



PRESS RELEASE

FOLLOW UP OF REPORTED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2018

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

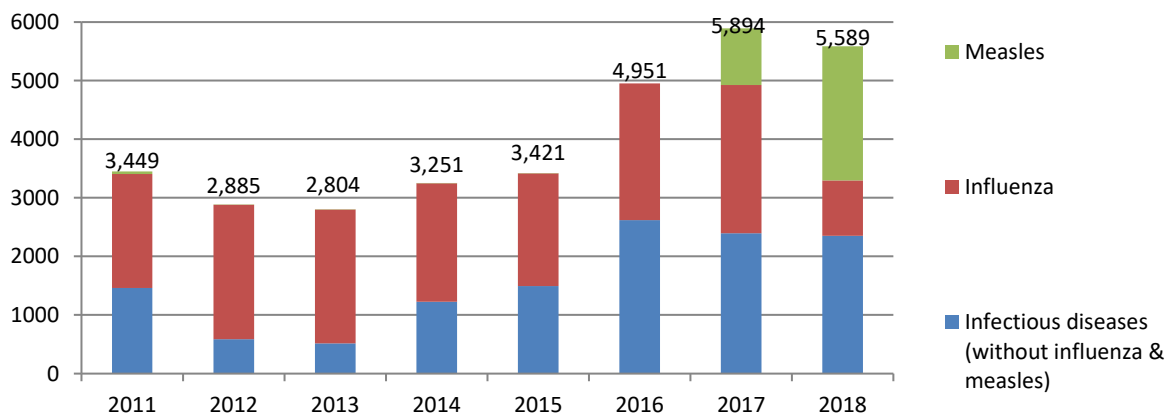
According to the data for the year 2018, the reported cases of infectious diseases came up to 5,589 against 5,894 in 2017, presenting a decrease of 5.2%. It is noted that in 2018 the number of reported cases of measles increased significantly coming up to 2,291 from 968 in 2017 (an increase of 136.7%) whereas the laboratory confirmed cases of influenza were reduced compared to 2017 from 2,531 to 947 by 62.6% (Table 1, Graph 1).

Table 1. Reported cases of infectious diseases, 2011 -2018

Year	Total (incl. influenza, measles)	Influenza	Measles
2011	3,449	1,504	40
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	5,589	947	2,291

*Revised data

Graph 1. Influenza & measles and the rest of infectious diseases, 2011-2018



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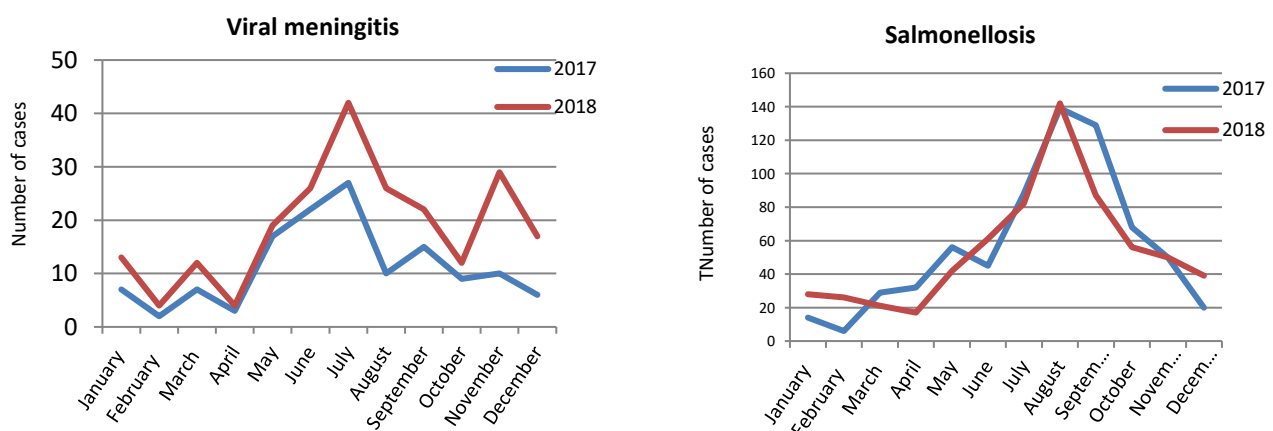
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Table 2 and the corresponding graph 2 present the seasonality of seven infectious diseases¹, which account for more than 100 verified and hospitalized reported cases during the year 2018. On the basis of the reported cases, salmonellosis had its peak in the summer, with the most cases being reported in August (142). Tuberculosis did not show great variance along the year. Viral meningitis presented the most cases in July. Hepatitis A presented 2-digit cases until March and afterwards during the rest of the year decreased to 1-digit numbers. The influenza cases had their peak in February and since May have been significantly reduced until the end of the year. The cases of measles were high in winter, had their peak in March and were reduced significantly from summer and afterwards. The WNV infection cases increased during summertime, had their peak in August (144) and were reduced to zero in winter.

