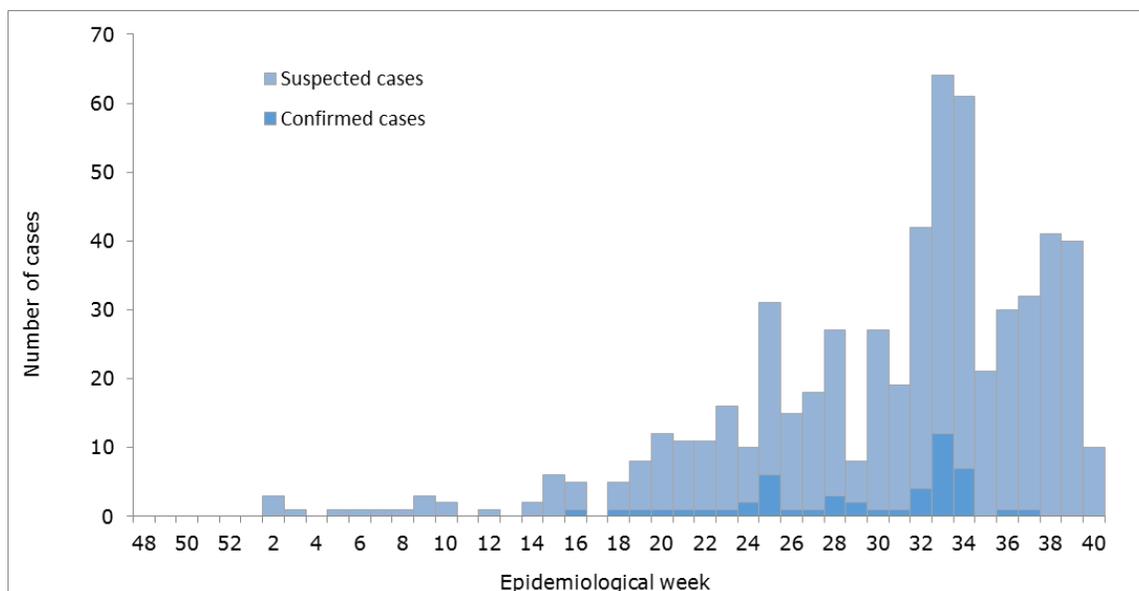


Zika-Epidemiological Report

Belize

2 November 2016

Figure 1. Suspected and confirmed Zika virus disease cases. Belize. EW 48 of 2015 to EW 40 of 2016



Source: Data provided by the Belize IHR NFP and reproduced by PAHO/WHO¹

FIRST AUTOCHTHONOUS VECTOR-BORNE CASES

In epidemiological week (EW) 20 of 2016, the Belize International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) notified PAHO/WHO of the detection of two autochthonous cases of Zika virus in Belize City and Cayo District. This followed a previous report in EW 14 of 2016 by the United States of America health authorities of an imported case of Zika virus disease with travel history to Belize.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

No information on the geographic distribution of Zika cases is available.

TREND

As of EW 40 of 2016, 49 confirmed cases and 537 suspected cases of Zika virus were reported by the Belize IHR NFP. The main increase of Zika cases was registered between EW 31 to EW 34 of

2016 with a peak in EW 33 (**Figure 1**)¹. Since then, a decrease in cases has been observed. However, this trend could change due to a delay in reporting.

CIRCULATION OF OTHER ARBOVIRUSES

According to the Belize Ministry of Health, the number of confirmed dengue cases increased between 2009 and 2012, from 1,370 to 2,041 respectively. However, the epidemic curve is not available.²

ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN

The case from Cayo District reported in EW 20 of 2016 was 22 weeks pregnant at the time of diagnosis.

ZIKA COMPLICATIONS

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

As of EW 41 of 2016, no cases of Zika-virus-associated Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) or other neurological syndromes have been reported by the Belize Ministry of Health.

CONGENITAL SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

As of EW 41 of 2016, no cases of congenital syndrome associated with Zika virus infection have been reported by the Belize Ministry of Health.

DEATHS AMONG ZIKA CASES

As of EW 41 of 2016, no deaths among Zika cases have been reported by the Belize Ministry of Health.

NATIONAL ZIKA SURVEILLANCE GUIDELINES

An epidemiological alert was issued by the Belize Ministry of Health to outline steps for increased Zika virus surveillance. More information is available at:

http://health.gov.bz/www/attachments/article/878/PAPU%20Newsletter%202016_Volume%202,%20Issue%201.pdf

LABORATORY CAPACITY

Samples from suspected cases of Zika virus disease are sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) for laboratory testing. In addition, samples are sent to the *Instituto de Diagnóstico y Referencia* (InDRE) in Mexico for molecular confirmation.

INFORMATION-SHARING

Official preliminary data was shared by the Belize IHR NFP on EW 20 of 2016. At the time of this report, the latest epidemiological bulletin by the Belize Ministry of Health was from EW 40 of 2016.

¹ Reported to PAHO/WHO from Belize International Health Regulation (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) on 11 October 2016.

² Belize Ministry of Health. Belize Health Sector Strategic Plan 2014- 2024. April 2014. Available at:

<http://health.gov.bz/www/attachments/article/801/Belize%20Health%20Sector%20Strategic%20Plan%202014-2024-April%202014.pdf>