HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

Piraeus, October 23, 2024

FOLLOW UP OF REPORTED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2023

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces provisional data on reported cases of infectious diseases for 2023 based on information deriving from the National Public Health Organization (EODY). EODY records and verifies the reported cases of infectious diseases through its epidemiological surveillance and intervention system, based on the mandatory notification of these diseases. From 2022, the following five diseases have been added to the list of mandatorily notification of infectious diseases: Campylobacter infection, Anaplasmosis, Rickettsia, Ehrlichiosis and Borreliosis/Lime disease.

For the year 2023, the reported cases of the standard infectious diseases under surveillance were 4,143 compared to 3,563 in 2022, recording an increase of 16.3%. In 2023, laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza decreased by 23.6% (1,184 compared to 1,550), while no measles cases were reported, as in the years 2022 and 2021 (Table 1, Graph 1).

Table 1. Reported cases of infectious diseases, 2016 -2023

Year	Total (incl. influenza, measles)	Influenza	Measles
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	4,272	2,926	3
2021	918	12	0
2022*	3,563	1,550	0
2023	4,143	1,184	0

** Revised data*

Graph 1. Cases of influenza, measles, and the rest of infectious diseases, 2016-2023

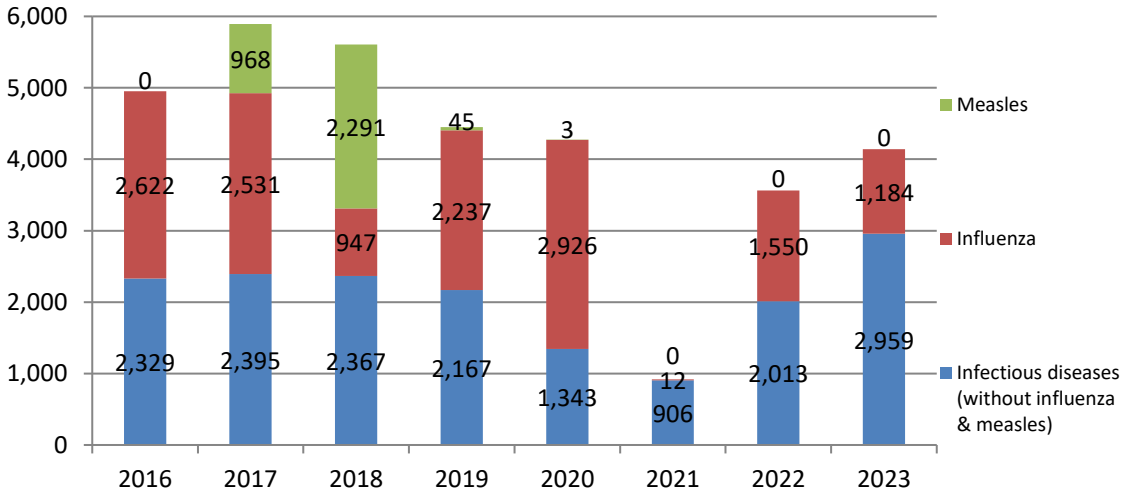

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Table 2 and the corresponding graph 2 present the total number of cases and the seasonality of the four most infectious diseases[1], which account for more than 100 verified and hospitalized reported cases during the year 2023. Compared to 2022, salmonellosis increased by 46.3% and tuberculosis by 54.4%. Based on the number of cases, salmonellosis peaked in the summer months with most cases being reported in August and September (224 and 198 respectively). Tuberculosis recorded an increase in April (55), declined during summer and began to rise in the autumn with a peak in December (90). Influenza cases were high in January (320), gradually decreased in the following months and increased in autumn, with a peak in December (400). Campylobacter infection cases gradually increased during the summer, peaking in October (115). In addition, West Nile virus infection (WNV), which was among the four infectious diseases with more than 100 verified and hospitalized reported cases in the year 2022, reported a 76.5% decrease in 2023 compared to 2022 with the largest decrease occurring in August (76) compared to the corresponding month of 2022 (149).

