Pan American Health Organization

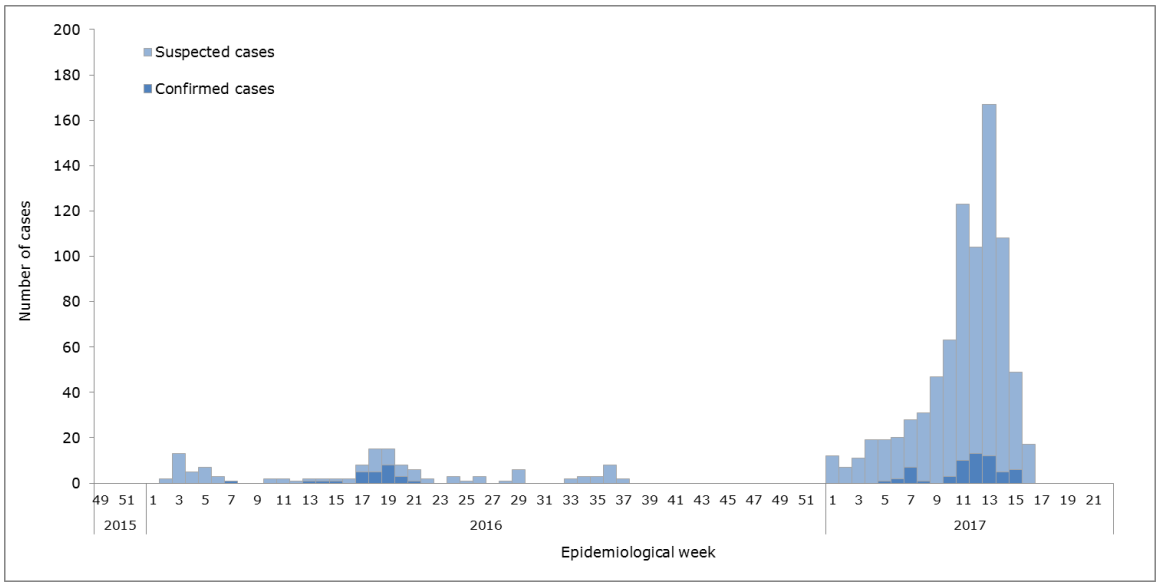
World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

# Zika-Epidemiological Report

# Argentina

28 June 2017

**Figure 1.** Suspected and confirmed Zika cases by epidemiological week (EW). Argentina. EW 49 of 2015 to EW 22 of 2017.




Source: Data provided by the Argentina Ministry of Health to PAHO/WHO[1]

## FIRST AUTOCHTHONOUS VECTOR-BORNE CASES

In epidemiological week (EW) 20 of 2016, the Argentina International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) notified PAHO/WHO of the detection of the first confirmed case of autochthonous vector-borne transmission of Zika virus in Tucuman Province, Northwestern Argentina.

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

As of EW 23 of 2017, confirmed and probable vector-borne Zika cases have been registered in four of Argentina's 24 provinces: Chaco, Formosa, Salta and Tucuman.[2] Additionally, one case of sexual transmission was reported in Cordoba Province in 2016.

## TREND

In 2016, low numbers of Zika cases were reported in Argentina, with an average of three suspected and confirmed cases per week.[1] Starting on EW 1 of 2017, increasingly higher numbers of cases

[1] Reported to PAHO/WHO from the Argentina International Health Regulation (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) on 8 May 2017.
[2] Argentina Ministry of Health. Integrated Surveillance Bulletin. EW 23 of 2017. Available at: http://www.msal.gob.ar/images/stories/boletines/boletin_integrado_vigilancia_N363-SE23.pdf

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were reported, with a peak being observed during EW 13 (n=167 cases) and transmission reported in four provinces. Starting on EW 15, which coincided with a period of lower vector-borne disease transmission, weekly numbers of suspected cases have gradually decreased. In the last 8 weeks (EW 9 to EW 16 of 2017), an average of 85 suspected and confirmed Zika cases per week has been reported.

## CIRCULATION OF OTHER ARBOVIRUSES

Between EW 1 and EW 21 of 2017, a total of 6,779 probable dengue cases (121 cases per 100,000), including 238 confirmed cases, have been reported. Localized outbreaks have been reported in Buenos Aires, Santa Fe and Chaco province where DEN-1 was identified. In 2016, Argentina health authorities reported a total of 79,455 probable dengue cases (188 cases per 100,000 population), including 41,211 confirmed cases.[3]

With regard to chikungunya, no autochthonous cases have been reported in 2017. However, in 2016, Argentina health authorities reported a total of 3,394 suspected chikungunya cases (8 cases per 100,000) and 322 confirmed cases.[4]

## ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN

As of EW 7 of 2017, the Argentina Ministry of Health reported seven confirmed cases of Zika among pregnant women.[5]

## ZIKA COMPLICATIONS

### ZIKA-VIRUS-ASSOCIATED GUILLAIN-BARRÉ SYNDROME (GBS)

As of EW 23 of 2017, no cases of Zika-virus-associated Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) or other neurological syndromes have been reported by the Argentina health authorities.[2]

### CONGENITAL SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

As of EW 23 of 2017, the Argentina Ministry of Health has reported five cases of congenital syndrome associated with Zika virus infection.[2] Of these, two were classified as autochthonous, while the remaining three as imported.

### DEATHS AMONG ZIKA CASES

As of EW 23 of 2017, no deaths among Zika virus disease cases have been reported by the Argentina health authorities.[2]

## NATIONAL ZIKA SURVEILLANCE GUIDELINES

The Argentina Ministry of Health national surveillance guidelines for Zika and its complications are available at:

http://www.msal.gob.ar/images/stories/epidemiologia/vigilancia/sivila/tutoriales/2016-zika-tutorial-notificacion-snvs.pdf

[3] PAHO/WHO. Data, Maps and Statistics. Number of reported cases of Dengue and Severe Dengue (SD) in the Americas by Country. Available at: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=3273&Itemid=40734&lang=en
[4] PAHO/WHO. Chikungunya – Number of Reported Cases of Chikungunya Fever in the Americas, by Country. Available at: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=5927&Itemid=40931&lang=en
[5] Argentina Ministry of Health. Integrated Surveillance Bulletin. EW 7 of 2017. Available at: http://www.msal.gob.ar/images/stories/boletines/boletin_integrado_vigilancia_N348-SE7.pdf

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## LABORATORY CAPACITY

The diagnosis and laboratory surveillance of Zika virus is performed trough the National Network of Public Health Laboratories, where molecular detection and differential diagnosis are carried out. The National Reference Laboratory is the *Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Virales Humanas "Dr. Julio I Maiztegui"* (INEHV), where the capacity for both molecular (RT-PCR) and serology (ELISA IgM and PRNT) is fully established.

## INFORMATION-SHARING

The Argentina Ministry of Health publishes a periodic epidemiological bulletin with information on Zika virus. At the time of this report, the latest information shared with PAHO/WHO was from EW 16 of 2017, while the latest epidemiological bulletin by the Argentina Ministry of Health was from EW 23 of 2017.