



PRESS RELEASE

FOLLOW UP OF REPORTED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2019

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces provisional data on reported cases of infectious diseases for 2018 on the basis of information deriving from the National Public Health Organization (NPHO) of Greece (former Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention-HCDCP) which 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.

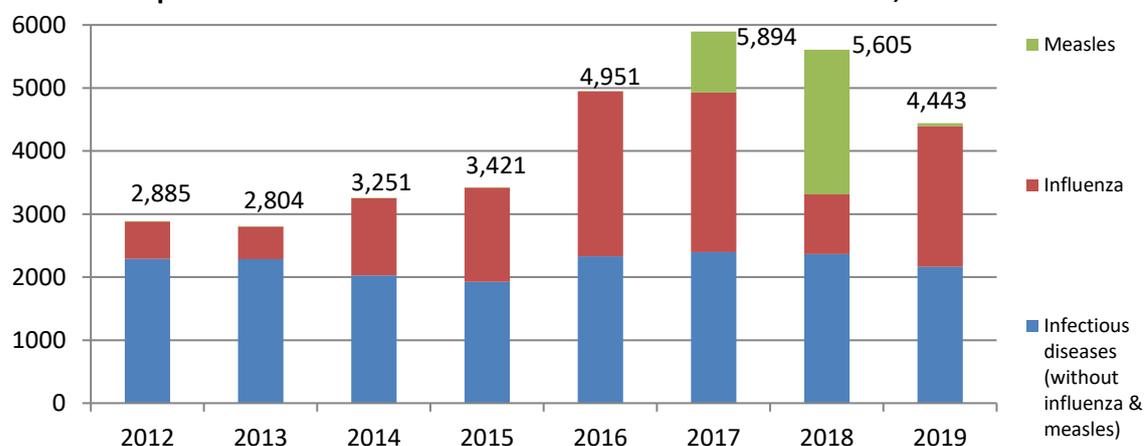
According to data for year 2019, the reported cases of infectious diseases were 4,443 against 5,605 in 2018, presenting a decrease of 20.7%. It is noted that though in 2018 the number of reported cases of measles presented an increase of 136.7% compared to 2017, in 2019 were reduced by 98.0%. On the contrary influenza of which the laboratory confirmed cases had been reduced in 2018 by 62.6% compared to 2017 (from 2,531 to 947), in 2019 presented a significant increase of 136.2% from 947 to 2,237 cases (Table 1, Graph 1).

Table 1. Reported cases of infectious diseases, 2012 -2019

Year	Total (incl. influenza, measles)	Influenza	Measles
2012	2,885	593	3
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	4,443	2,237	45

*Revised data

Graph 1. Influenza & measles and the rest of infectious diseases, 2012-2019



Information for methodological matters:

Division of Sectoral Statistics
Section of Health and Social Protection Statistics
Konstantinos Giasafakis, Alexandra Zografou
Tel: +30 213 135 2136, 2785
sectoral@statistics.gr

Information for data provision:

Τηλ. 2131352022, 2310, 2308
E-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr

