HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE
FOLLOW UP OF REPORTED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2020

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces provisional data on reported cases of infectious diseases for 2020 on the basis of information deriving from the National Public Health Organization (EODY) of Greece (former Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention). EODY records and verifies the reported cases of infectious diseases through its epidemiological surveillance & intervention system, on the basis of the mandatory notification of these diseases. In addition, due to the pandemic which broke out at the beginning of the 2020 in our country, the incidents of the infection caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2[1] are announced separately.

According to the data for the year 2020, the reported cases of the standard infectious diseases under surveillance were 4,291 against 4,449 in 2019, presenting a decrease of 3.6%. It is noted that, in 2020 the number of reported cases of measles were reduced by 93.3% compared to 98.0% in 2019. In reverse, the laboratory confirmed cases of influenza which in 2019 presented an increase of 136.2% (from 947 to 2,237) in 2020 increased at a lower rate of 30.8 % from 2,237 to 2,925 (Table 1, Graph 1).

Table 1. Reported cases of infectious diseases, 2013 -2020

Year	Total (incl. influenza, measles)	Influenza	Measles
2013	2,804	518	4
2014	3,251	1,225	1
2015	3,421	1,495	1
2016	4,951	2,622	0
2017	5,894	2,531	968
2018	5,605	947	2,291
2019	4,449*	2,237	45
2020	4,291	2,925	3