Table 2. Seasonality of seven infectious diseases, 2017 and 2018

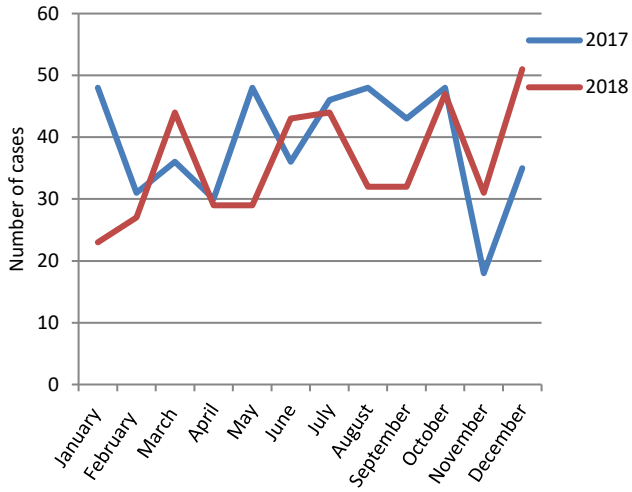
Month	Total number of reported cases	Of which:						
		Viral meningitis	Salmonellosis	Tuberculosis	Hepatitis acute A	Influenza	Measles	West Nile Virus infection
January	714	13	28	23	28	149	429	0
February	908	4	26	27	17	334	453	0
March	985	12	21	44	23	290	549	0
April	564	4	17	29	4	105	352	0
May	455	19	42	29	7	15	290	1
June	373	26	61	43	5	6	155	9
July	331	42	82	44	4	1	38	59
August	425	26	142	32	1	2	18	144
September	286	22	87	32	1	1	4	89
October	187	12	56	47	5	4	2	11
November	163	29	50	31	6	2	0	2
December	198	17	39	51	9	38	1	0
Total	5,589	226	651	432	110	947	2,291	315

Graph 2. Seasonality of six infectious diseases 2017 and 2018

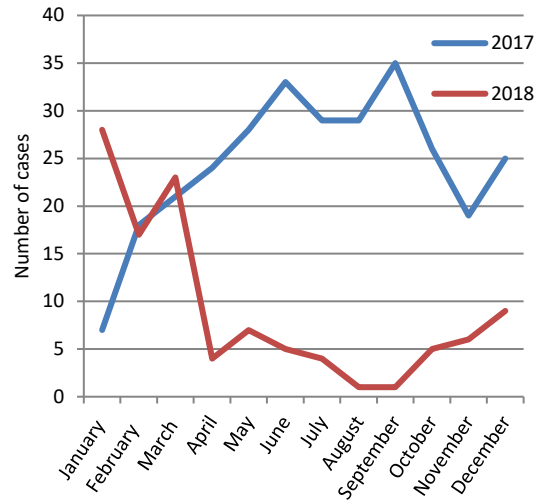


¹ **Tuberculosis** which is monitored by the European Centre for disease Prevention and Control remains one of the major problems of public health, though the target was, by 2050, to eradicate the prevalence of tuberculosis and the recurrent deaths. **Salmonellosis** is the most frequently reported food-borne infection. **Meningitis** is an acute infection of the central nervous system that can be caused by viral, bacterial and, rarely, fungal infections. **Acute 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. **The WNV (West Nile Virus) infection** is transmitted via the bites of infected mosquitoes and infects animals and humans. **Measles** is a virus infection of the respiratory system and is caused by the measles virus. **Influenza** is a viral infection of the respiratory system and is caused by the influenza virus. It is distinguished into seasonal and new influenza.

