



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOLLOW UP OF REPORTED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2021

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.

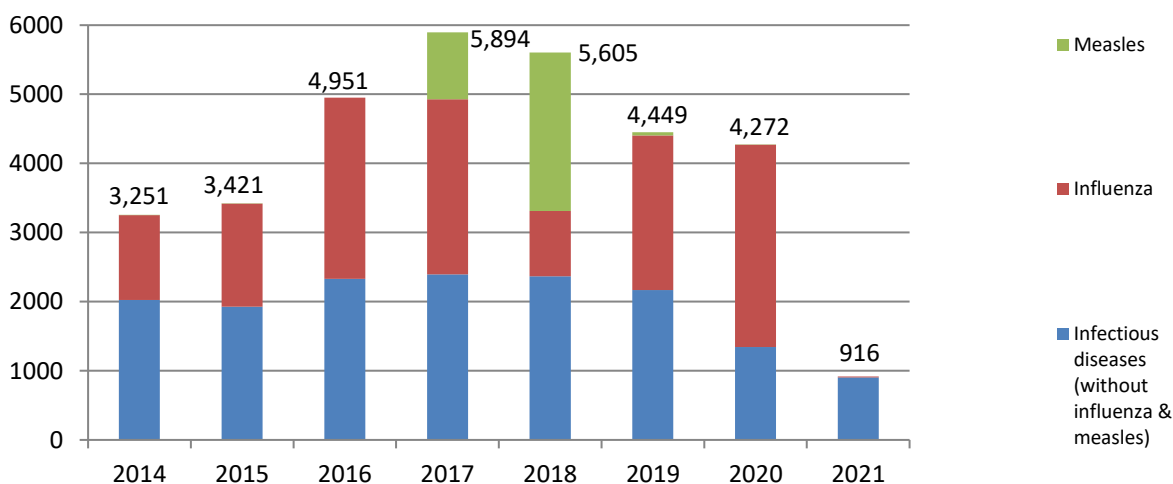
According to the data for the year 2021, the reported cases of the standard infectious diseases under surveillance were 916 compared to 4,272 in 2020, presenting a decrease of 78.6%. It is noted that, in 2021 the number of the laboratory confirmed cases of influenza recording an significant decrease from 2,926 to 11 compared to an increase in 2020 (from 2,237 to 2,926), while no cases of measles were reported (Table 1, Graph 1).

**Table 1. Reported cases of infectious diseases, years 2014 -2021**

Year	Total (incl. influenza, measles)	Influenza	Measles
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*	4,272*	2,926	3
2021	916	11	0

\*Revised data

**Graph 1. Cases of influenza, measles and the rest of infectious diseases, years 2014-2021**



**Information for methodological matters:**

Division of Sectoral Statistics  
Section of Health and Social Protection Statistics  
Zografou Alexandra  
Tel: +30 213 135 2785  
E-mail: [sectoral@statistics.gr](mailto:sectoral@statistics.gr)

**Information for data provision :**

Τηλ. 2131352022, 2310, 2308  
E-mail: [data.dissem@statistics.gr](mailto:data.dissem@statistics.gr)

Table 2 and the corresponding graph 2 present the total number of cases and the seasonality of the five most frequent infectious diseases<sup>1</sup>, two of which account for more than 100 verified and hospitalized reported cases during the year 2021. Comparing to 2020, salmonellosis decreased by 16.5%, tuberculosis by 48.0%, the West Nile virus (WNV) by 59.3%, while bacterial meningitis increased by 34.7% (66 cases in 2021 versus 49 in 2020). In year 2021, salmonellosis peaked during the summer and the most cases were reported in August (58), tuberculosis did not present high variation with a maximum of 27 cases in July, the WNV infection had incidents only in the summertime with a peak in August (37), while bacterial meningitis presented the most cases in autumn.