*Revised data

Graph 1. Influenza & measles and the rest of infectious diseases, 2013-2020

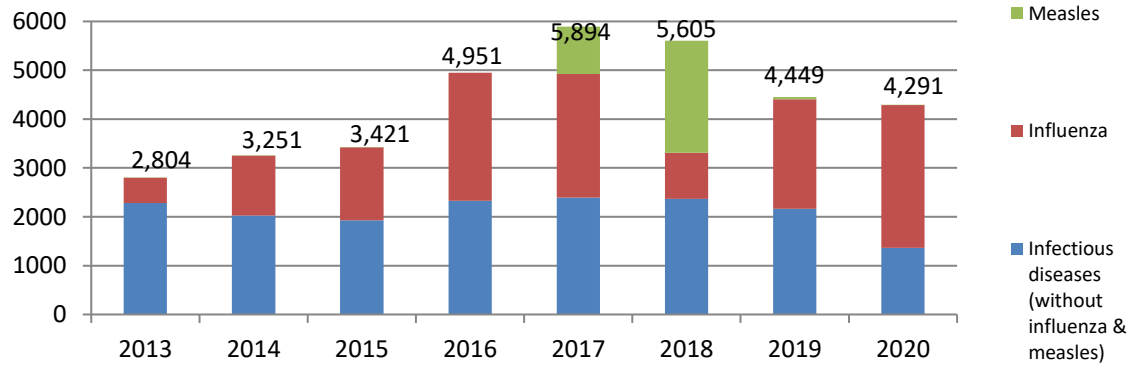

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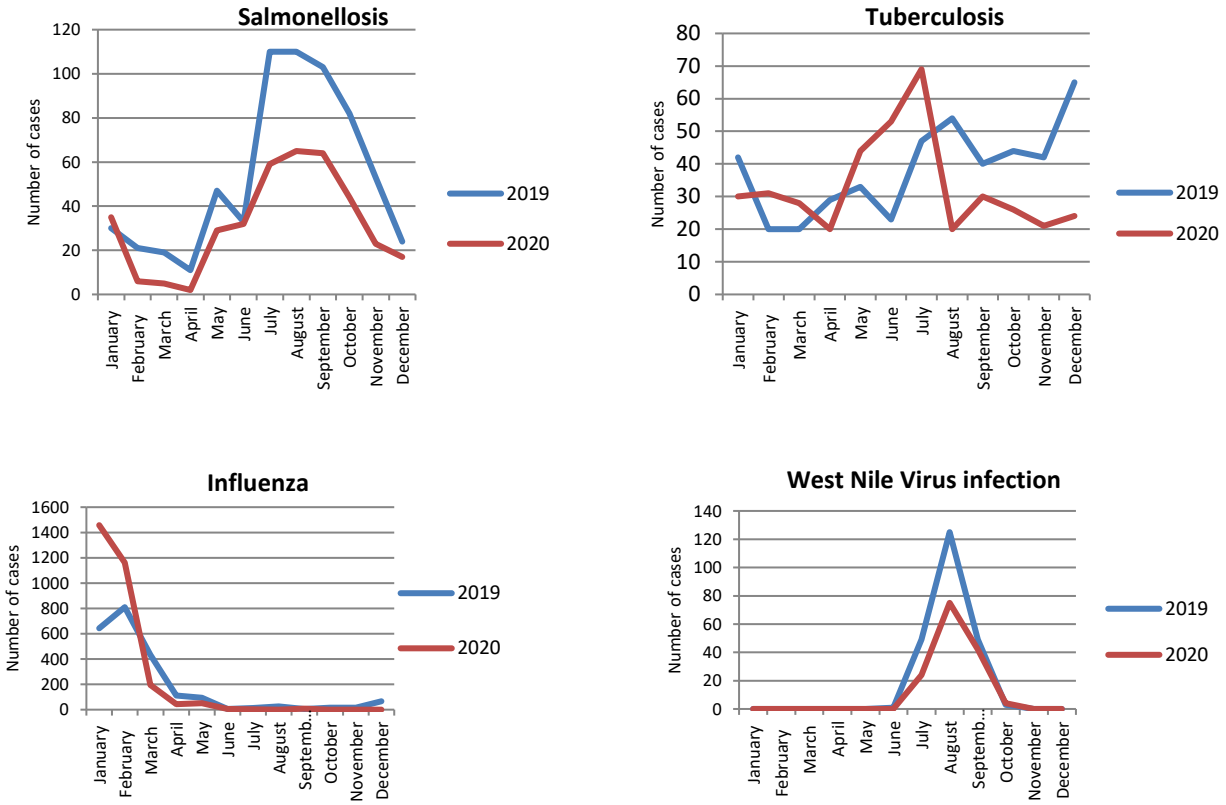
Table 2 and the corresponding graph 2 present the seasonality of the four infectious diseases[1], which account for more than 100 verified and hospitalized reported cases during the year 2020. The four infectious diseases are salmonellosis, tuberculosis, influenza and the West Nile virus (WNV) infection. On the basis of the reported cases, salmonellosis raised in summer, with the most cases being reported in August and September (65 and 64 respectively). Tuberculosis cases also showed a significant increase lasting from May to July when they had a peak (69). The influenza cases were particularly high in January and February (1,458 and 1,162 respectively) but the next months were significantly decreased and ended up to almost zero cases in the second semester of the year. The WNV infection had incidents only in summertime, peaking in August (75).

Table 2. Seasonality of the most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases, 2020

Month	Total number of reported cases	Of which :			
		Salmonellosis	Tuberculosis	Influenza	West Nile Virus infection
January	**1,586**	35	30	1,458	0
February	**1,243**	6	31	1,162	0
March	**256**	5	28	195	0
April	**95**	2	20	44	0
May	**165**	29	44	50	0
June	**141**	32	53	5	0
July	**209**	59	69	2	24
August	**191**	65	20	0	75
September	**178**	64	30	9	42
October	**105**	44	26	0	4
November	**67**	23	21	0	0
December	**55**	17	24	0	0
Total	**4,291**	**381**	**396**	**2,925**	**145**

[1]The **virus SARS-CoV-2** causes the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, the virus which causes the illness COVID-19. ***Tuberculosis*** which is monitored by the European Centre for disease Prevention and Control remains one of the major problems of public health, though the target was, by 2050, to eradicate the prevalence of tuberculosis and the recurrent deaths. ***Salmonellosis*** is the most frequently reported food-borne infection. *The* ***WNV*** (West Nile Virus) ***infection*** is transmitted via the bites of infected mosquitoes and infects animals and humans. **Influenza** is a viral infection of the respiratory system and is caused by the influenza virus. It is distinguished into seasonal and new influenza.

