HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

FOLLOW UP OF REPORTED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2017

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces provisional data on reported cases of infectious diseases for 2017 on the basis of information deriving from the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP). HCDCP records and verifies the reported cases of infectious diseases through the epidemiological surveillance system, on the basis of the mandatory notification of these diseases.

According to data for year 2017, the number of reported cases of infectious diseases was 5,967 compared with 4,951 in 2016, presenting an increase of 20.5%. In year 2017, reappeared cases of measles (1,027 cases). Moreover, the number of reported cases of influenza was 2,530 compared with 2,622 in 2016, demonstrating a decrease of 3.5% (Table 1, Graph 1).

Table 1. Reported cases of infectious diseases (including influenza), 2010-2017

Year	Infectious diseases	
	Total (incl. influenza)	Influenza
2010	5,393	3,334
2011	3,449	1,504
2012	2,885	593
2013	2,804	518
2014	3,251	1,225
2015	3,421	1,495
2016	4,951*	2,622*
2017	5,967	2,530

*Revised data

Graph 1. Influenza and infectious diseases, 2010-2017

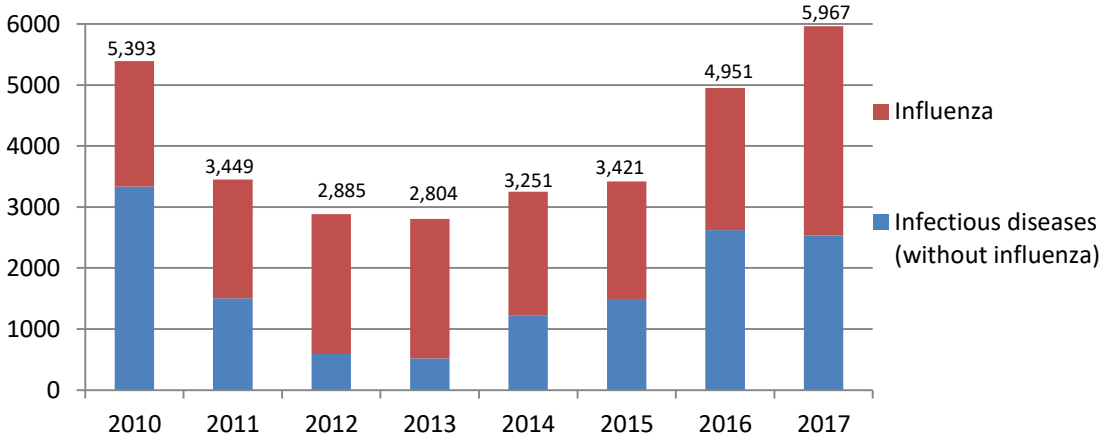

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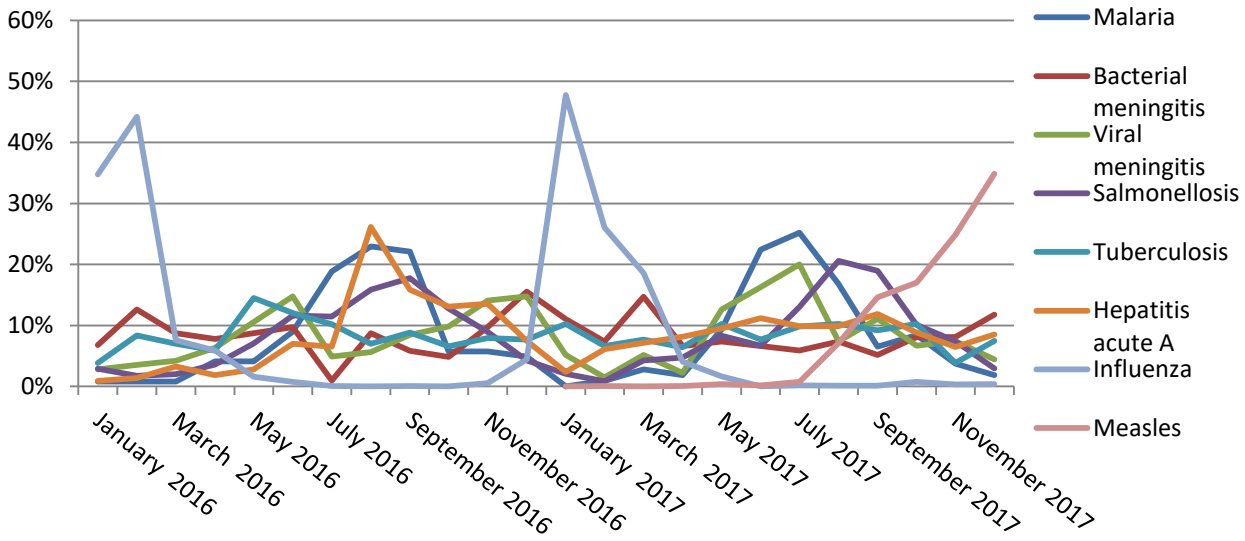
Table2 and graph 2 present the seasonality of six infectious diseases[1] as well as influenza and measles, which account for more than 100 verified and hospitalized reported cases during the year 2017. The infectious diseases are malaria, bacterial meningitis, viral meningitis, salmonellosis, tuberculosis and acute hepatitis A. On the basis of the reported cases, salmonellosis had its peak in summer, with the most cases being reported in August. Malaria demonstrated an increase during summer and dropped again in autumn. The tuberculosis did not show a great variance throughout the year 2017. Viral meningitis presented the most cases in June and July, while bacterial meningitis had its peak in winter and the beginning of spring. The hepatitis A increased during the summer months and remained at a quite significant level in autumn too. The cases of influenza showed a peak in January and a gradual reduction during spring. As for the cases of measles, they presented a gradual growth throughout the year especially during autumn peaking in December.