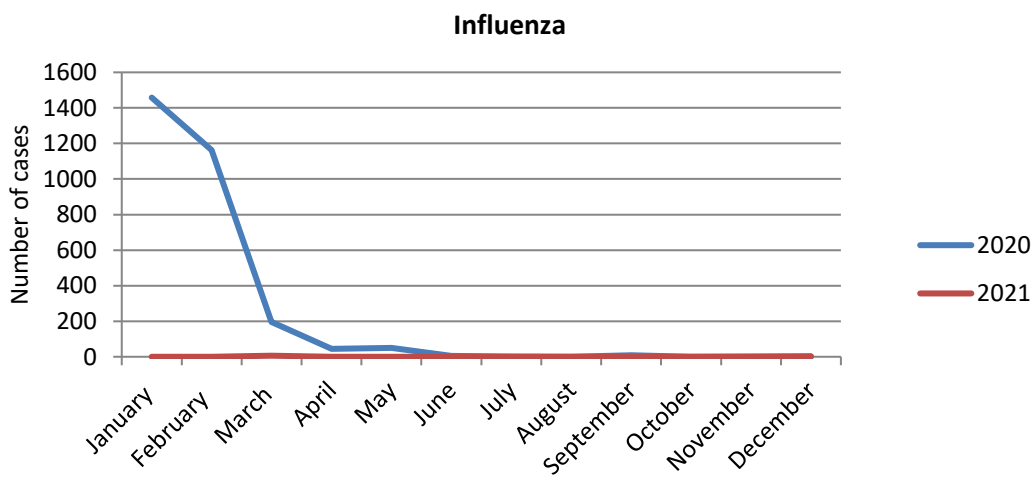
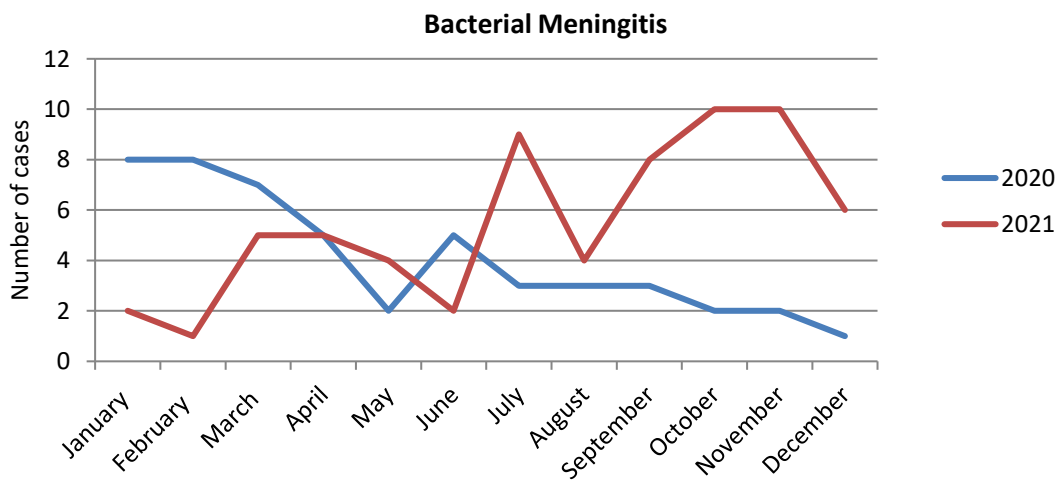
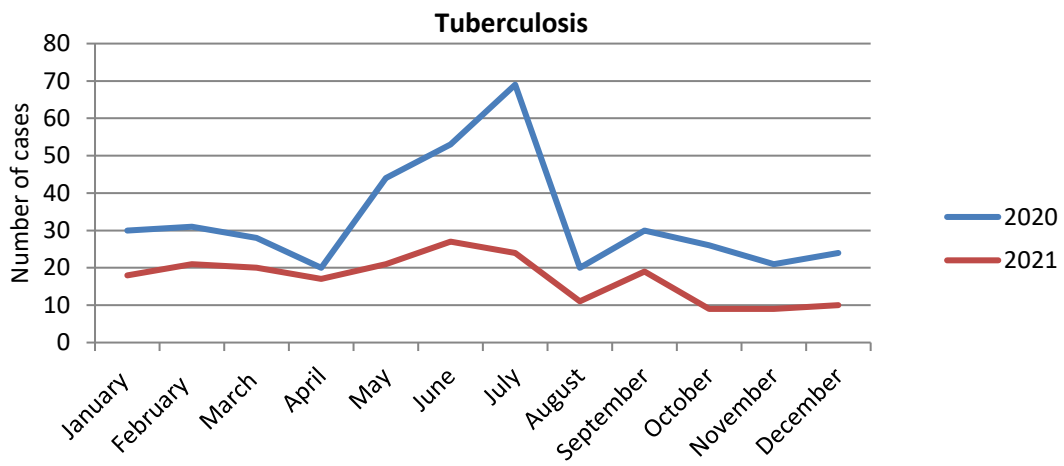
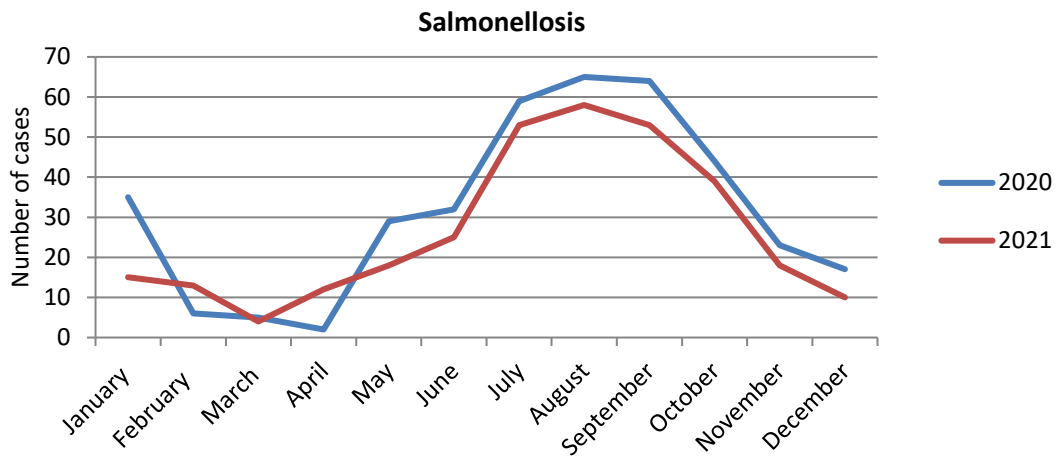
**Table 2. Seasonality of the five most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases, year 2021**