Graph 2. Seasonality of the most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases, 2020



As regards the geographical distribution of the aforementioned four infectious diseases, presented in Table 3, the following are observed on the basis of the available data for 2020: with regard to **salmonellosis**, most of the cases are recorded in the regions of Attiki (43.0%) and secondly in Kriti (9.2%) and Kentriki Makedonia (7.1%). **Tuberculosis** presents a significant percentage of recorded cases in the regions of Attiki (42.9%) and secondly in Voreio Aigaio but with a much lower percentage (10.1%). **Influenza** presents the greatest concentration in Attiki (69.5%) and small variance in the rest of the country. As far as the infection of **West Nile virus** the greatest percentage of incidences appeared in the region of Kentriki Makedonia (64.8%) and the regions of Anatoliki Makedonia & Thraki (25.5%) and Thessalia (6.9%).

Table 3. Distribution of the most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases by region, 2020

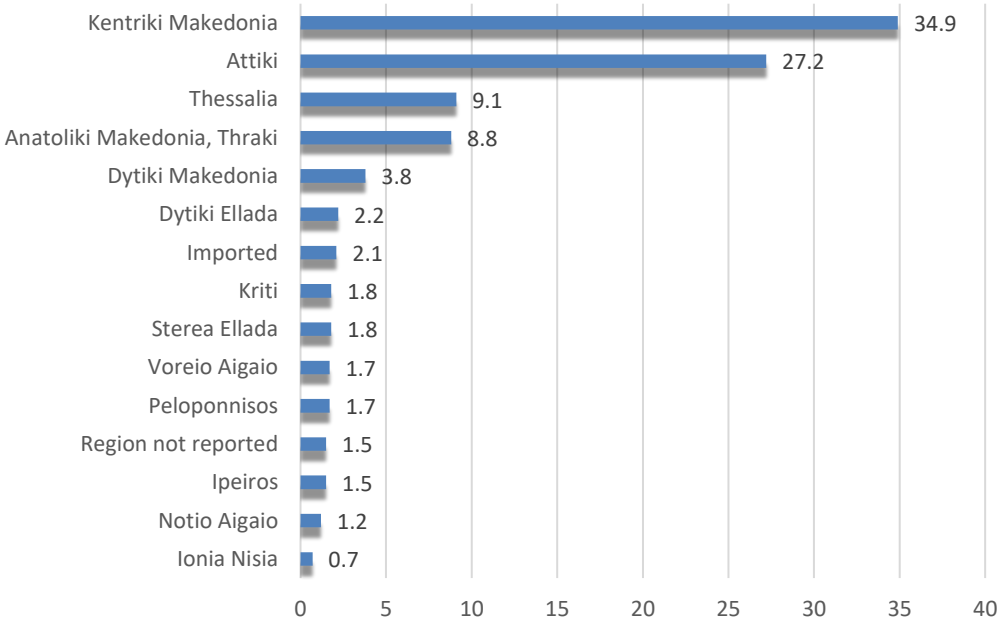
	Total of reported cases		Salmonellosis		Tuberculosis		Influenza		West Nile Virus Infection	
Region (NUTS 2)	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**
Total	**4,291**	**100**	**381**	**100**	**396**	**100**	**2,925**	**100**	**145**	**100**
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	105	2.4	19	5.0	10	2.5	20	0.7	37	25.5
Kentriki Makedonia	421	9.8	27	7.1	25	6.3	233	8.0	94	64.8
Dytiki Makedonia	19	0.4	4	1.0	5	1.3	5	0.2	0	0.0
Ipeiros	84	2.0	23	6.0	19	4.8	23	0.8	0	0.0
Thessalia	118	2.7	25	6.6	19	4.8	31	1.1	10	6.9
Ionia Nisia	17	0.4	4	1.0	1	0.3	6	0.2	0	0.0
Dytiki Ellada	124	2.9	20	5.2	21	5.3	33	1.1	0	0.0
Sterea Ellada	95	2.2	16	4.2	21	5.3	35	1.2	0	0.0
Attiki	2,522	58.8	164	43.0	170	42.9	2,032	69.5	2	1.4
Peloponnisos	82	1.9	12	3.1	29	7.3	27	0.9	0	0.0
Voreio Aigaio	96	2.2	18	4.7	40	10.1	9	0.3	0	0.0
Notio Aigaio	40	0.9	0	0.0	8	2.0	20	0.7	0	0.0
Kriti	213	5.0	35	9.2	18	4.5	129	4.4	0	0.0
Region not reported	355	8.3	14	3.7	10	2.5	322	11.0	2	1.4

