

Dengue Situation Update 01

01 January – 15 May 2023

1. Dengue cases

During week 18, 1 954 suspected dengue cases were reported from 25 districts. In week 18, a 3% increase in the number of dengue cases was observed compared to week 17 (1 896 cases were reported in week 17). The total number of cases reported up to 12 May 2022 was, 18 614 while the corresponding figure for 2023 was 31 450.

Majority of cases have been reported from Western Province. The highest number of cases during week 18 is observed in Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy, Kalutara and Rathnapura districts. Fifty-nine Medical Officer of Health (MOH) areas were flagged as high-risk areas during week 18.

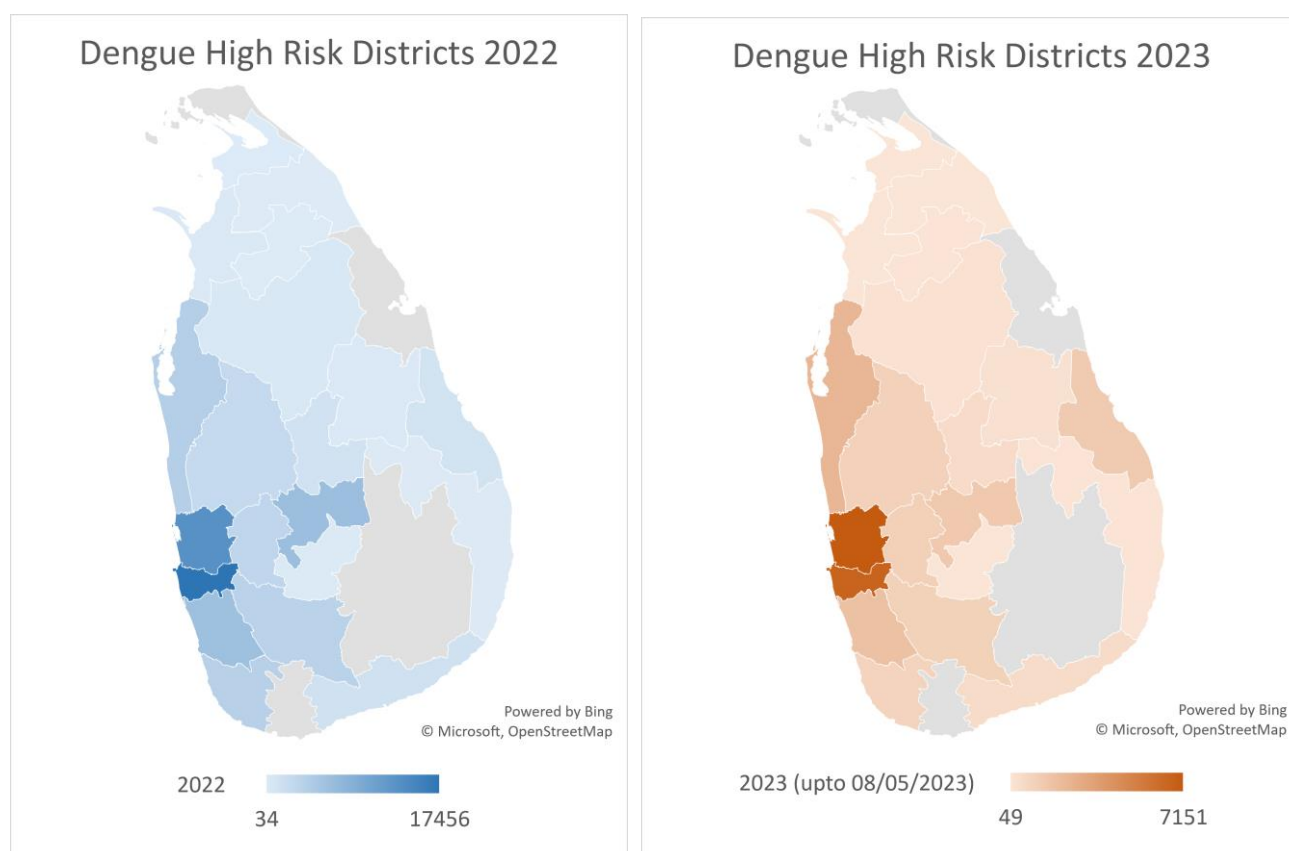


Figure 1: District-wise Distribution of Dengue Cases 2022 & 2023 (Data Source: DenSys)*