Table 2. Number of the six most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases, incl. influenza and measles by month, 2017

Month	Total number of reported cases	Of which:							
		Malaria	Bacterial meningitis	Viral meningitis	Salmonellosis	Tuberculosis	Hepatitis A acute	Influenza	Measles
January	**1,325**	0	15	7	14	48	7	1,208	0
February	**755**	1	10	2	6	31	18	659	1
March	**631**	3	20	7	29	36	21	470	0
April	**246**	2	9	3	32	30	24	103	1
May	**263**	10	10	17	56	48	28	42	4
June	**232**	24	9	22	45	36	33	1	2
July	**303**	27	8	27	88	46	29	4	8
August	**423**	18	10	10	139	48	29	3	73
September	**454**	7	7	15	128	43	35	3	150
October	**405**	9	11	9	68	48	26	19	175
November	**421**	4	11	10	50	18	19	8	255
December	**509**	2	16	6	20	35	25	10	358
Total	**5,967**	**107**	**136**	**135**	**675**	**467**	**294**	**2,530**	**1,027**

[1] ***Tuberculosis*** is monitored by the European Centre for disease Prevention and Control and the cases are reported through the specially designed form of the Hellenic Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Although the target was, by 2050, to eradicate the prevalence of tuberculosis and the recurrent deaths, tuberculosis remains one of the major problems of public health. ***Salmonellosis*** is the most frequently reported food-borne infection. ***Meningitis*** is an acute infection of the central nervous system that can be caused by viral, bacterial and, rarely, fungal infections. **Malaria** is caused by a parasite called Plasmodium which is transmitted via the bites of infected mosquitoes and although it had been eradicated in Greece until 1974, during the late years reemerged due to increased travelling and population movements (returning travelers infected abroad or migrants from malaria endemic countries), a phenomenon observed in all developed countries and an increasing number of imported malaria cases is expected for the reasons aforementioned. Finally **Hepatitis A** appears in areas of low socioeconomic level, areas with insufficient water supply and sewage network, immigrants from endemic countries and in groups of people of poor personal hygiene.

Graph 2. Seasonality of six infectious diseases, incl. influenza and measles, 2016 and 2017



As regards the geographical distribution of the aforementioned seven infectious diseases (excl. measles), the following were observed (Table 3) on the basis of the available data for 2017: with regard to **salmonellosis**, most of the cases were recorded in the regions of Attiki (45.3%) and in Kentriki Macedonia (12.3%); **tuberculosis** presented a significant percentage of recorded cases in the regions of Attiki (37.3%), reduced compared to 2016 by 2.5%, and Kentriki Makedonia (16.3%) increased by 1.8% compared to 2016; the **acute hepatitis A** presented the largest percentage in the region of Attiki (57.8%). As far as the **viral meningitis** is concerned, most of the cases were reported in the regions of Thessalia (26.7%) and secondly Kriti (17.8%), whereas **bacterial meningitis** cases were reported in the regions of Attiki with 30.1% (from 34.0% in 2016) and Kentriki Makedonia with 16.2% almost the same level with 2016. Finally, the regions of Attiki, Sterea Ellada and Peloponnisos presented the highest percentages of reported cases of **malaria**, with 27.1% (from 40.8% in 2016), 17.8% and 14.0% cases, respectively.

