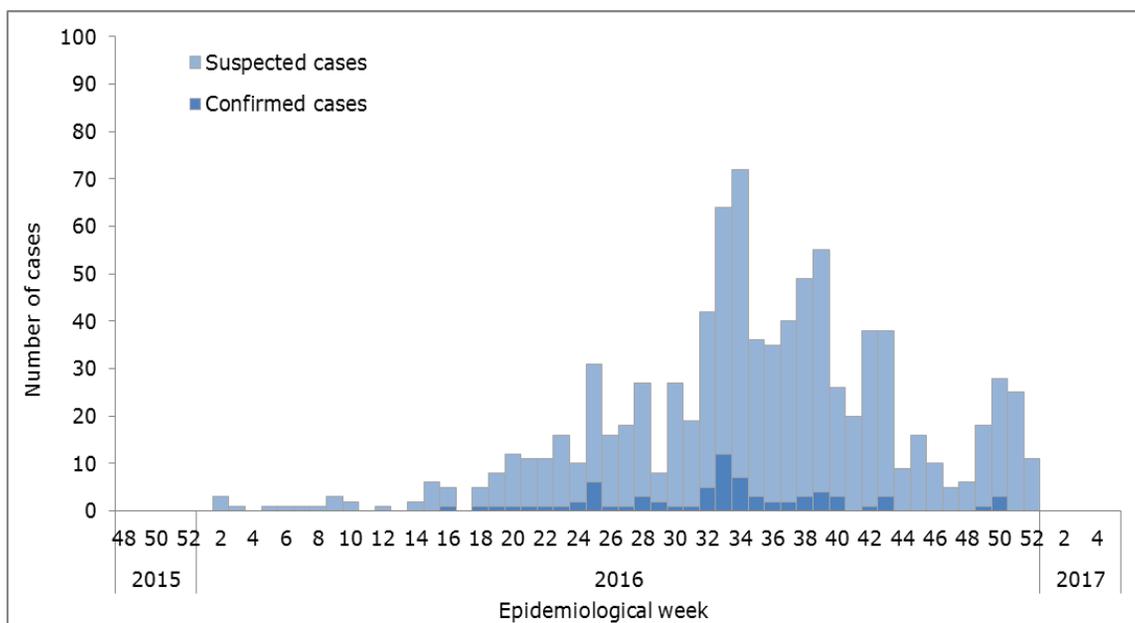


Zika-Epidemiological Report

Belize

2 March 2017

Figure 1. Suspected and confirmed Zika virus disease cases. Belize. EW 48 of 2015 to EW 5 of 2017



Source: Data provided by the Belize IHR NFP

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

The main increase of Zika cases was registered between EW 31 and EW 43 of 2016 with a peak in EW 34 (**Figure 1**)¹. Since then, a decrease in cases has been observed. In the last 8 weeks (from EW 45 to EW 52) an average of 14 cases has been reported.

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 In 2016, as of EW 45, the Belize health authorities reported 192 probable cases (incidence rate of 55 cases per 100,000 population) and one confirmed case of dengue.³ In 2017, as of EW 6, no cases of dengue have been reported.⁴

In 2016, the Belize health authorities reported 58 suspected cases and one confirmed case (16 cases per 100,000) of chikungunya.⁵ No cases have been reported in 2017.⁶

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 5 of 2017, 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 5 of 2017, 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 5 of 2017, no deaths among Zika cases have been reported by the Belize Ministry of Health.

¹ Reported to PAHO/WHO from Belize International Health Regulation (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) on 18 January 2017.

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>

³ 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=readall&cid=3273&Itemid=40734&lang=en

⁴ PAHO/WHO. Data, Maps and Statistics. Number of reported cases of Dengue and Severe Dengue (SD) in the Americas by Country. EW 5 of 2017. Available at: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=3273&Itemid=40734&lang=en

⁵ PAHO/WHO. Chikungunya – Number of Reported Cases of Chikungunya Fever in the Americas, by Country – 30 December 2016 (EW 52). Available at: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=5927&Itemid=40931&lang=en

⁶ PAHO/WHO. Chikungunya – Number of Reported Cases of Chikungunya Fever in the Americas, by Country – 17 February 2017 (EW 7). Available at: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=5927&Itemid=40931&lang=en

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 information available received from the Belize IHR NFP was from EW 52 of 2016.