



Regional dengue activity is variable. Australia, Malaysia and Singapore have been experiencing a greater number of reported cases in 2014 compared to 2013, for the same time period. The recent trend increased in Lao PDR, however, reported cases remain lower than 2013, for the same time period. The recent trend continued to decrease in Cambodia, New Caledonia, Philippines and Viet Nam.

Lao PDR experienced a large dengue year in 2013, peaking in August. However, in early 2014, dengue activity remained low, and substantially lower than during the same time period in 2013.

Malaysia is experiencing an outbreak of dengue. Dengue activity in 2014 is more than 4 times higher than 2013, for the same time period.

Singapore is experiencing an increased level of dengue activity. Dengue activity in 2014 is 1.3 times higher than 2013, for the same time period.

Dengue virus infection in the Pacific Region

High level of dengue activity is being observed in Fiji, New Caledonia, Vanuatu and French Polynesia.

In Fiji, as of 28 Feb 2014, there were 9825 suspected dengue cases of which 3802 were laboratory confirmed. There are eight deaths in which one was a health worker. Majority of the cases were from the Central division, however there was an increasing number of cases being observed in the Western and Northern division. DENV-3 has been isolated. The number of cases is expected to continue to increase in the coming months. WHO and SPC have provided technical and financial support to assist in the confirmation and response to the outbreak. This includes, the provision by WHO of 10,000 dengue test kits. MOH are responding to the situation with control measures including clean-up operations, and other vector control activities.

In New Caledonia, there is a decreasing trend of dengue cases, however, given the high level of activity in the region and the increasing cases of zika virus infection, arboviral surveillance and public health response measures have been reviewed and strengthened. DENV-3 has been isolated in addition to DENV-1 (isolated in an imported case) from cases occurring in New Caledonia.

In Vanuatu, as of 25 Feb 2014, a total of 887 suspected cases were reported. No deaths have been reported. The Ministry of Health is continuing to activate enhanced surveillance in Port Vila and the main centers throughout the country. With the support of WHO and other external partners, case management capacity and prevention

intervention have been strengthened in Port Vila and Luganville. Efforts have been taken by the MOH to control and reduce the dengue outbreak.

In French Polynesia, the dengue situation appears to be improving with a decline in cases reported each week after seeing an increasing level of dengue since mid-July 2013. As of 28 Feb 2014, the total number of cases is 1,741. Both dengue serotype-1 and serotype-3 were isolated.

Dengue virus serotype 3 (DENV-3), to which a large proportion of the population of the Pacific Islands is likely to be susceptible has been recently isolated in the Region and is co-circulating with serotype 1 (DENV-1), although, a large proportion of the Pacific Island communities are likely to be immune to DENV-1 as it has been circulating in the Region for many years. Dengue virus serotype 3 has recently re-emerged in several countries and territories in the South Pacific after nearly 20 years. WHO is closely monitoring the situation in the Region.

Zika virus infection in the Pacific region

In French Polynesia, as of 28 Feb 2014, there were 8583 suspected cases of zika virus infection reported by the health professionals sentinel network since early October 2013. Since late October, there were 301 confirmed cases. All islands of French Polynesia have been affected, and in all islands, the epidemic seems to have entered a phase of decline.

In New Caledonia, the Department of Health and Social Affairs detected the first indigenous case of zika virus infection on 19 Jan 2014. As of 5 Mar, there have been 171 confirmed cases of zika virus since 25 November 2013. Of these, 139/171 (81%) were locally transmitted cases and 32/171 (19%) imported from French Polynesia.

In Cook Islands, as of 25 February 2014 there have been 47 cases of mild dengue-like illness. Cases presented with mild illness with no hospitalization, compatible with zika virus infection. Specimens have been sent to French Polynesia for serotyping. All the specimens were tested negative for dengue RT-PCR but one of the specimens was tested positive for zika virus.

Zika virus infection is usually a mild disease; no hospitalizations directly related to acute infection have been reported. Current public health surveillance and response measures aimed at arboviruses in New Caledonia were reviewed and strengthened and include implementing surveillance at the arrivals of all flights from French Polynesia. Surveillance and response capacities are strong and at this stage, WHO assistance has not been requested. WHO continues to monitor the situation closely.