In Table 4 and the corresponding graph is presented the geographical distribution of the infection caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. Most of the cases occurred in the region of Kentriki Makedonia (48,971) i.e. 34.9% and the regions of Attiki (38,274), Thessalia (12,775) and Anatoliki Makedonia & Thraki (12,343) follow i.e. 27.2%, 9.1% and 8.8% respectively.

Table 4. Distribution of cases by SARS-CoV-2 by region, 2020

REGIONS	No of Reported Cases	%
	140,469	**100.0**
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	12,343	8.8
Kentriki Makedonia	48,971	34.9
Dytiki Makedonia	5,310	3.8
Ipeiros	2,038	1.5
Thessalia	12,775	9.1
Ionia Nisia	941	0.7
Dytiki Ellada	3,155	2.2
Sterea Ellada	2,567	1.8
Attiki	38,274	27.2
Peloponnisos	2,370	1.7
Voreio Aigaio	2,338	1.7
Notio Aigaio	1,722	1.2
Kriti	2,578	1.8
Imported	2,971	2.1
Region not reported	2,116	1.5

Graph 4. Percentage distribution of cases by SARS-CoV-2 by region, 2020

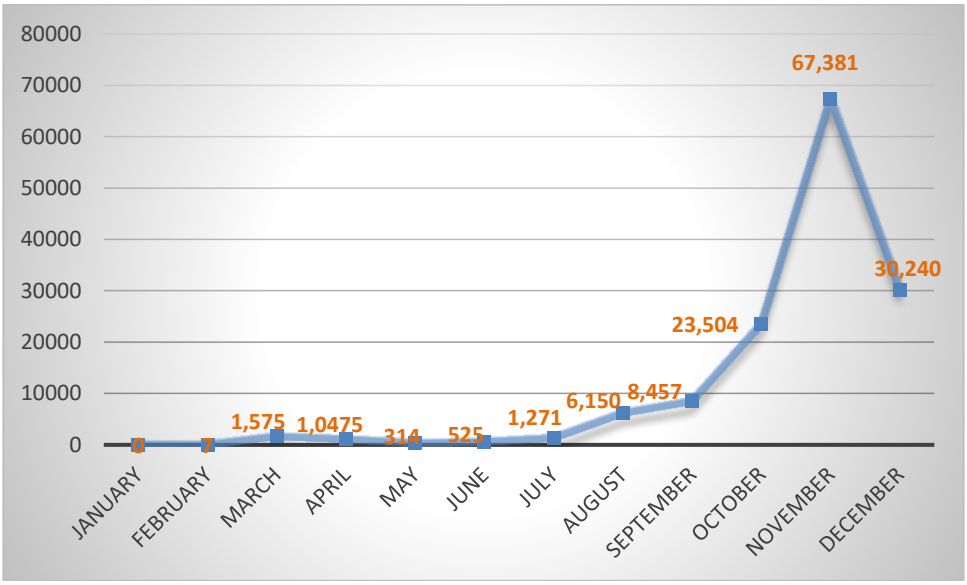


As for the seasonality of the infection by SARS-CoV-2 it is presented in Table 5 and Graph 5. The infection made its appearance in February, its incidences increased in March and April significantly, next in May and June they were reduced, but subsequently an outbreak of cases re-occurred in July which peaked in November (67,381 cases) with a significant reduction of them following in December.

