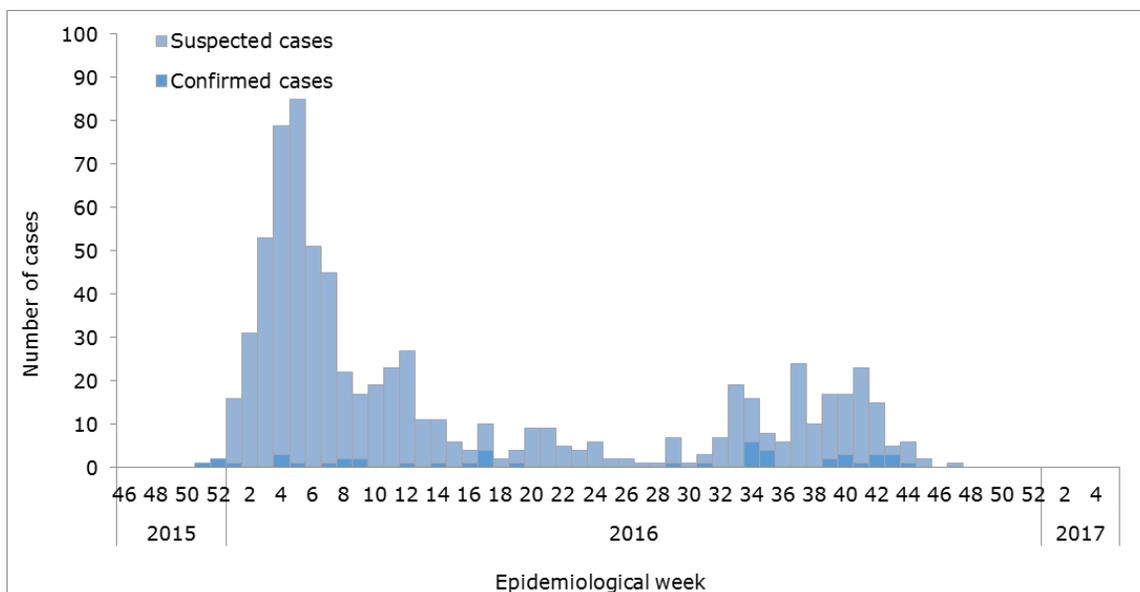


Zika-Epidemiological Report

Barbados

27 February 2017

Figure 1. Suspected and confirmed Zika cases by epidemiological week (EW). Barbados. EW 46 of 2015 to EW 5 of 2017.



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

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 virus.

TREND

The main increase in Zika cases was registered at the beginning of 2016, between EW 1 and EW 5. After a decline in cases in EW 6, sporadic increases were observed with the most recent increase being observed between EW 38 and EW 41 of 2016. Barbados has reported three cases between EW 45 and EW 49 of 2016 (**Figure 1**).

CIRCULATION OF OTHER ARBOVIRUSES

As of EW 40 of 2016, a total of 1,433 probable cases (incidence rate of 492 cases per 100,000 population) and 407 confirmed cases of dengue (140 cases per 100,000) have been reported.¹ This

¹ PAHO/WHO. Data, Maps and Statistics. Number of reported cases of Dengue and Severe Dengue (SD) in the Americas by Country. EW 52 of 2016. Available at: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=rdmore&cid=6290&Itemid=40734

represents an increase in cases compared to the cumulative total in 2015, when 391 probable cases (134 cases per 100,000) and 119 confirmed cases (41 cases per 100,000) were detected.² In 2017, no cases of dengue have been reported.³

Between EW 1 and EW 20 of 2016, there were 86 suspected cases of chikungunya and no confirmed cases.⁴ In 2017, no cases of chikungunya have been reported.⁵

ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN

As of EW 6 of 2016, Barbados reported seven pregnant women with confirmed Zika virus infection.⁶ No further information is available after this time.

ZIKA COMPLICATIONS

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

As of EW 49 of 2016, four cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) or other neurological syndromes have been reported by Barbados health authorities. None of the cases have been laboratory-confirmed for Zika virus.

CONGENITAL SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

As of EW 49 of 2016, the Barbados Ministry of Health (MOH) reported two suspected cases of congenital syndrome associated with Zika virus infection. The babies were born to a 32-year-old woman on 3 August. According to the MOH, Barbados registers an average of two to three microcephaly cases every year.⁷

DEATHS AMONG ZIKA CASES

As of EW 7 of 2016, no deaths among Zika cases have been reported by Barbados health authorities.

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.³

² PAHO/WHO. Data, Maps and Statistics. Number of reported cases of Dengue and Severe Dengue (SD) in the Americas by Country. EW 52 of 2015. Available at:

http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=rdmore&cid=6290&Itemid=40734

³ PAHO/WHO. Data, Maps and Statistics. Number of reported cases of Dengue and Severe Dengue (SD) in the Americas by Country. EW 6 of 2017. Available at:

http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=rdmore&cid=6290&Itemid=40734

⁴ PAHO/WHO. Chikungunya – Number of Reported Cases of Chikungunya Fever in the Americas, by Country – 13 January 2017 (EW 2). Available at:

http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=5927&Itemid=40931&lang=en

⁵ PAHO/WHO. Chikungunya – Number of Reported Cases of Chikungunya Fever in the Americas, by Country – 3 February 2017 (EW 5). Available at:

http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=5927&Itemid=40931&lang=en

⁶ Barbados Government Information Service. Zika Confirmed in Three Pregnant Women. EW 6 of 2016. Available at:

<http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/zika-confirmed-in-three-pregnant-women/>

⁷ 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

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 49 of 2016.