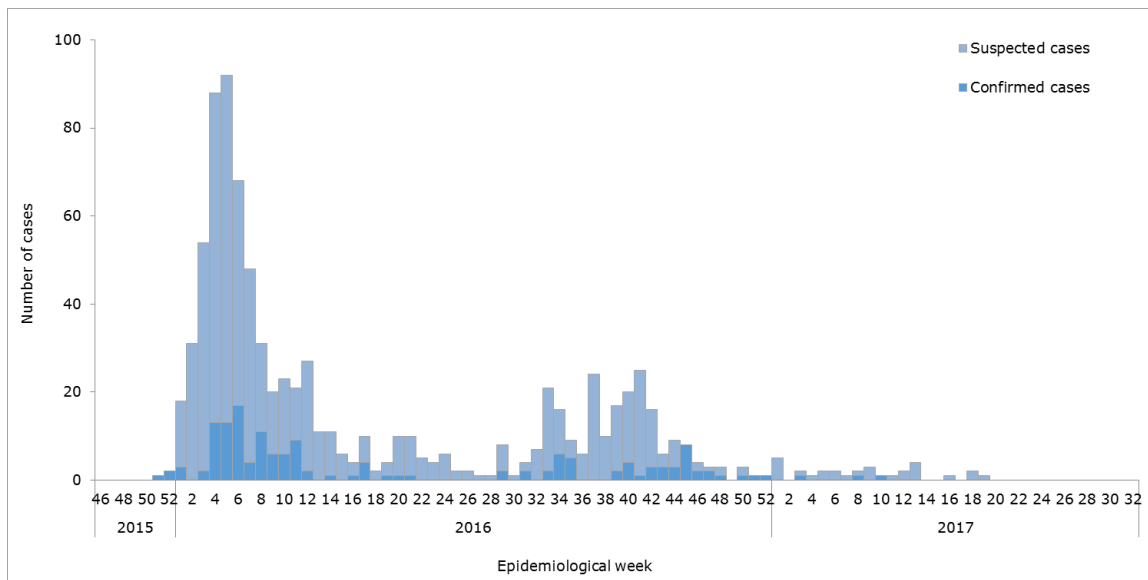


Zika-Epidemiological Report

Barbados

25 September 2017

Figure 1. Suspected and confirmed Zika cases by epidemiological week (EW). Barbados. EW 46 of 2015 to EW 32 of 2017.



Source: Data provided by the Barbados Ministry of Health to PAHO/WHO¹

FIRST AUTOCHTHONOUS VECTOR-BORNE CASES

In epidemiological week (EW) 2 of 2016, Barbados health authorities reported the detection of the first laboratory-confirmed case of autochthonous vector-borne transmission of Zika.

TREND

During 2016 (EW 1 to EW 12), relatively high numbers of Zika cases were registered in Barbados, with a peak of 92 suspected and confirmed cases being reported during EW 5 (**Figure 1**).¹ After this period and up to EW 19 of 2017, the detection decreased and has not exceeded 25 cases per week. Since then, no additional cases have been reported in the country (**Figure 1**). The last confirmed case was reported in EW 10 of 2017.

CIRCULATION OF OTHER ARBOVIRUSES

In 2017, as of EW 20, a total of 151 probable dengue cases (52 cases per 100,000 population) and 29 confirmed cases were reported in Barbados.² Between EW 1 and EW 40 of 2016, a total of 1,433

¹ Reported to PAHO/WHO from the Barbados International Health Regulation (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) on 22 August 2017.

probable dengue cases (492 cases per 100,000) and 407 confirmed cases (140 cases per 100,000) were reported.² This figure is higher than reported in the same period in 2015, when a total of 391 probable cases (134 cases per 100,000) and 119 confirmed cases (41 cases per 100,000) were reported.²

No information on the number of chikungunya cases reported in 2017 is available.³ In 2016 (EW 1 to EW 20), there were 86 suspected and no confirmed cases of chikungunya.³

ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN

As of EW 32 of 2017, Barbados health authorities have reported 32 pregnant women with confirmed Zika virus infection to PAHO/WHO.¹

ZIKA COMPLICATIONS

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

As of EW 32 of 2017, five cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) have been reported by Barbados health authorities to PAHO/WHO.¹

CONGENITAL SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

As of EW 32 of 2017, one confirmed and two probable cases of congenital syndrome associated with Zika virus have been reported by Barbados health authorities to PAHO/WHO.¹ According to the Barbados health authorities, an average of two to three microcephaly cases are registered every year in the country.⁴

DEATHS AMONG ZIKA CASES

As of EW 35 of 2017, no deaths among Zika cases have been reported by Barbados health authorities to PAHO/WHO.

NATIONAL ZIKA SURVEILLANCE GUIDELINES

The Barbados Ministry of Health has developed and disseminated clinical guidelines to guide general practitioners, obstetricians, and other health care providers in the clinical management of women who have Zika virus during pregnancy. These guidelines are not available on the Ministry of Health website.⁴

LABORATORY CAPACITY

Laboratory confirmation of Zika virus is performed by molecular detection (real time RT-PCR) at the *Leptospira* Laboratory, Barbados Ministry of Health.

INFORMATION-SHARING

At the time of this report, the latest Zika virus information shared with PAHO/WHO by the Barbados International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) was from EW 32 of 2017.

² 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

³ 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

⁴ Barbados Government Information Service. Ministry Of Health Statement: Two Babies Born With Microcephaly. EW 32 of 2016. Available at: http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/index.php?categoryid=9&p2_articleid=16341