Table. Reported number of dengue cases in 2014 and 2013 (for the same time period), by country.* NA: Not applicable.

| | Recent trend** | No. reported cases per latest reporting period (week (w) or month (m)) | Reporting Period | No. reported cases per same reporting period in 2013 (week (w) or month (m)) | Cumulative No. reported cases (deaths) | | 2014 /2013 ratio |
|----------------------|----------------|--|------------------|--|--|-------------|------------------|
| | | | | | 2014 | 2013 | |
| Australia*** | ↓ | 174/m | February | 148/m | 419 (NA) | 342 (NA) | 1.2 |
| Cambodia | ↓ | 6/w | 22-28 Jan | 103/w | 67 (1) | 568 (1) | 0.1 |
| Lao PDR | ↑ | 28/w | 22 - 28 Feb | 143/w | 175 (0) | 1210 (2) | 0.1 |
| Malaysia | ↑ | 2468/w | 16 - 22 Feb | 477/w | 16383 (29) | 3 938 (8) | 4.2 |
| Philippines | ↓ | 112^/w | up to 15 Feb | 2 682/w | 8 231 (25) | 18 486 (80) | 0.4 |
| Singapore | ↓ | 188/w | 23 Feb – 1 Mar | 249/w | 2 914 (NA) | 2 232 (NA) | 1.3 |
| Viet Nam | ↓ | 2373/m | January | 4962/m | 2373 (1) | 4962 (7) | 0.5 |
| New Caledonia | ↓ | 12/w | up to 10 Mar | 662/w | 86 (NA) | 3 906 (NA) | 0.02 |

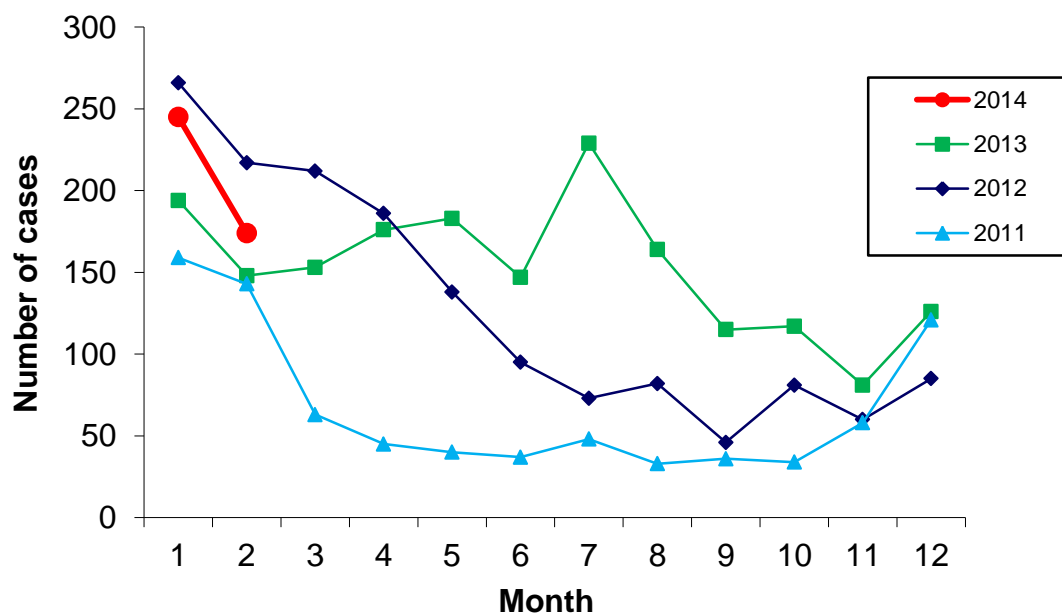
*Dengue reporting systems vary by country and any change in the surveillance system over time is not reflected in the above figures. Number of reported cases listed for 2014 and 2013 are for the same time period for each year.

**Recent trend is based on the 3 week moving average for countries reporting by week and monthly comparisons for the last complete month for countries reporting by month.

***Australia: *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* are present only in Northern Queensland and Torres Strait Islands.

