be reported.

			d Novel H1N1 nding Septeml			Cases by Coun	lizations* in Novel ity, 5:00 p.m. Septe September 19, 200	ember 15, 2009
County	Number	Percent	County	Number	Percent	County	Number	Percent
Alachua	6	0.83	Levy	1	0.14	Brevard	3	23.08
Baker	1	0.14	Manatee	5	0.69	Charlotte	1	7.69
Bay	1	0.14	Martin	3	0.41	Dade	2	15.38
Brevard	10	1.38	Monroe	4	0.55	Gadsden	1	7.69
Broward	65	8.98	Nassau	1	0.14	Hardee	1	7.69
Charlotte	3	0.41	Okaloosa	1	0.14	Orange	1	7.69
Citrus	9	1.24	Okeechobee	1	0.14	Santa Rosa	1	7.69
Clay	1	0.14	Orange	71	9.81	Seminole	1	7.69
Collier	3	0.41	Osceola	5	0.69	St. Lucie	2	15.38
Columbia	1	0.14	Palm Beach	62	8.56	Total	13	100.00
Dade	310	42.82	Pinellas	17	2.35			
Duval	31	4.28	Polk	12	1.66			
Escambia	2	0.28	Putnam	1	0.14			
Flagler	1	0.14	Santa Rosa	2	0.28			
Gadsden	4	0.55	Sarasota	5	0.69			
Hardee	1	0.14	Seminole	16	2.21			
Hendry	1	0.14	St. Johns	3	0.41			
Hernando	4	0.55	St. Lucie	5	0.69			
Highlands	4	0.55	Taylor	1	0.14			
Hillsborough	13	1.8	Volusia	11	1.52			
Lake	3	0.41	Walton	1	0.14			
Lee	22	3.04	Total	724	100			

	Hospitalizations* in all Reported Novel H1N1 Influenza Cases by Age as of Week 37 (Ending September 19, 2009)										
Age	Number	Percent	Rate (per million population)	NO underlying condition	ICU						
0-4	120	16.57	106.11	27 (22.50%)	28 (23.33%)						
5-24	207	28.59	43.16	47 (22.71%)	53 (25.6%)						
25-49	232	32.04	37.42	67 (28.88%)	94 (40.52%)						
50-64	124	17.13	33.80	15 (12.10%)	59 (47.58%)						
65+	41	5.66	12.35	2 (4.88%)	9 (21.95%)						
Total	724	100.00	37.88	158 (21.82%)	243 (33.56%)						

Hospitalizations\* in all Pregnant Women with Novel H1N1 Influenza Cases by Underlying Medical Condition Status, as of Week 37 (Ending September 19, 2009)

Underlying medical condition status	Number	Percent	ICU	Death
No underlying medical condition	42	60.87	15 (35.71%)	2 (4.76%)
Underlying medical condition	12	17.39	3 (25.00%)	3 (25.00%)
Unknown	15	21.74	4 (26.67%)	0 (0.00%)
Total	69	100.00	22 (31.88%)	5 (7.24%)

### X. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE REPORTS: NOVEL H1N1 DEATHS

All deaths in reported laboratory-confirmed novel H1N1 influenza cases are presented in the following tables. Note that novel H1N1 influenza may not necessarily be the attributable cause of death in all cases.

Approximately 25% of deaths are in people with no clear underlying medical condition.

89 deaths in those with laboratory-confirmed novel H1N1 influenza reported as of September 19, 2009 2 deaths were newly reported (5:00 p.m. September 15, 2009 to September 19, 2009)

Deaths in Novel H1N as of Week 37 (Er		
County	Number	Percent
Alachua	2	2.25
Brevard	1	1.12
Broward	8	8.99
Charlotte	1	1.12
Clay	1	1.12
Dade	22	24.72
Duval	8	8.99
Hernando	1	1.12
Highlands	1	1.12
Hillsborough	6	6.74
Lee	3	3.37
Monroe	1	1.12
Orange	6	6.74
Osceola	1	1.12
Palm Beach	6	6.74
Pinellas	4	4.49
Polk	3	3.37
Sarasota	3	3.37
Seminole	2	2.25
St. Lucie	4	4.49
Taylor	1	1.12
Volusia	3	3.37
Walton	1	1.12
Total	89	100

Recent Deaths in Novel H1N1 Influenza Cases by County, 5:00 p.m. September 15, 2009 to September 19, 2009									
County	Number	Percent							
Duval	1	50.00							
St. Lucie	1	50.00							
Total	2	100.00							

Deaths in Novel H1N1 Influenza Cases by Age as of Week 37 (Ending September 19, 2009)