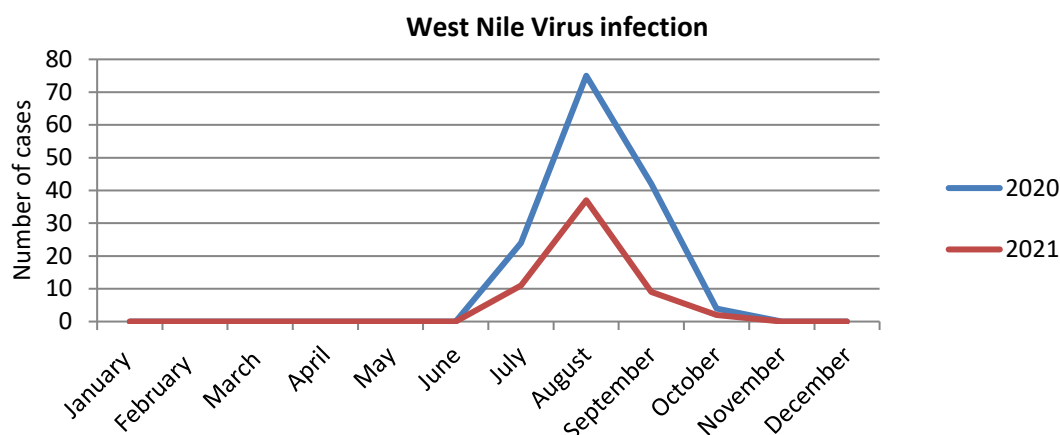
Month	Total number of reported cases	Of which:				
		Salmonellosis	Tuberculosis	Bacterial meningitis	Influenza	West Nile Virus infection
January	43	15	18	2	0	0
February	55	13	21	1	0	0
March	51	4	20	5	6	0
April	44	12	17	5	0	0
May	64	18	21	4	0	0
June	75	25	27	2	0	0
July	123	53	24	9	0	11
August	142	58	11	4	0	37
September	122	53	19	8	0	9
October	97	39	9	10	0	2
November	57	18	9	10	2	0
December	43	10	10	6	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>59</b>

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<sup>1</sup> **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. **Meningitis** is an acute infection of the central nervous system that can be caused by viral, bacterial and, rarely, fungal infections.