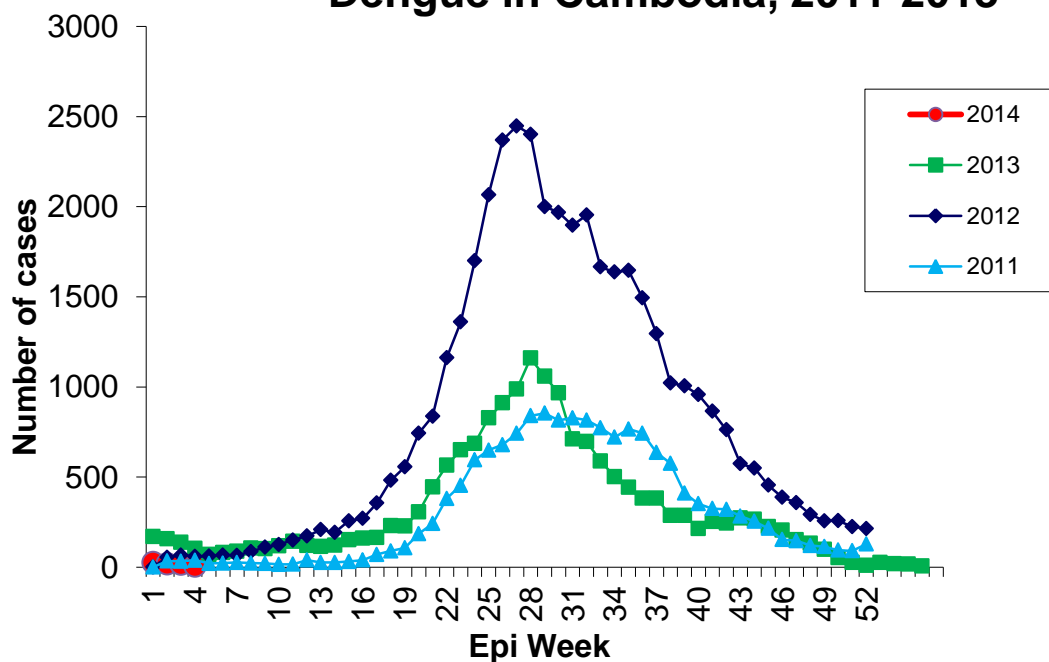
^ No available data in 6 regions

Dengue in Australia, 2011-14



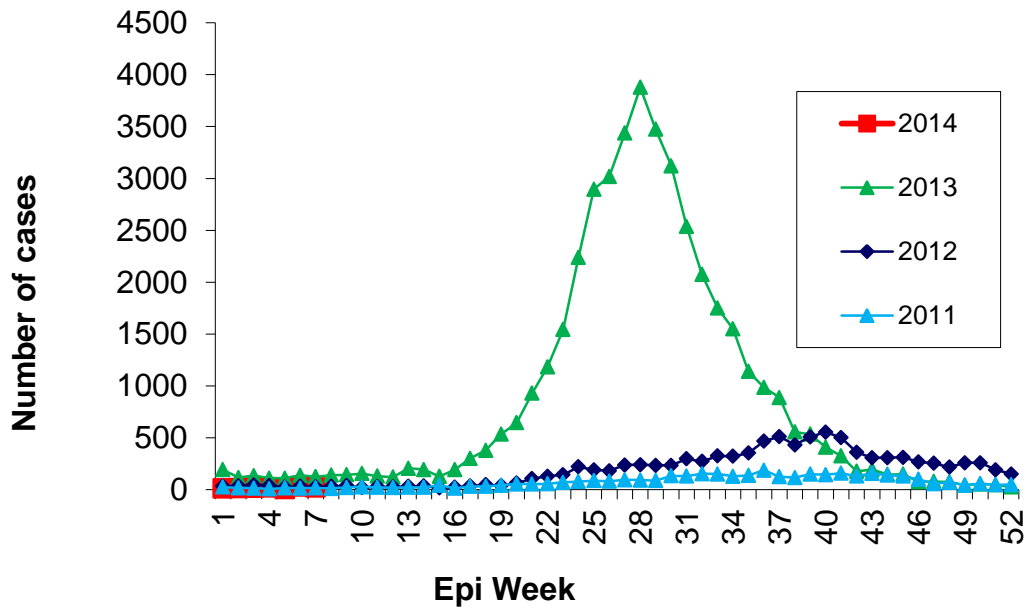
Australia up to February 2014 (Source: Dept of Health and Ageing)