2. Dengue deaths

Table 1: Provincial distribution of dengue deaths *

	2023 (Up to 08 May)	Percentage	2022	Percentage
Western	06	33.33	24	33.33
Southern	02	11.11	06	8.33
North-western	03	16.67	07	9.72
Northern	01	5.56	09	12.50
Eastern	03	16.67	06	8.33
Central	02	11.11	05	6.94
Uva	01	5.56	02	2.78
North central	00	0.00	00	0.00
Sabaragamuwa	00	0.00	13	18.06
Total	18	100.00	72	100.00

As of 08 May 2023, 18 dengue deaths have been reported in the country. The highest number of deaths were reported from the Western Province (06 deaths).

Table 2: Age-wise distribution for deaths*

Age	2023		2022	
	No of deaths	Percentage%	No of deaths	Percentage
1-4	1	4.55	3	4.48%
5-9	1	4.55	6	8.96%
10-14	0	0.00	5	7.46%
15-19	1	4.55	3	4.48%
20-24	5	22.73	2	2.99%
25-49	10	45.45	36	50.75%
50-64	2	9.09	12	14.93%
>65	2	9.09	5	5.97%
Total	22	100	72	100.00%

Out of the deaths reported up to 12 May 2023, the highest percentage of deaths were in the 25-49 age category.

3. Dengue case trends 2017-2023

3.1 Weekly seasonality patterns*

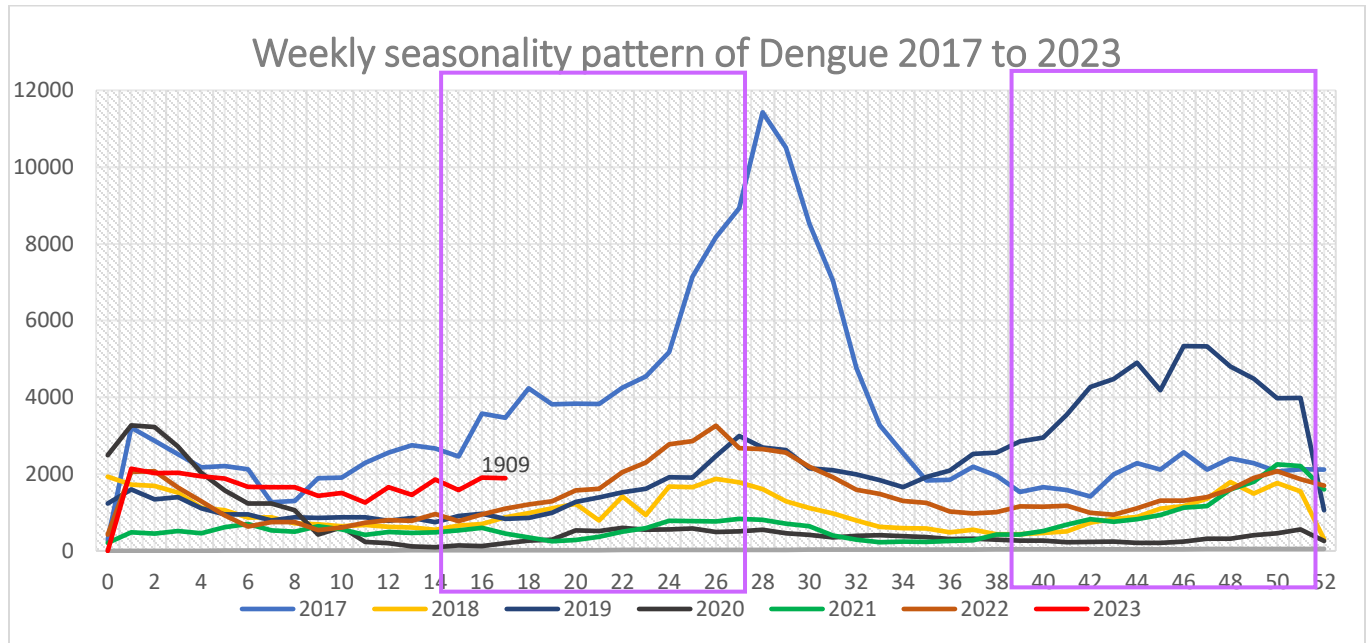
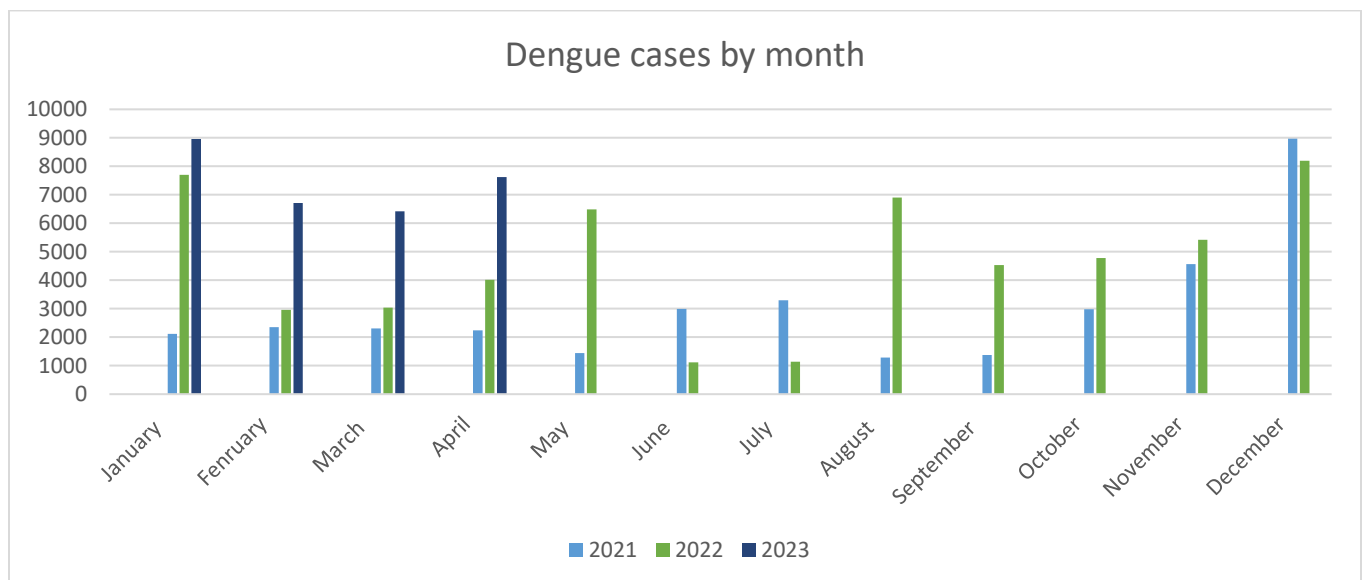