Number	Percent	Rate (per million population)		derlying dition
3	3.37	2.65	0	(0.00%)
12	13.48	2.50	8	(66.67%)
35	39.33	5.65	11	(31.43%)
33	37.08	9.00	5	(15.15%)
6	6.74	1.81	0	(0.00%)
89	100	4.66	24	(26.97%)
	3 12 35 33 6	12 13.48   35 39.33   33 37.08   6 6.74	NumberPercent population)33.372.651213.482.503539.335.653337.089.0066.74	Number Percent (per million population) NO ur cor   3 3.37 2.65 0   12 13.48 2.50 8   35 39.33 5.65 11   33 37.08 9.00 5   6 6.74 1.81 0

### XI. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE REPORTS: INFLUENZA-ASSOCIATED DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN (<18 YEARS) & POST-INFLUENZA INFECTION ENCEPHALITIS

There have been a total of 8 influenza-associated deaths among those <18 years of age reported for the 2008-2009 influenza season, as of week 37 (ending September 19, 2009). No post-influenza infection encephalitis cases have been reported. Of the 8 influenza-associated deaths, 6 were due to novel influenza H1N1. None of the 8 cases was reported during week 37.

Number of Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths and Post-Influenza Encephalitis Cases as Reported in Merlin from Week 40, 2008 to Week 37 , 2009							
Reportable Disease	Number of Cases						
Influenza-associated deaths among those <18 years of age (confirmed, probable, suspect)	8*						
Post-influenza infection encephalitis	0						

\*One of these cases is suspect; the remaining 7 are confirmed. Please note that status of reported cases are subject to change upon receipt of additional information.

Influenza-associated deaths among those <18 years of age and/or post-influenza infection encephalitis are reportable; case report forms can be accessed at: <u>http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\_ctrl/epi/topicscrforms.htm</u>.

# XII. REPORTS OF INFLUENZA OR INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) OUTBREAKS

**228 confirmed or suspect outbreaks of novel influenza A (H1N1) have been reported as of September 19, 2009** Schools have been the most heavily impacted setting with 89 (39.0%) of the 228 outbreaks. Summer camps accounted for 50 (21.9%) of the outbreaks, daycares accounted for 17 (7.5%), and correctional facilities accounted for 16 (7.0%).

**36 confirmed or suspect outbreaks of novel influenza A (H1N1) reported during week 37 (ending September 19, 2009)** During week 37, 36 new confirmed or suspect outbreaks of ILI and novel influenza A H1N1 were reported via EpiCom (please note that outbreaks may not have occurred during the week in which they were posted). These outbreaks occurred in 32 schools, three day cares, and a special needs facility.

County Health Department epidemiologists should report Influenza and ILI outbreaks via the Influenza Forum in EpiCom at: <u>https://fdens.com/vabtrs/GateStart.aspx</u>

		Com by County mber 19, 2009)
County	Number	Percent
Alachua	1	0.4%
Baker	2	0.9%
Bradford	1	0.4%
Brevard	1	0.4%
Clay	2	0.9%
Collier	2	0.9%
Columbia	1	0.4%
Duval	7	3.1%
Escambia	42	18.4%
Glades	1	0.4%
Hendry	2	0.9%
Hillsborough	54	23.7%
Indian River	2	0.9%
Jackson	2	0.9%
Lake	3	1.3%
Madison	1	0.4%
Marion	2	0.9%
Martin	1	0.4%
Miami-Dade	11	4.8%
Nassau	7	3.1%
Okaloosa	3	1.3%
Orange	31	13.6%
Osceola	4	1.8%
Palm Beach	25	11.0%
Pasco	2	0.9%
Pinellas	1	0.4%
Polk	2	0.9%
Putnam	1	0.4%
Sarasota	7	3.1%
Seminole	5	2.2%
St. Johns	2	0.9%
Total	228	100.0%

Outbreaks Reporte as of Week 37 (Enc		
Setting	Number	Percent
Athletics	3	1.3%
Church	1	0.4%
College/University	3	1.3%
Community Center	5	2.2%
Correctional Facility	16	7.0%
Day Care	17	7.5%
Group/Foster Home	1	0.4%
Healthcare Facility	7	3.1%
Home	4	1.8%
Home/School	1	0.4%
Long-Term Care Facility	4	1.8%
Military Facility	2	0.9%
Out of State Trip	5	2.2%
School	89	39.0%
Special Needs Facility	10	4.4%
Summer Camps	50	21.9%
Work	7	3.1%
Work/Home	3	1.3%
Total	228	100.0%

Recent Outbreaks Reported via EpiCom by Setting during Week 37 (Ending September 19, 2009)		
Setting	Number	Percent
Special Needs Facility	1	2.8%
Day Care	3	8.3%
School	32	88.9%
Total	36	100.0%