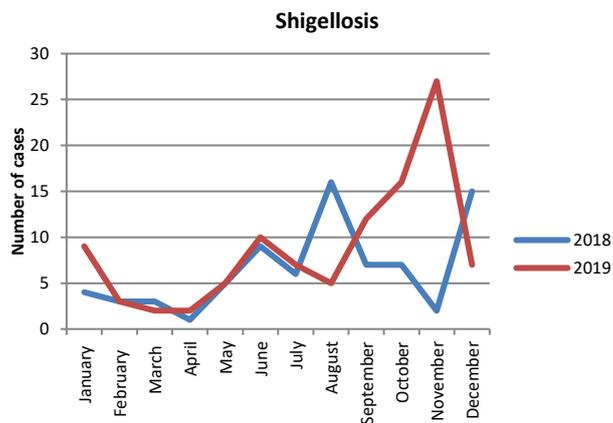
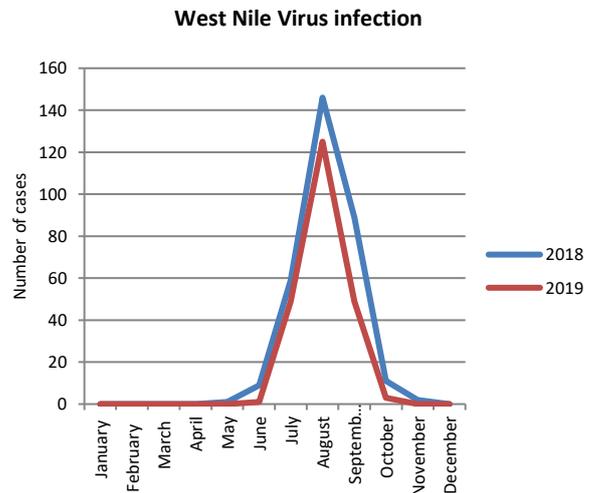
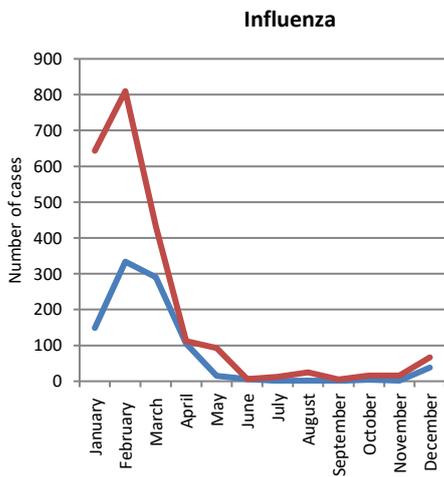
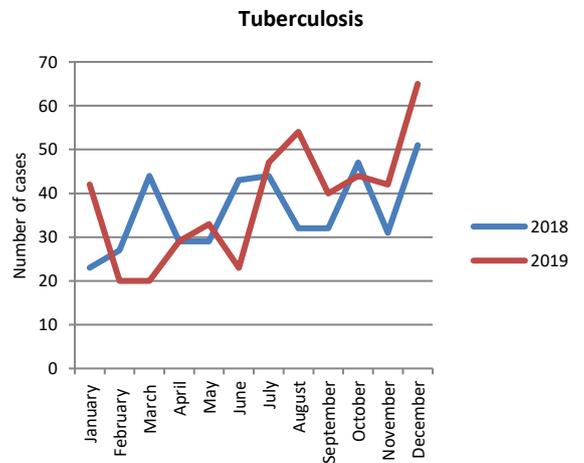
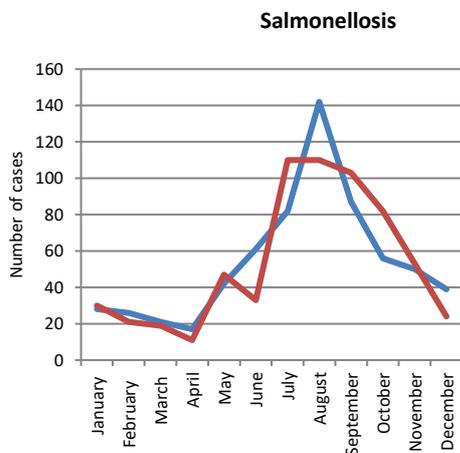
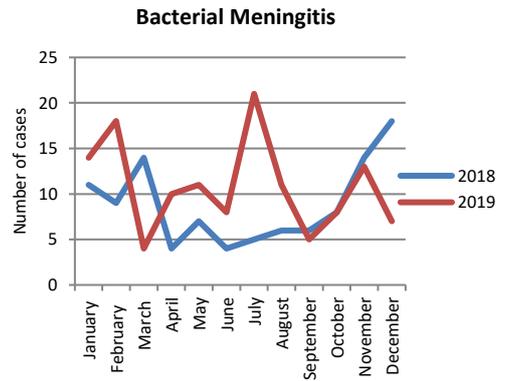
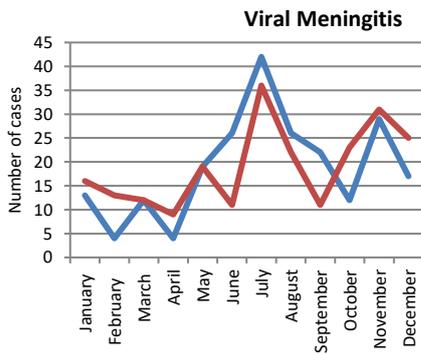
Table 2 and the corresponding graph 2, present the seasonality of seven infectious diseases¹, which account for more than 100 verified and hospitalized reported cases during the year 2019. The seven infectious diseases are bacterial meningitis, viral meningitis, salmonellosis, tuberculosis, influenza, the West Nile virus (WNV) infection and shigellosis. On the basis of the reported cases, salmonellosis had its peak in the summer, with the most cases being reported in July and August (110). For the first time in the last years shigellosis presented more than 100 cases with the highest incidence being in November (27). Tuberculosis showed an upward trend during 2019. Viral meningitis reached its peak in July 2019 then dropped and started rising again with another peak in November. Bacterial meningitis followed the same pattern. The influenza cases had their peak in February and since May had been significantly reduced until the end of the year when they began rising again. The WNV infection cases increased during summertime, had their peak in August (125) and were reduced to zero in winter.