Table 2. Seasonality of the most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases[1], year 2023

Month	Total number of reported cases	Of which:			
		Salmonellosis	Tuberculosis	Influenza (laboratory confirmed)	Campylobacter infection
January	**427**	14	30	320	22
February	**238**	22	39	120	20
March	**233**	16	19	98	34
April	**232**	14	55	74	39
May	**214**	35	30	33	52
June	**256**	73	39	18	62
July	**288**	118	23	7	51
August	**463**	224	25	12	58
September	**412**	198	40	9	56
October	**443**	120	42	52	115
November	**307**	69	62	41	68
December	**630**	33	90	400	58
Total	**4,143**	**936**	**494**	**1,184**	**635**

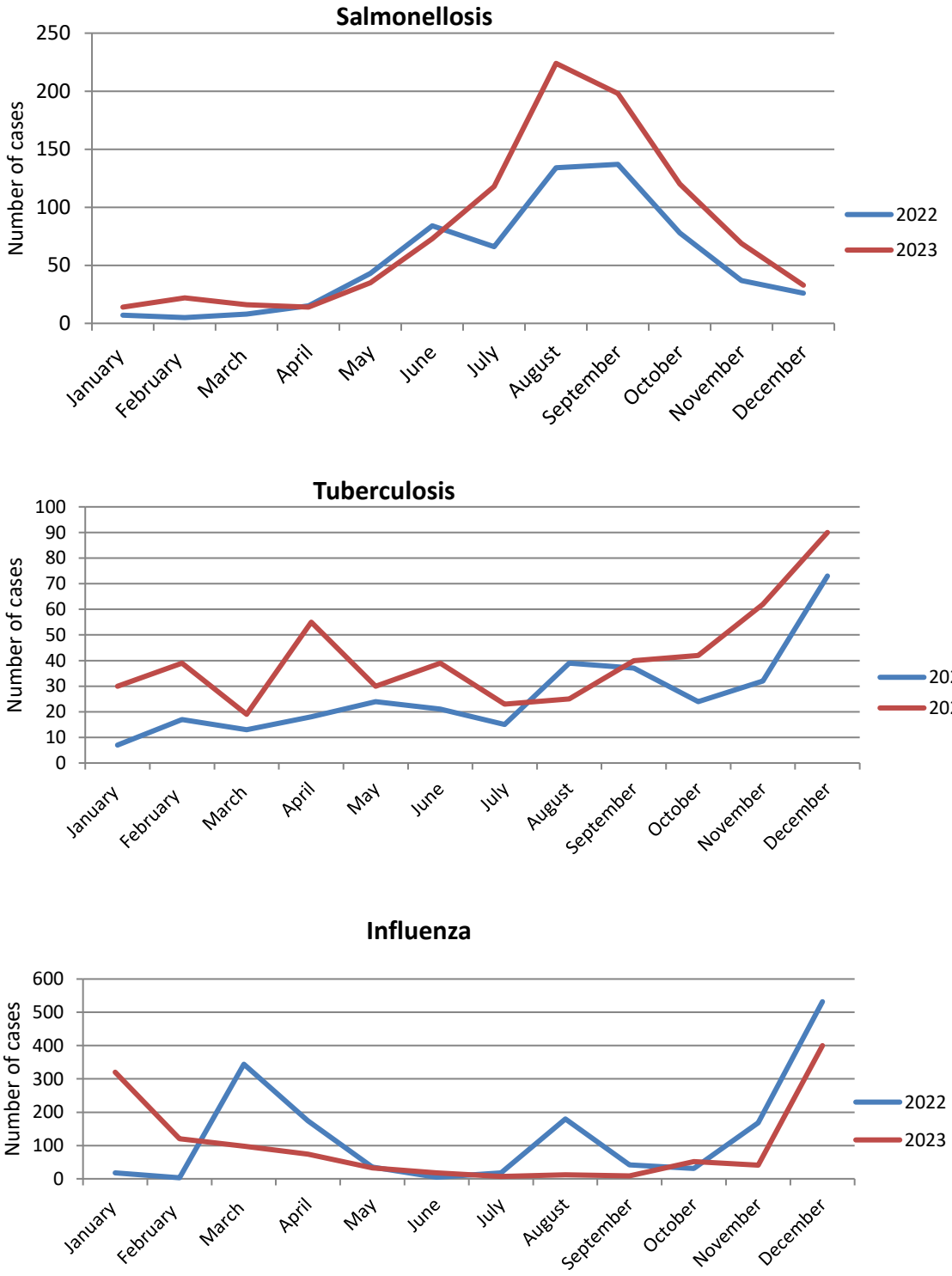
[1] **Tuberculosis** which is monitored by the European Centre for disease Prevention and Control remains one of the major problems of public health, though the target was, by 2050, to eradicate the prevalence of tuberculosis and the recurrent deaths.

