**Introduction**

In the United States (US), epidemiological reporting of respiratory illness is typically focused on influenza, with one particular metric, Influenza-like Illness (ILI), used by healthcare professionals to monitor influenza seasonality. Data from the FilmArray Trend project has been used to create the Test Utilization Rate Normalized (TURN) metric, which may be a better indicator of broader respiratory disease in the US. FilmArray Trends is a cloud database that exports deidentified Respiratory Panel (RP) test results from FilmArray instruments at participating research sites. The RP Panel tests for 20 targets simultaneously, meaning utilization is a gage of severe respiratory illness rather than Influenza alone.

**Methods**

A count of tests performed on FilmArray instruments in a centered-three-week period is used to determine utilization. Due to increased adoption of the test at research sites, growth in the instrument base and in adoption of other FilmArray panels is adjusted for using a linear regression model. The coefficient of determination of each variable is used to weight the utilization rate. The median rate in a rolling one year window from the period of interest is used to normalize the rate. TURN is overlaid with ILI to show differences in the seasonality.

**Results**

TURN captures respiratory illness due to pathogens other than Influenza. Upticks in TURN in specific regions or sites can indicate outbreaks of respiratory illness that ILI cannot identify. TURN is also reported in real-time, while ILI is reported approximately two weeks after the completed period.

**Conclusion**

Healthcare professionals typically refer to Influenza season due to metrics like ILI, but TURN may be a better metric to monitor respiratory disease more broadly in the US. The real-time reporting of TURN may be beneficial to healthcare providers attempting to understand the disease dynamics in their communities.