The number of cases in 2014 was lower than in 2013, but still higher than in the years before. Similarly, the notification rate in 2014 (0.42 cases per 100,000 population) was higher among women between 15 and 24 years of age.

Epidemiology

• All reporting countries except the Netherlands have a comprehensive surveillance system. Reporting is compulsory in 23 countries and voluntary in two (Belgium and the United Kingdom).

• 25 EU/EEA countries reported data on dengue fever. Five of these countries reported zero cases (Czech Republic, Iceland, Luxembourg, Malta and Slovakia). No data were available for Faroe Islands, Greenland and Kosovo.

• In 2014, more cases were seen in June and July compared with the average number of cases in 2010–2013 (Figure 4) but this pattern varied by country. In Sweden, the number of cases was highest during the summer months (June to August, with a peak in August). A smaller peak was seen in January, possibly related to the winter seasonality.

• In 2014, 50% of reported dengue cases were imported. In cases with travel history to Madeira, where a large outbreak was reported in 2012–2013 [1], the number of cases was high.

Dissemination

• Education and engagement of the general public in the control of mosquito breeding sites

• Regular reviews of contingency plans for mosquito-borne outbreaks

• Strengthening vector surveillance systems and rapid implementation of vector control measures around each case

• Vigilance regarding imported cases of dengue and other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes

Public health conclusions

• Dengue fever is highly seasonal, in particular in regions with a warm climate. Most cases are imported and occur during the holiday period. In 2014, more cases were seen in June and July compared with the average number of cases in 2010–2013 (Figure 4) but this pattern varied by country. In Sweden, the number of cases was highest during the summer months (June to August, with a peak in August). A smaller peak was seen in January, possibly related to the winter seasonality.

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