

Zika-Epidemiological Report

Bahamas

2 March 2017

FIRST AUTOCHTHONOUS VECTOR-BORNE CASE

In epidemiological week (EW) 32 of 2016, the Bahamas International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) notified PAHO/WHO of the detection of the first confirmed case of autochthonous transmission of Zika virus disease.¹

TREND

As of EW 7 of 2017, 25 laboratory-confirmed autochthonous Zika cases have been reported in the Bahamas.²

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Of the total confirmed cases, 23 have been reported from New Providence District and one case each was reported from Bimini District and the island of Eleuthera.²

CIRCULATION OF OTHER ARBOVIRUSES

In 2016, 82 probable cases of dengue (21 cases per 100,000 population) were identified up to EW 48.³ In 2015, 10 probable cases (3 cases per 100,000), including three laboratory-confirmed cases, were detected up to EW 52. In 2014, 146 probable cases (38 cases per 100,000), including 14 laboratory-confirmed cases, were reported up to EW 53.

In 2016, one confirmed and 75 suspected chikungunya cases (cumulative incidence rate of 19 cases per 100,000) were reported up to EW 20.⁴ In 2015, 10 laboratory-confirmed cases of chikungunya (3 cases per 100,000) were reported up to EW 17. In 2014, 92 laboratory-confirmed cases (24 cases per 100,000) were registered up to EW 51. No new information has been received since EW 20 of 2016.

ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN

As of EW 7 of 2017, no cases of Zika virus infection in pregnant women have been reported by the Bahamas health authorities.

ZIKA COMPLICATIONS

ZIKA-VIRUS-ASSOCIATED GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME (GBS)

As of EW 7 of 2017, no cases of Zika-virus-associated Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) or other neurological syndromes have been reported by the Bahamas health authorities.

¹ Reported to PAHO/WHO by the Bahamas IHR NFP on 10 August 2016.

² Bahamas Ministry of Health. Press Release. Zika update. 13 February 2017. Available at: <http://bit.ly/2lsneha>

³ PAHO/WHO. Data, Maps and Statistics. Number of reported cases of Dengue and Severe Dengue (SD) in the Americas. Available at: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=rdmore&cid=6290&Itemid=40734

⁴ PAHO/WHO. Chikungunya: Statistic Data. Number of reported cases of Chikungunya Fever in the Americas. Available at: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=5927&Itemid=40931&lang=en

CONGENITAL SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

As of EW 7 of 2017, no cases of congenital syndrome associated with Zika virus infection have been reported by the Bahamas health authorities.

DEATHS AMONG ZIKA CASES

As of EW 7 of 2017, no deaths among Zika virus cases have been reported by the Bahamas health authorities.

NATIONAL ZIKA SURVEILLANCE GUIDELINES

No information is available on national guidelines for Zika surveillance.

LABORATORY CAPACITY

Samples of suspected Zika cases are sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) in Trinidad and Tobago for molecular confirmation (real-time RT-PCR). Laboratory capacity building includes a PCR machine under purchasing process.

INFORMATION-SHARING

Information on the first confirmed case was provided by the Bahamas IHR NFP to PAHO/WHO in EW 32 of 2016. At the time of this report, the latest available information on the Bahamas Ministry of Health website was from EW 7 of 2017.