**Graph 2. Seasonality of the most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases, years 2020-2021**





As regards the geographical distribution of the aforementioned five infectious diseases, which is presented in Table 3, the following are observed on the basis of the available data for 2021:

regarding **salmonellosis**, most of the cases are recorded in the region of Attiki (38.4%) followed by Thessalia (12.9%). **Tuberculosis** presented the most cases in the regions of Attiki (46.1%) followed by Kentriki Makedonia (12.1%). **Bacterial meningitis** presented the most cases in Attiki (34.8%) and in Kriti (13.6%). **Influenza** presented only 7 cases in Attiki from 2021 in year 2020 and for the infection of **West Nile virus** 50 cases appeared in the region of Kentriki Makedonia versus 94 cases in 2020.

**Table 3. Distribution of the most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases by region, year 2021**

Region (NUTS 2)	Total of reported cases	Salmonellosis	Tuberculosis	Bacterial meningitis	Influenza	West Nile Virus Infection
	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>916 (100.0)</b>	<b>318 (100.0)</b>	<b>206 (100.0)</b>	<b>66 (100.0)</b>	<b>11 (100.0)</b>	<b>59 (100.0)</b>
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	26 (2.8)	7 (2.2)	4 (1.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (6.8)
Kentriki Makedonia	115 (12.6)	15 (4.7)	25 (12.1)	4 (6.1)	1 (9.1)	50 (84.7)
Dytiki Makedonia	11 (1.2)	5 (1.6)	2 (1.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Ipeiros	43 (4.7)	22 (6.9)	8 (3.9)	1 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Thessalia	69 (7.5)	41 (12.9)	11 (5.3)	3 (4.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Ionia Nisia	21 (2.3)	5 (1.6)	3 (1.5)	1 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Dytiki Ellada	57 (6.2)	24 (7.5)	9 (4.4)	7 (10.6)	1 (9.1)	0 (0.0)
Sterea Ellada	40 (4.4)	11 (3.5)	3 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (3.4)
<b>Attiki</b>	<b>344 (37.6)</b>	<b>122 (38.4)</b>	<b>95 (46.1)</b>	<b>23 (34.8)</b>	<b>7 (63.6)</b>	<b>3 (5.1)</b>
Peloponnisos	40 (4.4)	20 (6.3)	5 (2.4)	0 (0.0)	1 (9.1)	0 (0.0)
Voreio Aigaio	38 (4.1)	21 (6.6)	9 (4.4)	2 (3.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Notio Aigaio	13 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.0)	2 (3.0)	1 (9.1)	0 (0.0)
Kriti	43 (4.7)	19 (6.0)	3 (1.5)	9 (13.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Region not reported	56 (6.1)	6 (1.9)	27 (13.1)	14 (21.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)

The total number of SARS-CoV-2 infections in 2021 amounted to 1,125,289 cases compared to 142,332 in 2020, an increase of 690.6%. As for the seasonality of the infection by SARS-CoV-2 it is presented in Table 4 and Graph 3. The number of cases presented a decline in May and June and a significant increase from October, reaching the peak in December with 316,754 cases recorded.

**Table 4. Seasonality of the infection by SARS-CoV-2, years 2020-2021**

Month	Number of reported cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection	
	2020*	2021
January	0	18,017
February	6	35,981
March	1,596	77,665
April	1,057	82,092
May	317	58,056
June	525	18,109
July	1,277	70,509
August	6,158	95,328
September	8,488	65,352
October	23,612	87,809
November	68,983	199,617
December	30,313	316,754
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,332</b>	<b>1,125,289</b>