Table 2. Seasonality of seven infectious diseases¹, 2019

Month	Total number of reported cases	Of which:						
		Bacterial meningitis	Viral meningitis	Salmonellosis	Tuberculosis	Influenza	West Nile Virus infection	Shigellosis
January	776	14	16	30	42	643	0	9
February	910	18	13	21	20	810	0	3
March	531	4	12	19	20	432	0	2
April	214	10	9	11	29	112	0	2
May	251	11	19	47	33	93	0	5
June	118	8	11	33	23	6	1	10
July	323	21	36	110	47	12	49	7
August	378	11	22	110	54	25	125	5
September	270	5	11	103	40	5	49	12
October	222	8	23	82	44	16	3	16
November	216	13	31	53	42	16	0	27
December	234	7	25	24	65	67	0	7
Total	4,443	130	228	643	459	2,237	227	105

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. **Shigellosis** (former bacterial dysentery) is a bacterial infection which affects the digestive system and is transmitted through the contaminated water and food or through contact with faeces and the main symptom is diarrhea. **Meningitis** is an acute infection of the central nervous system that can be caused by viral, bacterial and, rarely, fungal infections. 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 six infectious diseases 2018 and 2019



As regards the geographical distribution of the aforementioned seven infectious diseases, the following are observed on the basis of the available data for 2019: with regard to **salmonellosis**, most of the cases are recorded in the regions of Attiki (35.1%). As for the **shigellosis** apart from Attiki (32,4%) the region of Voreio Aigaio came up to the same level (31.4%). The highest percentage of recorded cases of **Tuberculosis** was presented in the region of Attiki (40.1%) followed by the region of Kentriki Makedonia (12.9%). As far as **viral meningitis** is concerned, most of the cases are reported in descending order in the regions of Kriti (26.3), Attiki (23.2%) and Dytiki Ellada (18.0%) while for **bacterial meningitis** first comes Attiki (29.2%) second Kriti (13.1%) and third comes Kentriki Makedonia (12.3%). **Influenza** presents the greatest concentration in Attiki (66.6%) and small variance in the rest of the country. Finally, concerning the infection of **West Nile virus** the highest percentages of incidences were in Anatoliki Makedonia & Thraki (40.5%) and then were equally distributed in Kentriki Makedonia and Thessalia (23.8%) whereas Attiki was lagging behind (11.0%).

Table 3. Distribution of the seven most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases by region, 2019

