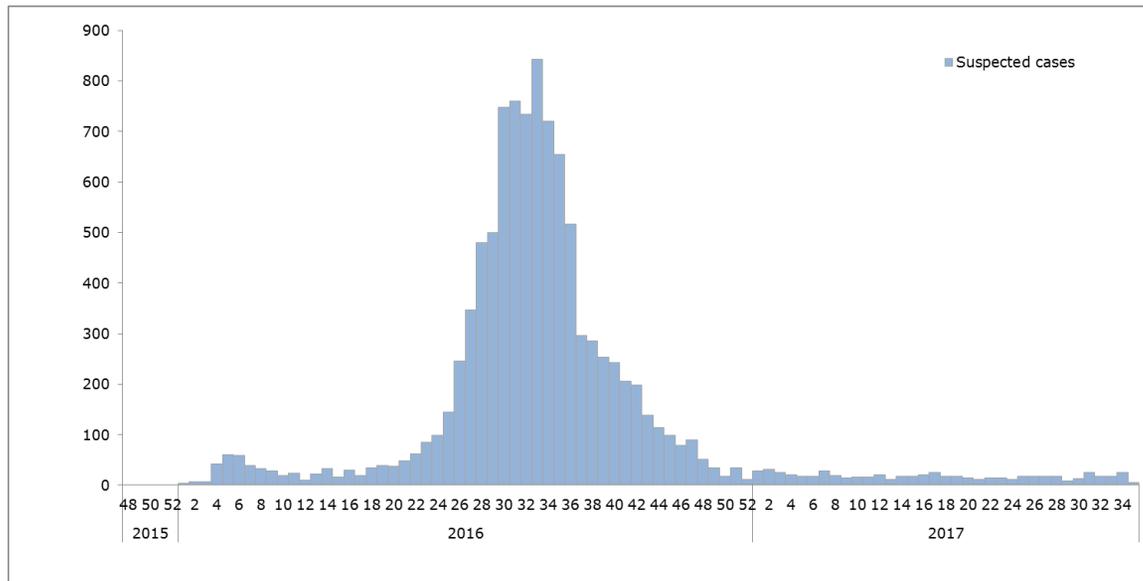


Zika-Epidemiological Report Nicaragua

25 September 2017

Figure 1. Suspected Zika cases. Nicaragua. EW 48 of 2015 to EW 35 of 2017.



Source: Data published by the Nicaragua Ministry of Health and reproduced by PAHO/WHO¹

FIRST AUTOCHTHONOUS VECTOR-BORNE CASES

In epidemiological week (EW) 4 of 2016, the Nicaragua International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) notified PAHO/WHO of the detection of the country's first cases of autochthonous vector-borne transmission of Zika, which were reported from Managua Department in Western Nicaragua.²

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

No information is available on the geographic distribution of cases.

TREND

During 2017, transmission of Zika continues in Nicaragua with less intensity compared to the large outbreak reported in 2016 when a peak was reached in EW 33 with over 800 Zika cases being reported (**Figure 1**). As of EW 35 of 2017, a total of 633 suspected and five confirmed cases of Zika have been reported in Nicaragua, compared to the 7,172 suspected and 1,696 confirmed Zika

¹ Nicaragua Ministry of Health. 4 September 2017. Health Situation Report 35. Available at: <http://www.minsa.gob.ni/index.php/direccion-general-de-vigilancia-de-la-salud-publica/sala-de-situacion>