Figure 2: Seasonal pattern of dengue in Sri Lanka

The last major dengue outbreak in Sri Lanka was during 2017. Dengue cases correlates with south-west monsoons from May to September and the north-east monsoons, which extends from October to January.

3.2 Monthly distribution of cases*



WHO Sri Lanka support in dengue control during 2022-2023

Technical support

- WHO supported the Ministry of Health in preparation of Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) for death investigations and conducting death investigations of dengue. This investigation was crucial to establish primary causes of deaths in dengue patients, and the results were utilized to strengthen clinical care management of cases in health facilities.
- WHO supported hospital readiness assessment survey utilizing the Service Availability and Readiness Assessment survey tool in 95 hospitals .
- WHO supported clinical training programme for medical doctors, nurses and private sector hospital staff who are managing dengue cases.
- WHO supported annual entomological reviews to monitor vector behaviour in the country.

Support in service delivery

- WHO supported three special mosquito control campaigns in 2023 to curtail the outbreak in high-risk areas.
These special campaigns were carried out in high-risk Medical Officer of Health areas based on the epidemiological and entomological data and trends. Teams consisting of three officers were mobilized in the field to look for *Aedes* mosquito breeding sites (both inside and outside premises) and to ensure removal of breeding sites with the support of premise owners and to advise them on maintaining their premises free of mosquito breeding sites.
- WHO supported the donation of Dengue Virus Antigen Detection (NS1) kits to Medical Research Institute through Indian Council of Medical Research-India.

Capacity building

- WHO supported a three-day residential program for all entomologists in the country regarding monitoring of insecticide resistance in mosquito vectors and selecting appropriate vector control interventions.

***Data courtesy: National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health Sri Lanka**