\* Revised data

**Graph 3. Number of cases of the infection by SARS-CoV-2 by month, year 2021**

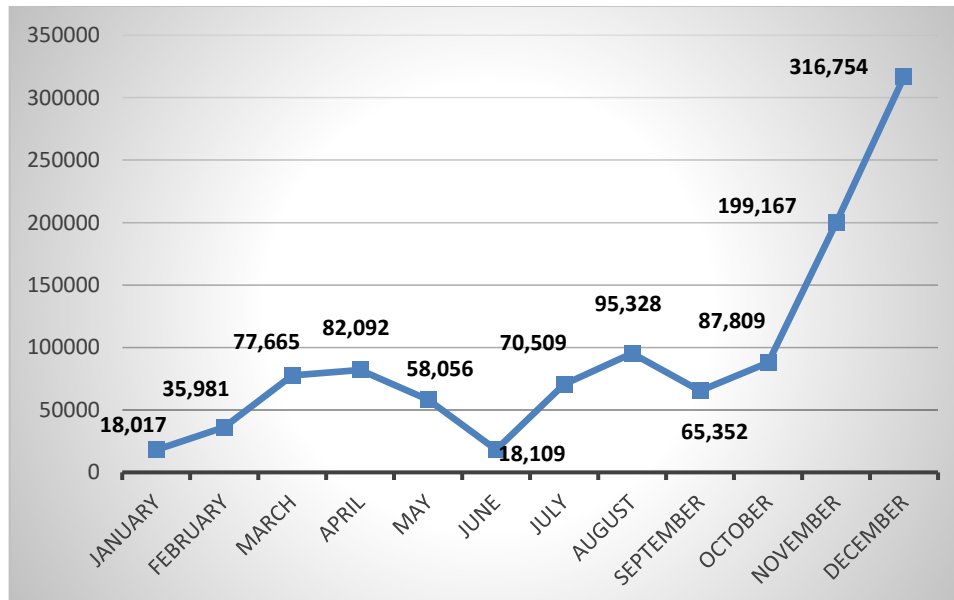


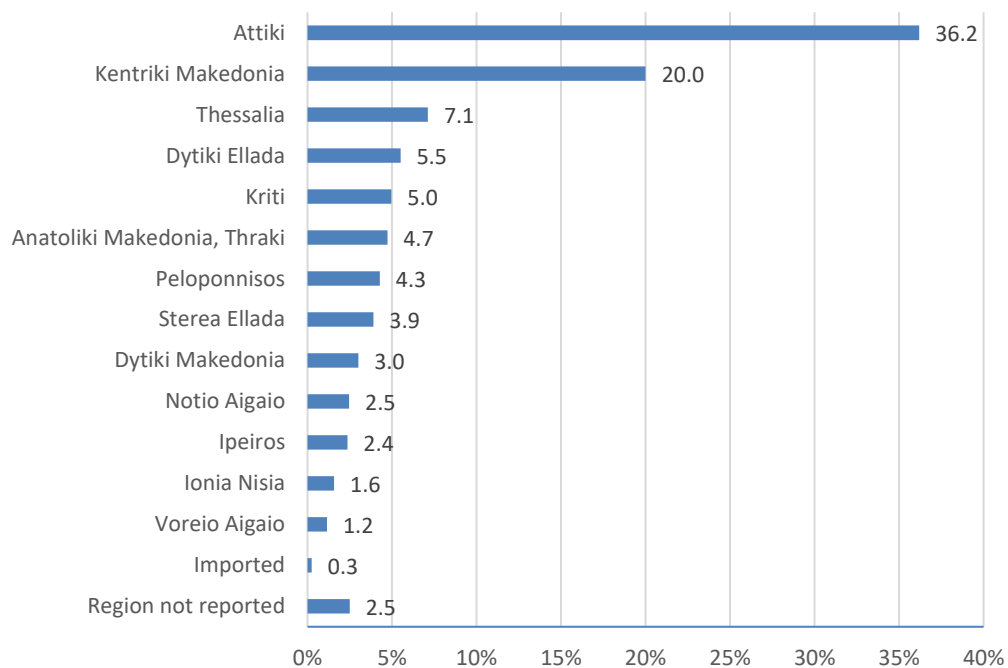
Table 5 and Graph 4 present the geographical distribution of the infection caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2 for the years 2020-2021, based on the region of diagnosis. Most of the cases occurred in the region of Attiki (407,213) with a percentage of 36.2% followed by Kentriki Makedonia (225,064) with 20.0% and Thessalia (80,172) with 7.1% of the cases.

