Zika-Epidemiological Report

French Guiana

2 March 2017

Figure 1. Suspected Zika cases by epidemiological week (EW). French Guiana. EW 48 of 2015 to EW 5 of 2017.

Source: Data published by the Cire Antilles Guyane and reproduced by PAHO/WHO

FIRST AUTOCHTHONOUS VECTOR-BORNE CASES

In epidemiological week (EW) 51 of 2015, the France International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) notified PAHO/WHO of the detection of the first case of autochthonous vector-borne transmission of Zika virus in French Guiana.

French Guiana health authorities declared that the Zika outbreak ended in French Guiana in EW 37 of 2016.¹

GEOPHGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Between EW 51 of 2016 and EW 3 of 2017, four laboratory-confirmed cases were reported in the communes of Cayenne (2), Grand-Santi (1), and Rémire–Montjoly (1).² All the suspected cases


reported during this period were from the coastline, with the exception of three cases which were identified in the commune of Maripasoula.

TREND

Between EW 37 of 2016 and EW 3 of 2017, there has been a notable decrease in Zika incidence (Figure 1).

CIRCULATION OF OTHER ARBOVIRUSES

Between EW 36 and EW 44 of 2016, the number of suspected dengue cases remained at the level expected for this time of the year (inter-epidemic period). A total of 210 suspected cases were reported during this period. In 2014, a higher number of suspected cases were reported compared to 2015 and 2016.

Between July of 2014 and March of 2015, there was a large outbreak of chikungunya. During 2016, the number of reported chikungunya cases remained stable and low, with a total of 95 suspected cases reported between EW 36 and EW 44 of 2016.

ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN

Since the beginning of the outbreak up to EW 3 of 2017, 1,519 pregnant women with laboratory-confirmed Zika virus infection have been reported by French Guiana health authorities.

ZIKA COMPLICATIONS

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

As of EW 3 of 2017, seven cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) and three cases of other severe neurological syndromes have been laboratory-confirmed with Zika virus infection by French Guiana health authorities.

CONGENITAL SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

As of EW 3 of 2017, a total of 16 cases of cerebral malformations, including four cases of microcephaly, were detected among fetuses of Zika-positive mothers by French Guiana health authorities.

DEATHS AMONG ZIKA CASES

As of EW 5 of 2017, no deaths among Zika cases were reported by French Guiana health authorities.

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NATIONAL ZIKA SURVEILLANCE GUIDELINES

The Cire Antilles Guyane has implemented a “surveillance program, alert and management of epidemics” with an integrated preparedness and response plan for vector-borne diseases. More information is available at:

http://www.invs.sante.fr/Dossiers-thematiques/Maladies-infectieuses/Maladies-a-transmission-vectorielle/Zika/Le-systeme-de-surveillance

INFORMATION-SHARING

The Cire Antilles Guyane publishes a periodic epidemiological bulletin on Zika virus. At the time of this report, the latest Regional Health Agency epidemiological bulletin was from EW 3 of 2017.