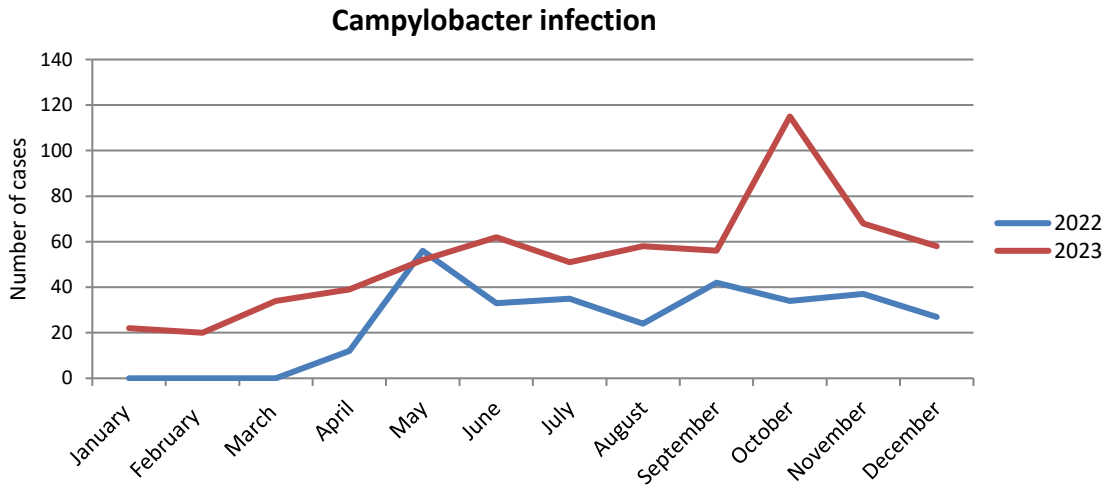
Salmonellosis is the most frequently reported food-borne infection.

The bacterium Campylobacter is one of the most important causes of the foodborne diseases, in Europe is the second bacteriological reason of the foodborne infections after Salmonella.

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, years 2022-2023





As regards the geographical distribution of the four infectious diseases presented in Table 3 for the year 2023, the following are observed: most of the **salmonellosis** cases were recorded in the Region of Attiki (39.3%), followed by Kentriki Makedonia (12.0%) and Peloponnisos (9.0%). The highest rates of **tuberculosis** cases were reported in the Region of Attiki (39.5%), followed by Kentriki Makedonia (9.3%) and Peloponnisos (8.3%) with much lower rates. **Influenza** presented the largest concentration in Attiki (48.7%) followed by Kentriki Makedonia (19.8%) and Thessalia (14.4%). As for the **campylobacter infection**, the highest rates were recorded in the Region of Attiki (55.4%) followed by Kriti (14.0%) and Thessalia (10.7%). (Graph 3)

Table 3. Distribution of the most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases by region, year 2023

Region (NUTS 2)	Total of reported cases		Salmonellosis		Tuberculosis		Influenza		Campylobacter infection	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	**4,143**	**100.0**	**936**	**100.0**	**494**	**100.0**	**1,184**	**100.0**	**635**	**100.0**
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	125	3.0	33	3.5	10	2.0	27	2.3	10	1.6
Kentriki Makedonia	571	13.8	112	12.0	46	9.3	235	19.8	44	6.9
Dytiki Makedonia	33	0.8	13	1.4	2	0.4	9	0.8	2	0.3
Ipeiros	123	3.0	59	6.3	20	4.0	11	0.9	6	0.9
Thessalia	491	11.9	73	7.8	12	2.4	170	14.4	68	10.7
Ionia Nisia	49	1.2	16	1.7	4	0.8	8	0.7	3	0.5
Dytiki Ellada	154	3.7	27	2.9	32	6.5	16	1.4	16	2.5
Sterea Ellada	124	3.0	27	2.9	9	1.8	36	3.0	24	3.8
Attiki	1,724	41.6	368	39.3	195	39.5	577	48.7	352	55.4
Peloponnisos	190	4.6	84	9.0	41	8.3	13	1.1	12	1.9
Voreio Aigaio	89	2.1	24	2.6	27	5.5	6	0.5	2	0.3
Notio Aigaio	72	1.7	30	3.2	10	2.0	13	1.1	7	1.1
Kriti	288	7.0	70	7.5	15	3.0	27	2.3	89	14.0
Region not reported	110	2.7	0	0.0	71	14.4	36	3.0	0	0.0

The total number of SARS-CoV-2 infection cases in the year 2023 amounted to 993,507 compared to 4,366,008 in 2022, showing a decrease of 77.2%. The seasonality of this infection is presented in Table 4 and Graph 3.

