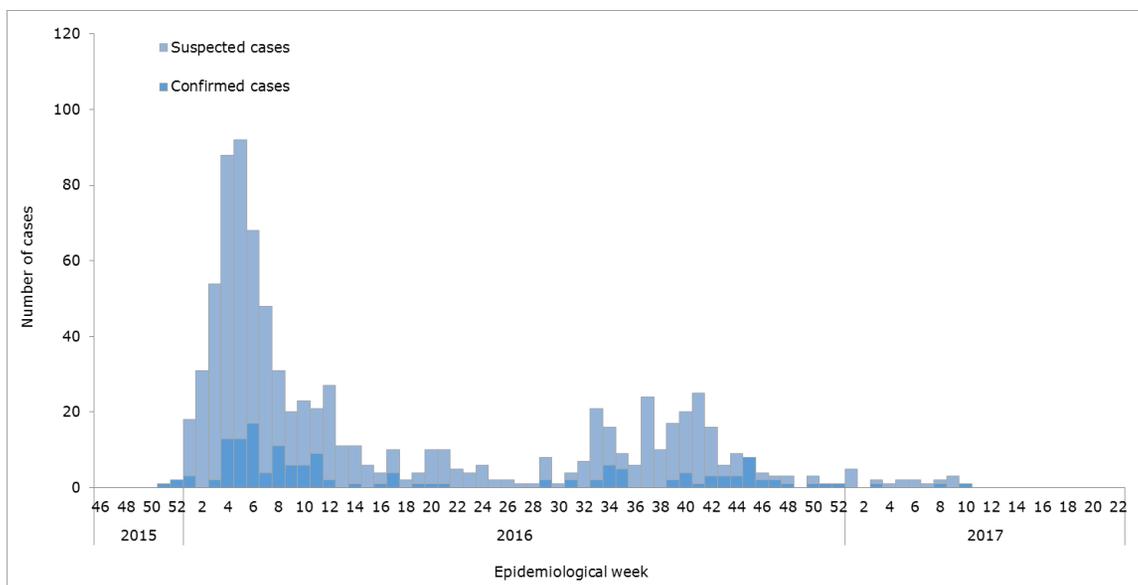


# Zika-Epidemiological Report

## Barbados

28 June 2017

**Figure 1.** Suspected and confirmed Zika cases by epidemiological week (EW). Barbados. EW 46 of 2015 to EW 22 of 2017.



Source: Data provided by the Barbados Ministry of Health to PAHO/WHO<sup>1</sup>

### 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

During 2016 (EW 1 to EW 12), relatively high numbers of Zika cases were registered in Barbados, with a peak of 92 suspected and confirmed cases being reported during EW 5 (**Figure 1**).<sup>1</sup> After this period and up to EW 41, the detection decreased (never exceeding 25 cases per week) with sporadic cases, being reported. (**Figure 1**).

### CIRCULATION OF OTHER ARBOVIRUSES

In 2017, as of EW 12, a total of 96 probable dengue cases (incidence rate of 33 cases per 100,000 population) and 21 confirmed cases were reported in Barbados.<sup>2</sup> Between EW 1 and EW 40 of

<sup>1</sup> Reported to PAHO/WHO from the Barbados International Health Regulation (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) on 15 June 2017.

2016, a total of 1,433 probable dengue cases (incidence rate of 492 cases per 100,000 population) and 407 confirmed cases (140 cases per 100,000) were reported. This figure is higher than reported in the same period in 2015, when a total of 391 probable cases (134 cases per 100,000) and 119 confirmed cases (41 cases per 100,000) were reported.

In 2017, no cases of chikungunya have been reported. In 2016 (EW 1 to EW 20), there were 86 suspected and no confirmed cases of chikungunya.<sup>3</sup>

## ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN

As of EW 13 of 2017, Barbados health authorities reported 32 pregnant women with confirmed Zika virus infection.<sup>4</sup>

## ZIKA COMPLICATIONS

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

As of EW 22 of 2017, five cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) have been reported by Barbados health authorities.<sup>1</sup>

### CONGENITAL SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

As of EW 22 of 2017, Barbados health authorities reported one confirmed case and two probable cases of congenital syndrome associated with Zika virus infection.<sup>1</sup> According to the Barbados health authorities, an average of two to three microcephaly cases are registered every year in the country.<sup>5</sup>

### DEATHS AMONG ZIKA CASES

As of EW 22 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.<sup>4</sup>

## LABORATORY CAPACITY

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

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

[http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_topics&view=readall&cid=3273&Itemid=40734&lang=en](http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=3273&Itemid=40734&lang=en)

<sup>3</sup> PAHO/WHO. Chikungunya – Number of Reported Cases of Chikungunya Fever in the Americas, by Country. Available at:

[http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_topics&view=readall&cid=5927&Itemid=40931&lang=en](http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=5927&Itemid=40931&lang=en)

<sup>4</sup> Barbados Government Information Service. Update on communicable diseases. 21 April 2016. Available at:

<http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/update-on-communicable-diseases/>

<sup>5</sup> 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](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 22 of 2017.