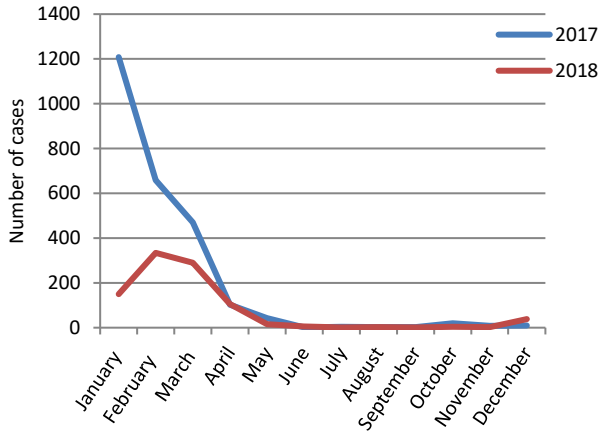
Tuberculosis



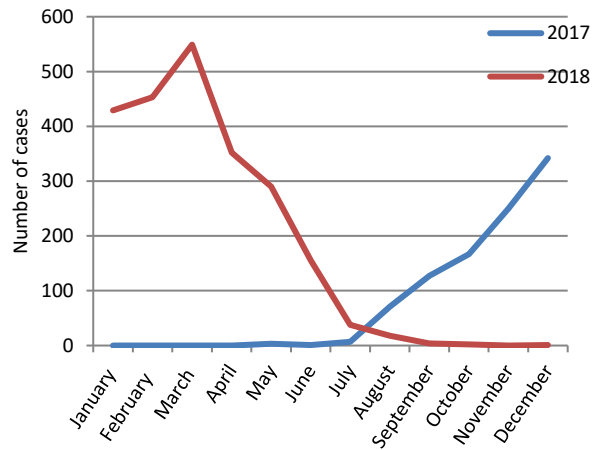
Hepatitis acute A



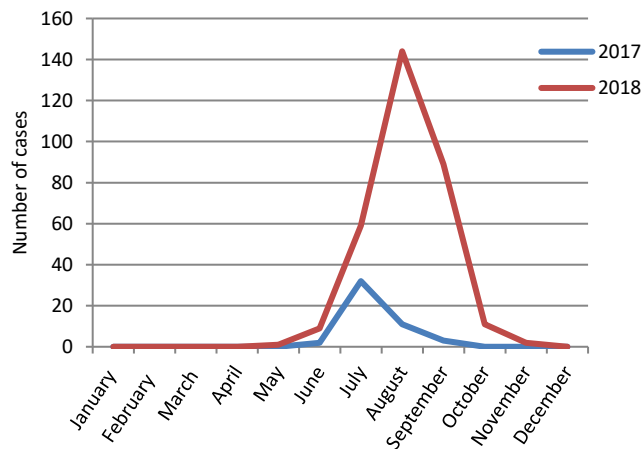
Influenza



Measles



West Nile Virus infection



As regards the geographical distribution of the seven infectious diseases for 2018, which is presented in table 3, the following are observed: regarding **salmonellosis**, most of the cases were recorded in the regions of Attiki (36.3%) and in Kentriki Makedonia (12.4%). **Tuberculosis** presented a significant percentage of recorded cases in the regions of Attiki (34.0%) reduced by 3.3% compared to 2017 and in Kentriki Makedonia (14.1%) also reduced by 2.2% compared to 2017. The acute **hepatitis A** presented the greatest number of cases in the region of Attiki (37.3%) but reduced by 20.5% compared to 2017. As far as **viral meningitis** is concerned, most of the cases were reported, in descending order, in the regions of Attiki (28.8%), Dytiki Ellada (19%) and Kriti (13.7%). **Influenza** presented the greatest concentration in Attiki (71.4%) and small variance in the rest of the country. The same happened with the infection of **West Nile virus** (51.1% in Attiki). As for the **measles**, the regions which presented the highest percentages of incidences, were Attiki (26.8%), Dytiki Ellada (21.9%) and Kentriki Macedonia (14.9%).

Table 3. Distribution of the seven most frequently reported cases of infectious diseases by region, 2018