Dengue in Cambodia, 2011-2013



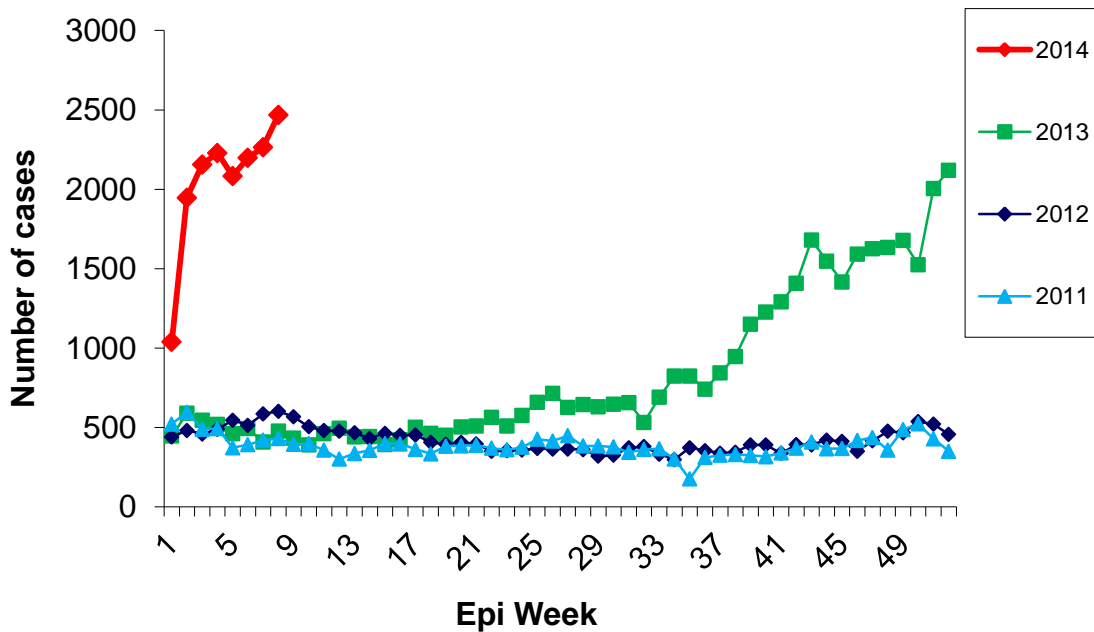
Cambodia up to 28 January 2014 (Source: Ministry of Health)