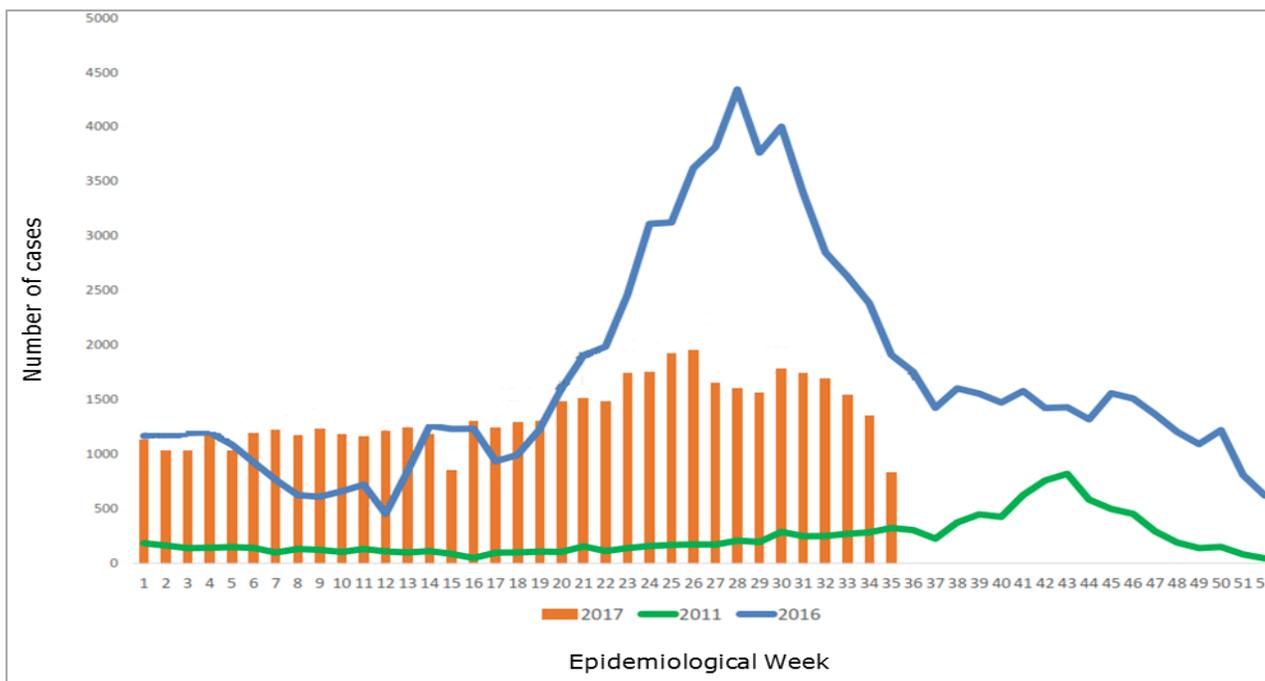
² Reported to PAHO/WHO by the Nicaragua IHR NFP on 27 January 2016.

cases reported for the same period in 2016.³ This corresponds to a 91% and 99% reduction in suspected and confirmed Zika cases respectively in 2017. In the last 8 weeks (EW 28 to EW 35), an average of 16 Zika suspected cases per week has been reported.

CIRCULATION OF OTHER ARBOVIRUSES

As of EW 35 of 2017, a total of 47,711 suspected and 1,781 confirmed dengue cases have been reported. This represents a 28% and 65% reduction in suspected and confirmed dengue cases in 2017.³ (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2: Number of suspected dengue cases. Nicaragua. 2011, 2016 and 2017 (up to EW 35 of 2017).