Region (NUTS 2)	Total of reported cases		Influenza		Measles		Salmonellosis		Viral meningitis		Tuberculosis		Hepatitis acute A		West Nile Virus Infection	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
TOTAL	5,589	100.0	947	100.0	2,291	100.0	651	100.0	226	100.0	432	100.0	110	100.0	315	100.0
An. Makedonia, Thraki	375	6.7	10	1.1	245	10.7	44	6.8	8	3.5	7	1.6	5	4.5	14	4.4
Kentriki Makedonia	778	13.9	63	6.7	341	14.9	81	12.4	13	5.8	61	14.1	24	21.8	115	36.5
Dytiki Makedonia	35	0.6	4	0.4	7	0.3	11	1.7	2	0.9	0	0.0	5	4.5	0	0.0
Ipeiros	132	2.4	26	2.7	18	0.8	41	6.3	8	3.5	12	2.8	7	6.4	0	0.0
Thessalia	351	6.3	10	1.1	220	9.6	32	4.9	3	1.3	30	6.9	0	0.0	8	2.5
Ionia Nisia	57	1.0	2	0.2	8	0.3	13	2.0	13	5.8	3	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Dytiki Ellada	697	12.5	22	2.3	501	21.9	36	5.5	43	19.0	32	7.4	2	1.8	0	0.0
Sterea Ellada	285	5.1	22	2.3	135	5.9	27	4.1	5	2.2	31	7.2	8	7.3	10	3.2
Attiki	2,120	37.9	676	71.4	614	26.8	236	36.3	65	28.8	147	34.0	41	37.3	161	51.1
Peloponnisos	267	4.8	19	2.0	129	5.6	48	7.4	4	1.8	24	5.6	0	0.0	2	0.6
Voreio Aigaio	146	2.6	0	0.0	34	1.5	14	2.2	22	9.7	44	10.2	13	11.8	0	0.0
Notio Aigaio	57	1.0	18	1.9	8	0.3	7	1.1	2	0.9	6	1.4	1	0.9	0	0.0
Kriti	201	3.6	29	3.1	29	1.3	55	8.4	31	13.7	21	4.9	3	2.7	2	0.6
Region not reported	88	1.6	46	4.9	2	0.1	6	0.9	7	3.1	14	3.2	1	0.9	3	1.0

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Survey on the follow up of cases of infectious diseases

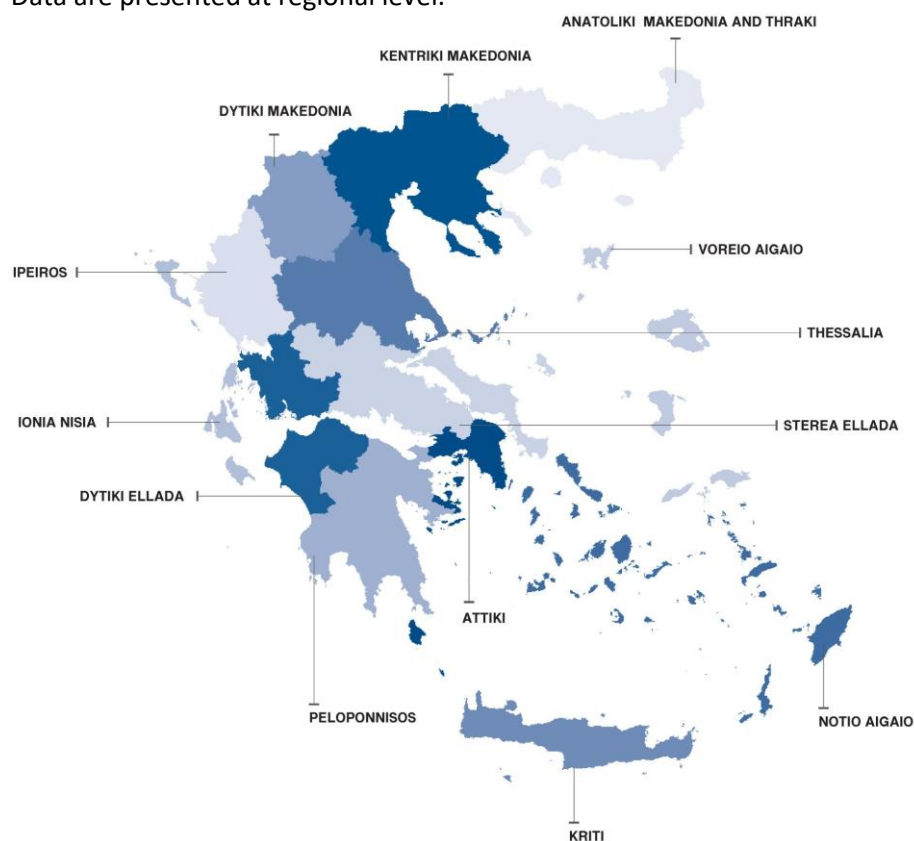
The survey has been conducted since 2004 on a yearly basis. The data are presented at country and regional level, aiming at covering national needs in statistical information.

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/>