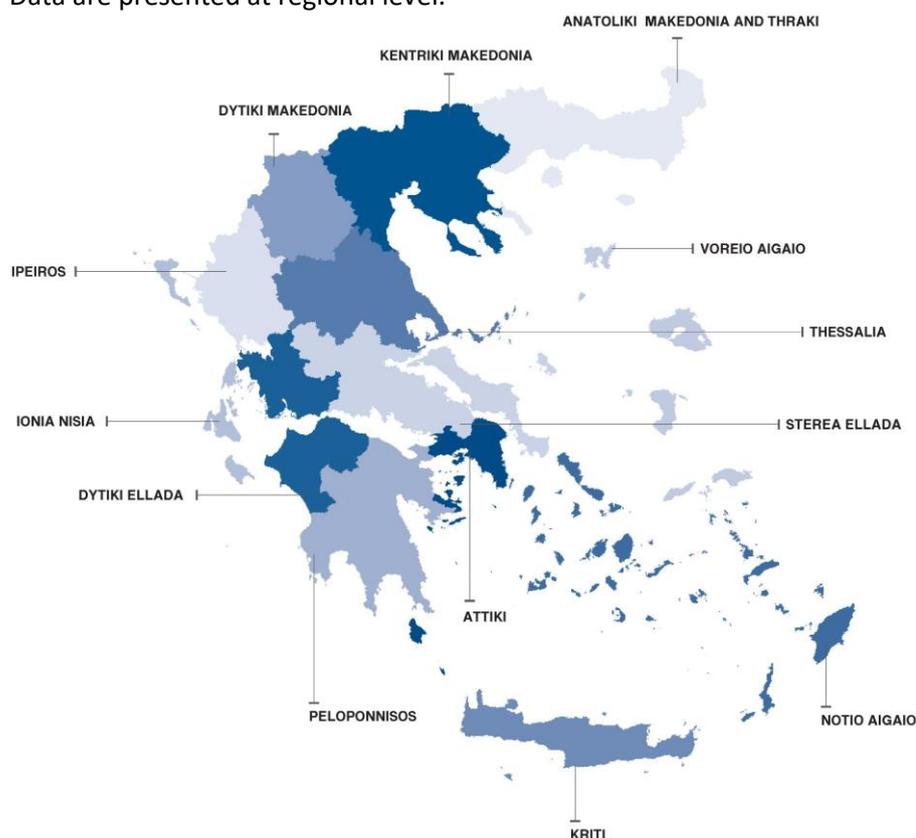
Region (NUTS 2)	Total of reported cases		Bacterial Meningitis		Viral meningitis		Salmonellosis		Tuberculosis		Influenza		West Nile Virus Infection		Shigellosis	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	4,443	100.0	130	100.0	228	100.0	643	100.0	459	100.0	2,237	100.0	227	100.0	105	100.0
An. Makedonia & Thraki	229	5.2	10	7.7	6	2.6	57	8.9	4	0.9	31	1.4	92	40.5	5	4.8
Kentriki Makedonia	430	9.7	16	12.3	16	7.0	37	5.8	59	12.9	191	8.5	54	23.8	3	2.9
Dytiki Makedonia	38	0.9	1	0.8	1	0.4	8	1.2	6	1.3	14	0.6	1	0.4	0	0.0
Ipeiros	138	3.1	3	2.3	7	3.1	44	6.8	17	3.7	44	2.0	0	0.0	2	1.9
Thessalia	240	5.4	2	1.5	10	4.4	55	8.6	42	9.2	42	1.9	54	23.8	5	4.8
Ionia Nisia	62	1.4	3	2.3	8	3.5	21	3.3	6	1.3	16	0.7	0	0.0	1	1.0
Dytiki Ellada	188	4.2	12	9.2	41	18.0	28	4.4	13	2.8	50	2.2	0	0.0	9	8.6
Stereia Ellada	146	3.3	9	6.9	4	1.8	39	6.1	22	4.8	45	2.0	0	0.0	3	2.9
Attiki	2,193	49.4	38	29.2	53	23.2	226	35.1	184	40.1	1,490	66.6	25	11.0	34	32.4
Peloponnisos	151	3.4	6	4.6	3	1.3	25	3.9	24	5.2	66	3.0	0	0.0	3	2.9
Voreio Aigaio	143	3.2	7	5.4	12	5.3	26	4.0	45	9.8	5	0.2	0	0.0	33	31.4
Notio Aigaio	46	1.0	4	3.1	4	1.8	4	0.6	5	1.1	19	0.8	0	0.0	1	1.0
Kriti	231	5.2	17	13.1	60	26.3	51	7.9	19	4.1	68	3.0	0	0.0	3	2.9
Region not reported	208	4.7	2	1.5	3	1.3	22	3.4	13	2.8	156	7.0	1	0.4	3	2.9

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/>