Dengue in Lao, 2011-2014

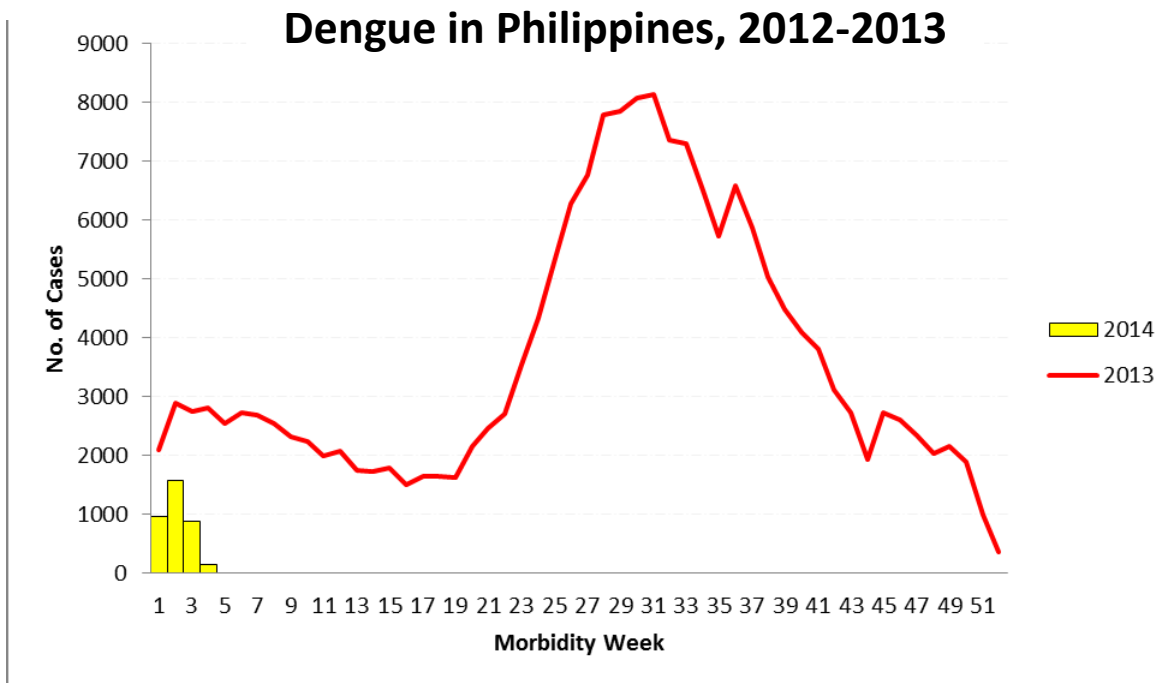


Lao PDR up to 28 February 2014

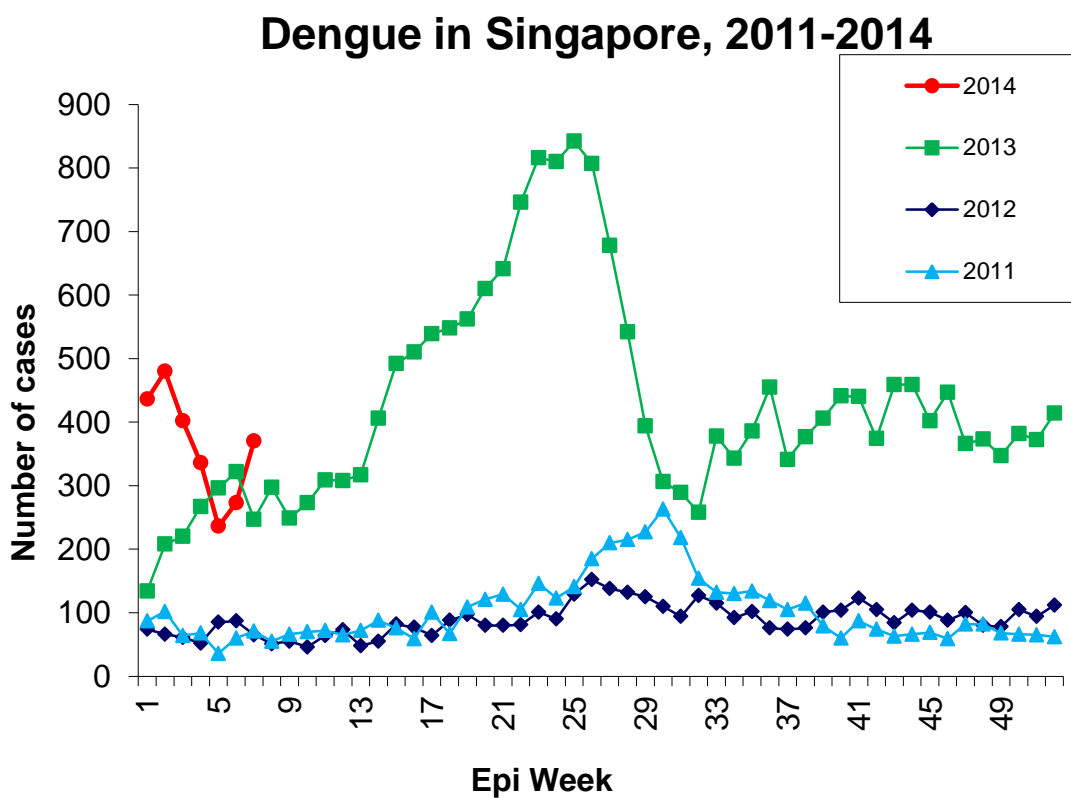
Dengue in Malaysia, 2011-2014



(Source: National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology, Ministry of Health)
 Malaysia up to 22 February 2014 (Source: Ministry of Health)

