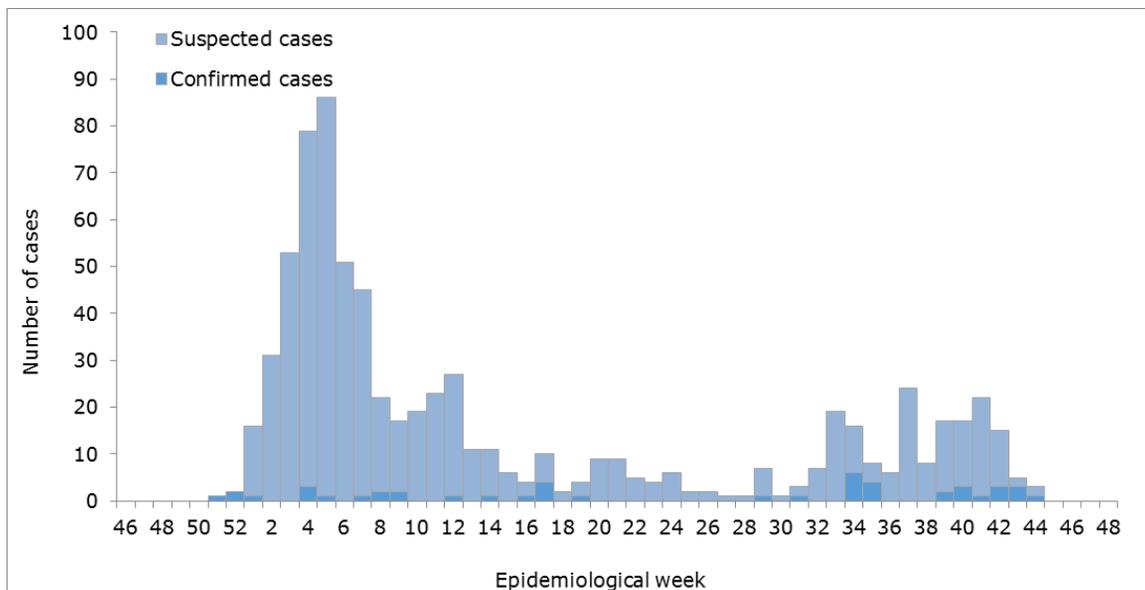


Zika-Epidemiological Report Barbados

20 December 2016

Figure 1. Suspected and confirmed Zika cases by epidemiological week (EW). Barbados. EW 46 of 2015 to EW 48 of 2016.



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 33 and EW 38 of 2016. Barbados has not reported any cases between EW 45 and EW 48 of 2016 (**Figure 1**).

CIRCULATION OF OTHER ARBOVIRUSES

As of EW 36 of 2016, a total of 1,235 probable cases (424 cases per 100,000) and 349 confirmed cases of dengue have been reported.¹ During the same period in 2015, a total of 214 suspected cases and 41 confirmed cases were detected.²

Between EW 1 and EW 29 of 2016, there were 113 suspected cases of chikungunya and no confirmed cases.²

ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN

As of EW 6 of 2016, Barbados reported seven pregnant women with confirmed Zika virus infection.³ No further information is available after this time.

ZIKA COMPLICATIONS

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

As of EW 40 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 37 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.⁴

DEATHS AMONG ZIKA CASES

As of EW 49 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

LABORATORY CAPACITY

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

¹ PAHO/WHO. Data, Maps and Statistics. Number of reported cases of Dengue and Severe Dengue (SD) in the Americas by Country. EW 39 of 2016. Available at:

http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=3273&Itemid=40734&lang=en

² Barbados Government Information Service. Fish to Assist in Mosquito Control. EW 32 of 2016. Available at:

http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/index.php?categoryid=9&p2_articleid=16352

³ Barbados Government Information Service. Zika Confirmed in Three Pregnant Women. EW 6 of 2016. Available at:

http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/index.php?categoryid=9&p2_articleid=15462

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

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 44 of 2016.