Table 4. Seasonality of the infection by SARS-CoV-2, years 2022-2023

Month	Number of reported cases by SARS-CoV-2	
	2022*	2023
January	745,312	185,454
February	496,705	85,747
March	646,504	72,430
April	307,749	51,739
May	140,636	58,691
June	272,957	20,942
July	604,769	21,744
August	305,484	53,378
September	178,309	89,102
October	238,047	112,639
November	222,649	82,491
December	206,887	159,150
Total	**4,366,008**	**993,507**

**Revised data*

Graph 3. Number of cases of the infection by SARS-CoV-2 by month, year 2023

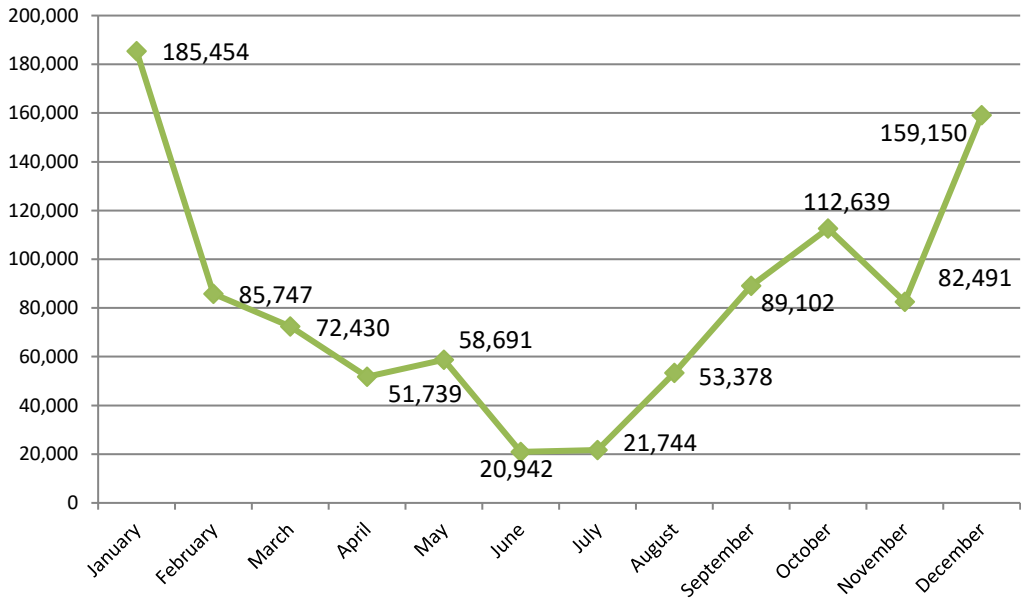


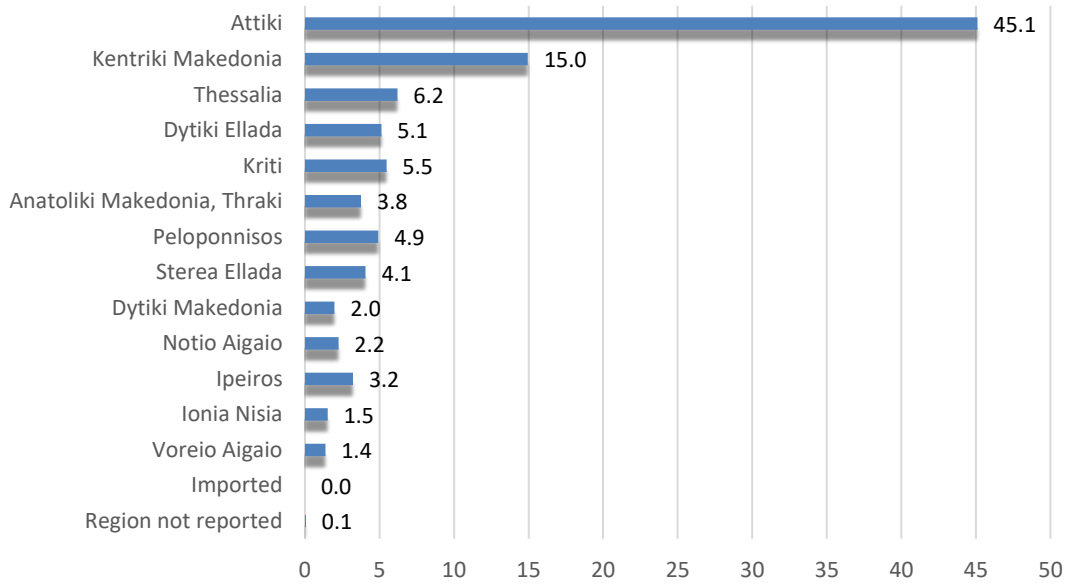
Table 5 and Graph 4 present the geographical distribution of SARS-CoV-2 virus infection by region of diagnosis. The most cases were in the Region of Attiki (448,114) with a percentage of 45.1%, followed by the Regions of Kentriki Makedonia (148,571) with a percentage of 15.0%, Thessalia (61,592) with 6.2% and Kriti (54,326) with 5.5%.