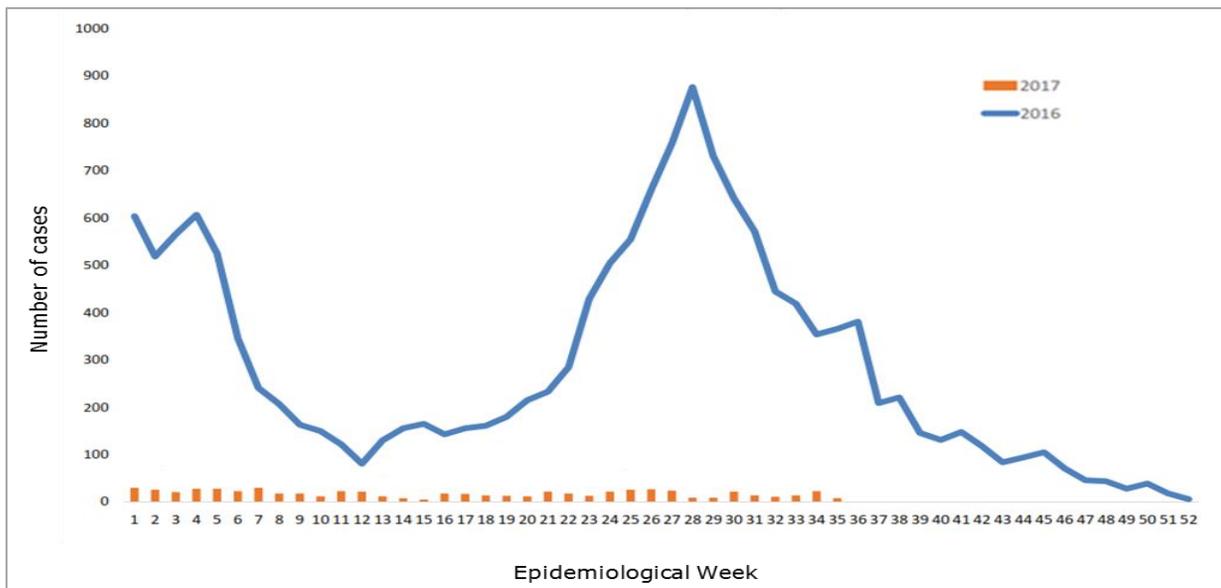


Source: Data published by the Nicaragua Ministry of Health and reproduced by PAHO/WHO³

With regards to chikungunya, a total of 640 suspected and 18 confirmed cases have been reported up to EW 35 of 2017, compared to the 13,272 suspected and 634 confirmed cases reported for the same period in 2016³. This represents a 95% and 97% reduction in suspected and confirmed chikungunya cases respectively in 2017 (**Figure 3**).

³ Nicaragua Ministry of Health. Epidemiological Bulletin 35. Available at: <http://www.minsa.gob.ni/index.php/repository/Descargas-MINSA/Direcci%C3%B3n-General-Vigilancia-de-la-Salud-P%C3%B3blica/Boletines/Boletines-2017/>

Figure 3: Number of suspected chikungunya cases. Nicaragua. 2016-2017 (up to EW 35 of 2017).



Source: Data published by the Nicaragua Ministry of Health and reproduced by PAHO/WHO³

ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN

Information on Zika virus in pregnant women is only available up to EW 1 of 2017. A total of 1,117 pregnant women have been confirmed for Zika virus infection in Nicaragua up to EW 1 of 2017.⁴

ZIKA COMPLICATIONS

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

As of EW 35 of 2017, no cases of Zika-virus-associated Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) or other neurological syndrome have been reported by Nicaragua health authorities to PAHO/WHO.

CONGENITAL SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

As of EW 50 of 2016, two confirmed cases of congenital syndrome associated with Zika virus infection were reported by Nicaragua health authorities to PAHO/WHO.⁵

DEATHS AMONG ZIKA CASES

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

NATIONAL ZIKA SURVEILLANCE GUIDELINES

No information is available on the national guidelines for Zika surveillance.

⁴ Nicaragua Ministry of Health. 2 January 2017. Available at:

<http://www.minsa.gob.ni/index.php/component/content/article/106-noticias-2017/3225-minsa-presenta-resultados-del-plan-de-lucha-anti-epidemica-durante-primeros-dias-del-2017>

⁵ El 19, Nicaragua's digital portal for news. Rosario in Multinoticias. 21 November 2016. Available at:

<https://www.el19digital.com/articulos/ver/titulo:49165-rosario-en-multinoticias-21-de-noviembre-2016>

LABORATORY CAPACITY

Laboratory confirmation of suspected cases of Zika virus is performed by molecular detection (real time RT-PCR), including in house multiplex platforms, by the *Centro Nacional de Diagnóstico y Referencia* (CNDR) at the Nicaragua Ministry of Health. Currently, CNDR is also implementing the serology diagnosis based on ELISA IgM detection.

INFORMATION-SHARING

In 2016, information on Zika used to be available through the press releases published by the Nicaragua information service website (El 19, Nicaragua's digital portal for news), on a weekly basis. In 2017, information on Zika virus is available via the Nicaragua Ministry of Health Epidemiological Bulletin³ and the Health Situation Report¹. At the time of this report, the latest available Zika information for both the epidemiological bulletin and the health situation report was from EW 35 of 2017.