Table 3. Distribution of the seven most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases (incl. influenza), by NUTS 2 Regions, 2017

Region (NUTS2)	Number of cases of infectious diseases (incl. Influenza)		Malaria		Bacterial Meningitis		Viral meningitis		Salmonellosis		Tuberculosis		Hepatitis A acute		Influenza	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
An.Makedonia, Thraki	130	2.2	2	1.9	7	5.1	2	1.5	22	3.3	14	3.0	27	9.2	31	1.2
Kentriki Makedonia	371	6.2	2	1.9	22	16.2	15	11.1	83	12.3	76	16.3	29	9.9	40	1.6
Dytiki Makedonia	30	0.5	0	0.0	2	1.5	0	0.0	10	1.5	4	0.9	2	0.7	1	0.0
Ipeiros	96	1.6	5	4.7	4	2.9	3	2.2	26	3.9	9	1.9	1	0.3	25	1.0
Thessalia	247	4.1	2	1.9	10	7.4	36	26.7	64	9.5	31	6.6	12	4.1	28	1.1
Ionia Nisia	58	1.0	1	0.9	4	2.9	4	3.0	19	2.8	6	1.3	5	1.7	3	0.1
Dytiki Ellada	404	6.8	11	10.3	5	3.7	19	14.1	31	4.6	37	7.9	6	2.0	41	1.6
Sterea Ellada	222	3.7	19	17.8	3	2.2	4	3.0	29	4.3	27	5.8	3	1.0	57	2.3
Attiki	3,521	59.0	29	27.1	41	30.1	20	14.8	306	45.3	174	37.3	170	57.8	2,028	80.2
Peloponnisos	334	5.6	15	14.0	5	3.7	3	2.2	25	3.7	19	4.1	4	1.4	43	1.7
Voreio Aigaio	73	1.2	8	7.5	5	3.7	1	0.7	12	1.8	14	3.0	9	3.1	6	0.2
Notio Aigaio	78	1.3	4	3.7	1	1.0	1	0.7	5	0.7	18	3.9	15	5.1	14	0.6
Kriti	225	3.8	7	6.5	4	3.9	24	17.8	38	5.6	23	4.9	4	1.4	80	3.2
Total	**5,967**	**100%**	**107**	**100%**	**136**	**100%**	**135**	**100%**	**675**	**100%**	**467**	**100%**	**294**	**100%**	**2,530**	**100%**

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Survey on the follow up of cases of infectious diseases

The survey has been conducted since 2004 on a yearly basis. The data are presented at a country and region level, aiming at covering national needs in statistical information.

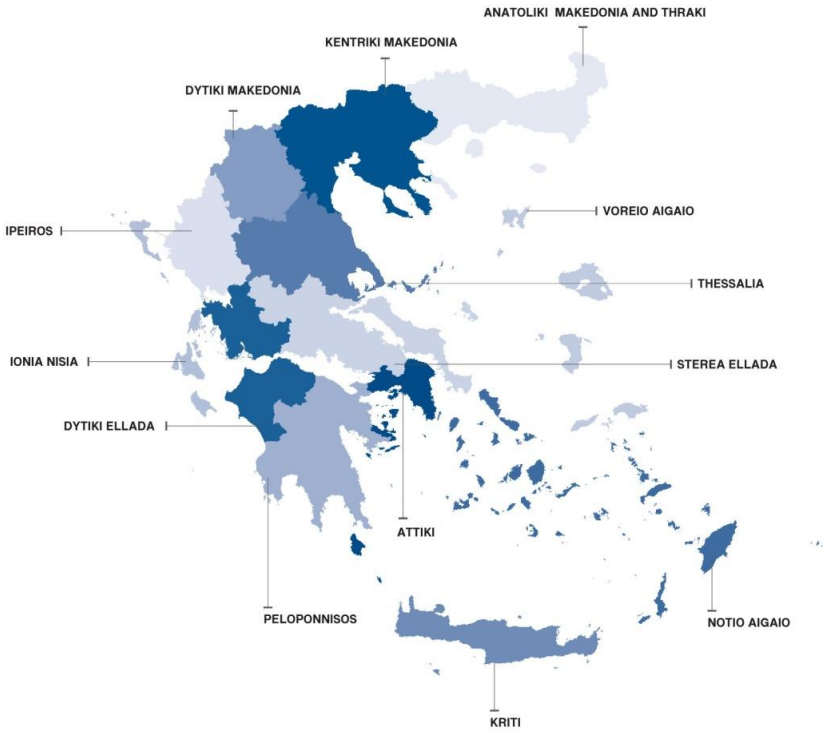
Reference period

The data refer to the reported cases of infectious diseases on the month that these cases are clinically verified and during the reference year (a dynamic database).

Coverage

Data are presented at regional level (NUTS 2).

Map of the 13 Regions (NUTS level 2) of Greece



Methodology

Data are collected by Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP) every month and by region, and analyzed by ELSTAT at a regional level.

References

More detailed information on the reported cases of infectious diseases can be found on the portal of ELSTAT (www.statistics.gr) at the following link: http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SHE15/-