Zika-Epidemiological Report
Bahamas

FIRST AUTOCHTHONOUS VECTOR-BORNE CASE
In epidemiological week (EW) 32 of 2016, the Bahamas International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) notified PAHO/WHO of the detection of the first confirmed case of autochthonous transmission of Zika virus disease.¹

TREND
As of EW 39 of 2016, 15 laboratory-confirmed autochthonous Zika cases have been reported.²

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION
All 15 autochthonous cases have been reported from New Providence District.²

CIRCULATION OF OTHER ARBOVIRUSES
In 2016, 892 probable cases of dengue (821 cases per 100,000 population), including 76 laboratory-confirmed cases, were identified up to EW 29.³ In 2015, 10 probable cases (3 cases per 100,000), including three laboratory-confirmed cases, were detected up to EW 52. In 2014, 146 probable cases (38 cases per 100,000), including 14 laboratory-confirmed cases, were reported up to EW 53.

In regard to chikungunya, in 2016, a total of 75 suspected and one confirmed case of chikungunya (cumulative incidence rate of 19 cases per 100,000) were reported up to EW 20.⁴ In 2015, 10 laboratory-confirmed cases of chikungunya (3 cases per 100,000) were reported up to EW 17. In 2014, 92 laboratory-confirmed cases (24 cases per 100,000) were registered up to EW 51.

ZIKA VIRUS DISEASE IN PREGNANT WOMEN
As of EW 41 of 2016, no cases of Zika virus infection in pregnant women have been reported by the Bahamas health authorities.

ZIKA COMPLICATIONS
ZIKA-VIRUS-ASSOCIATED GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME (GBS)
As of EW 41 of 2016, no cases of Zika-virus-associated Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) or other neurological syndromes have been reported by the Bahamas health authorities.

¹ Reported to PAHO/WHO by the Bahamas IHR NFP on 10 August 2016.
² Reported to PAHO/WHO by the Bahamas IHR NFP on 27 September 2016.
³ PAHO/WHO. Data, Maps and Statistics. Number of reported cases of Dengue and Severe Dengue (SD) in the Americas. Available at: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=rdmore&cid=6290&Itemid=40734

CONGENITAL SYNDROME ASSOCIATED WITH ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

As of EW 41 of 2016, no cases of congenital syndrome associated with Zika virus infection have been reported by the Bahamas health authorities.

DEATHS AMONG ZIKA CASES

As of EW 41 of 2016, no deaths among Zika virus cases have been reported by the Bahamas health authorities.

NATIONAL ZIKA SURVEILLANCE GUIDELINES

No information is available on national guidelines for Zika surveillance.

LABORATORY CAPACITY

Samples of suspected Zika cases are sent to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) in Trinidad and Tobago for molecular confirmation (real-time RT-PCR). Laboratory capacity building includes a PCR machine under purchasing process.

INFORMATION-SHARING

Information on the first confirmed case was provided by the Bahamas IHR NFP to PAHO/WHO in EW 32 of 2016. At the time of this report, the latest available information was shared by the Bahamas IHR NFP on 27 September 2016.