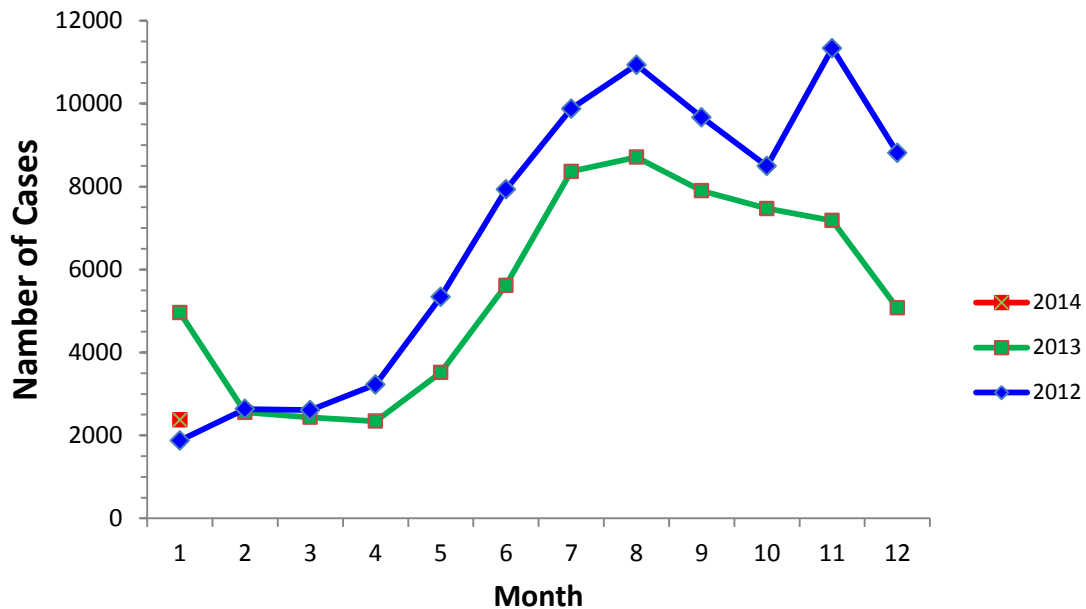


Philippines up to 25 January 2014*
 (Source: Department of Health National Epidemiology Center)
 *more updated figure see above table



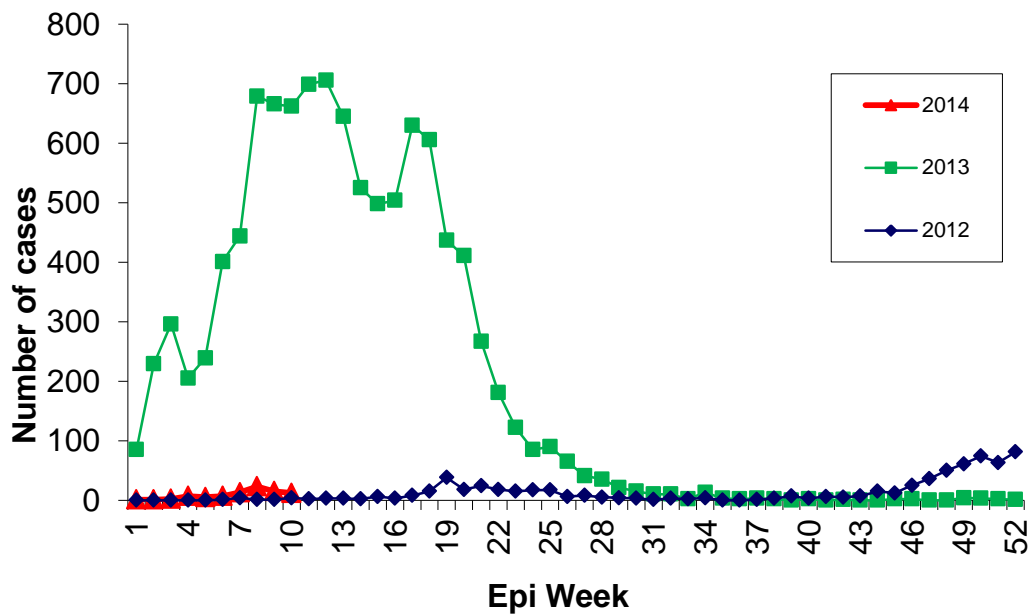
Singapore up to 1 March 2014 (Source: Ministry of Health)

Dengue in Viet Nam, 2012-2013



Viet Nam up to January 2014 (Source: Ministry of Health)

Dengue in NEC, 2012-2014



New Caledonia up to 10 March 2014
(Source: Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network)