**Table 5. Distribution of infection by SARS-CoV-2 by region, years 2020-2021**

Region	Number of reported cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection	
	2020*	2021
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	12,796	53,156
Attiki	38,671	407,213
Voreio Aigaio	2,355	13,025
Dytiki Ellada	3,195	61,985
Dytiki Makedonia	5,381	33,807
Ipeiros	2,056	26,658
Thessalia	12,944	80,172
Ionia Nisia	944	17,719
Kentriki Makedonia	49,542	225,064
Kriti	2,607	55,837
Notio Aigaio	1,734	27,684
Peloponnisos	2,386	48,159
Stereia Ellada	2,585	43,906
Imported	2,966	2,840
Region not reported	2,170	28,064
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,332</b>	<b>1,125,289</b>

\* Revised data

**Graph 4. Percentage (%) distribution of infection by SARS-CoV-2 by region, year 2021**



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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

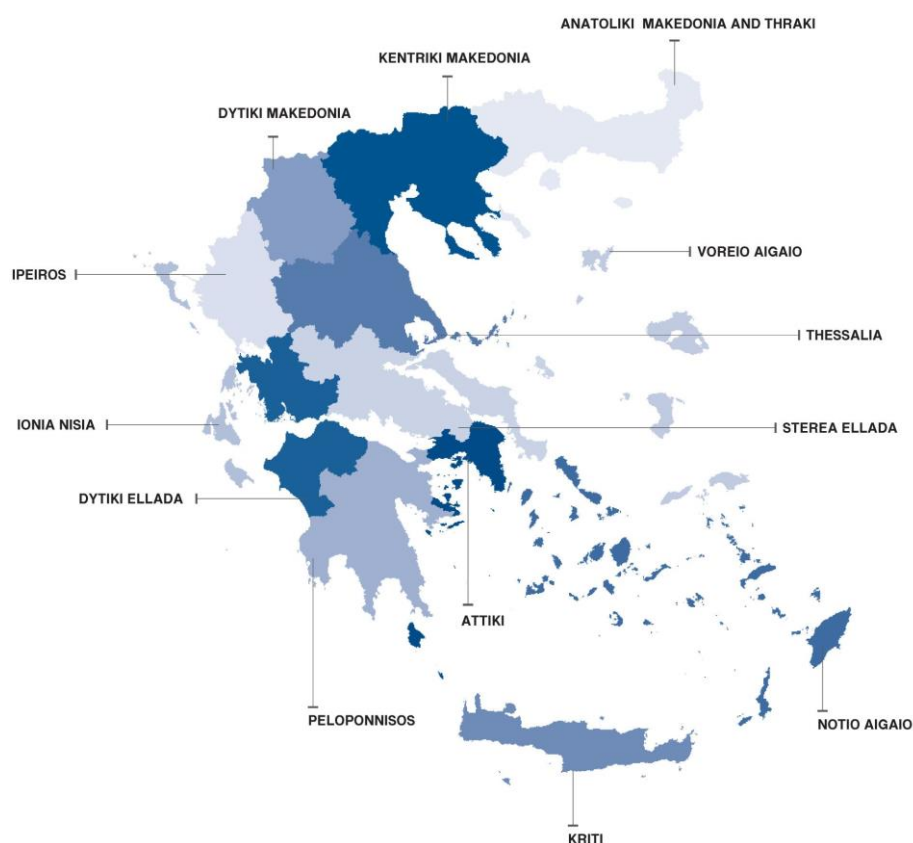
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**Survey on the follow up of cases of infectious diseases** The survey has been conducted since 2004 on a yearly basis. The data are presented at a country and region level, aiming at covering national needs in statistical information.

**Reference period** The data refer to the reported cases of infectious diseases during the reference year, which are monitored by the epidemiological surveillance & intervention system of EODY. The monthly data are based on the date of notification to EODY, except of some vector-borne infectious diseases as Malaria, Arboviral infections, Dengue fever, WNV etc. for which the classification is based on the date of symptoms onset. In the cases of SARS-CoV-2, the month of the sampling for the virologic test is considered.

**Coverage** Data are presented at regional level (NUTS 2)

**Map of the 13 Regions of Greece (NUTS 2).**



**Methodology** ELSTAT collects annually from the National Public Health Organization of Greece (NPHO-EODY) aggregated data on the cases of infectious diseases by month and Region for the reference year under consideration. The classification to region is based on the residence place of the case, except of SARS-CoV-2, where the region of diagnosis is used.

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