Table 5. Distribution of infection by SARS-CoV-2 by region (based on the area of diagnosis), years 2022-2023

REGIONS	Number of reported cases 2022*	%	Number of reported cases 2023	%
	4,366,008	**100.0**	**993,507**	**100.0**
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	202,192	4.6	37,401	3.8
Kentriki Makedonia	704,666	16.1	148,571	15.0
Dytiki Makedonia	96,557	2.2	19,654	2.0
Ipeiros	132,415	3.0	31,933	3.2
Thessalia	269,488	6.2	61,592	6.2
Ionia Nisia	88,951	2.0	15,104	1.5
Dytiki Ellada	255,818	5.9	50,999	5.1
Sterea Ellada	189,290	4.3	40,424	4.1
Attiki	1,599,935	36.6	448,114	45.1
Peloponnisos	221,083	5.1	48,843	4.9
Voreio Aigaio	80,974	1.9	13,618	1.4
Notio Aigaio	147,426	3.4	22,331	2.2
Kriti	306,408	7.0	54,326	5.5
Imported	6,813	0.2	0	0.0
Region not reported	63,842	1.5	597	0.1

**Revised data*

Graph 4. Percentage (%) distribution of infection by SARS-CoV-2 by region, year 2023



EXPLANATORY NOTES

Survey on the follow-up of cases of infectious diseases

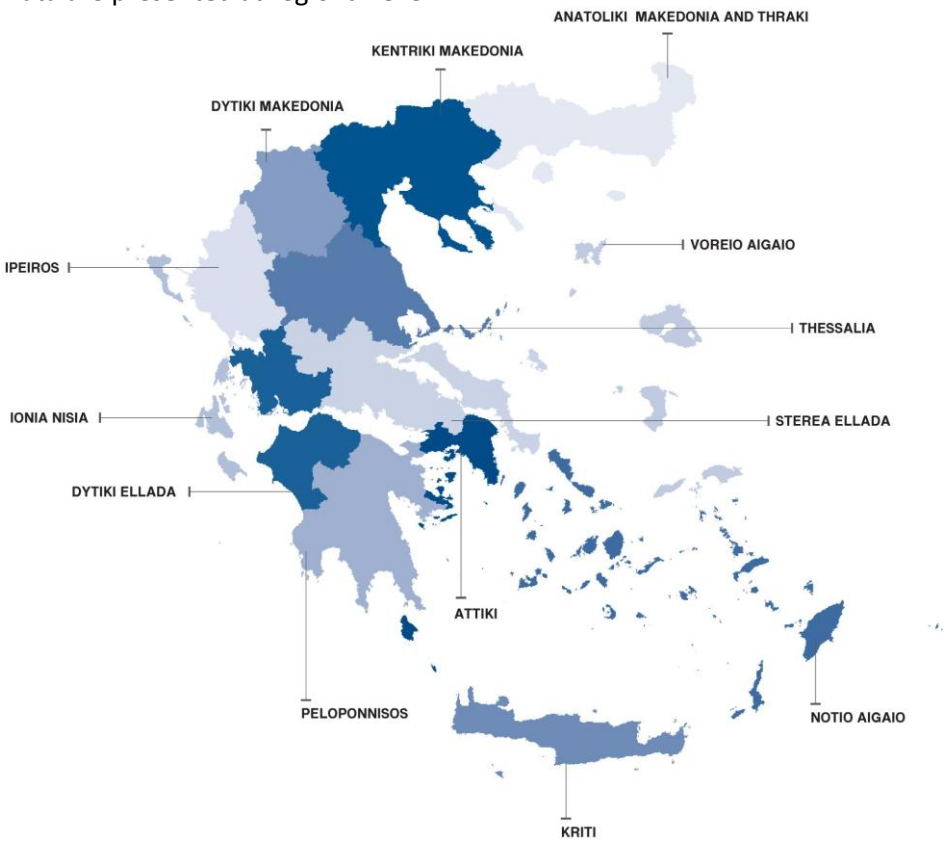
The survey has been conducted since 2004 on a yearly basis. The data are presented at a country and region level, aiming at covering national needs in statistical information.

Reference period

The data refers to the reported cases of infectious diseases on the month that these cases are clinically verified, 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 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/-