Table 5. Seasonality of the infection by SARS-CoV-2, 2020

Month	Number of Reported Cases
January	0
February	7
March	1,575
April	1,045
May	314
June	525
July	1,271
August	6,150
September	8,457
October	23,504
November	67,381
December	30,240
Total	**140,469**

Graph 5. Seasonality of the infection by SARS-CoV-2, 2020



EXPLANATORY NOTES

Survey on the follow up of cases of infectious diseases

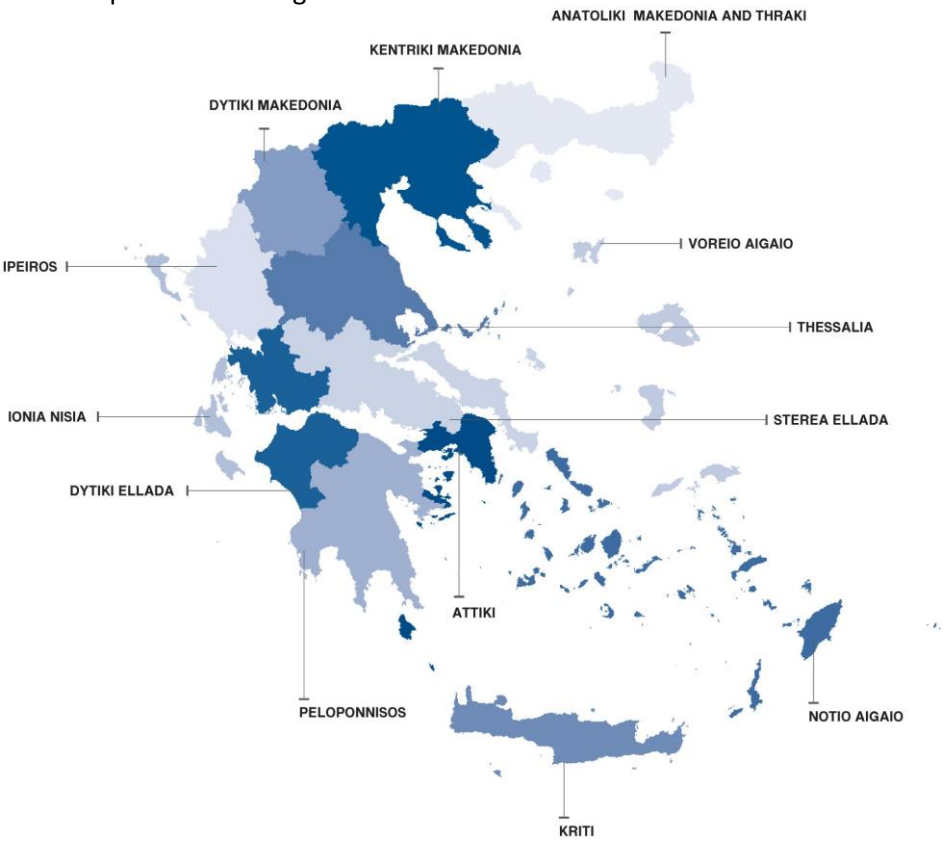
The survey has been conducted since 2004 on a yearly basis. The data are presented at a country and region level, aiming at covering national needs in statistical information.

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 (dynamic database).

Coverage

Data are presented at regional level.



Methodology

Data are collected by the National Public Health Organization (NPHO) of Greece 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/-