



Government of Samoa

Ministry of Health

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Dengue Situation Report

Epi-week 13: 25-31 March 2024

Issue No.6

Date of report: 01 April 2024

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Highlights

- In this epi-week, 33 new lab-confirmed dengue cases were recorded, adding up to 73 cases in March
- Since November 2023, a total of 134 lab-confirmed dengue cases have been recorded
- Figures 1 & 2 shows that dengue cases continue to increase
- The most affected age groups are those between 5-9 and over 60 years
- Dengue cases are densely distributed in the North West of Upolu (NWU) and Apia Urban Area (AUA) regions

Table 1. Case definition of dengue fever and alert threshold

Alert threshold: Twice the average number of cases seen in the previous 3 weeks

CASE DEFINITIONS

Suspected case (clinical case definition):

Acute fever $\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ for at least 2 days, AND two or more of the following:

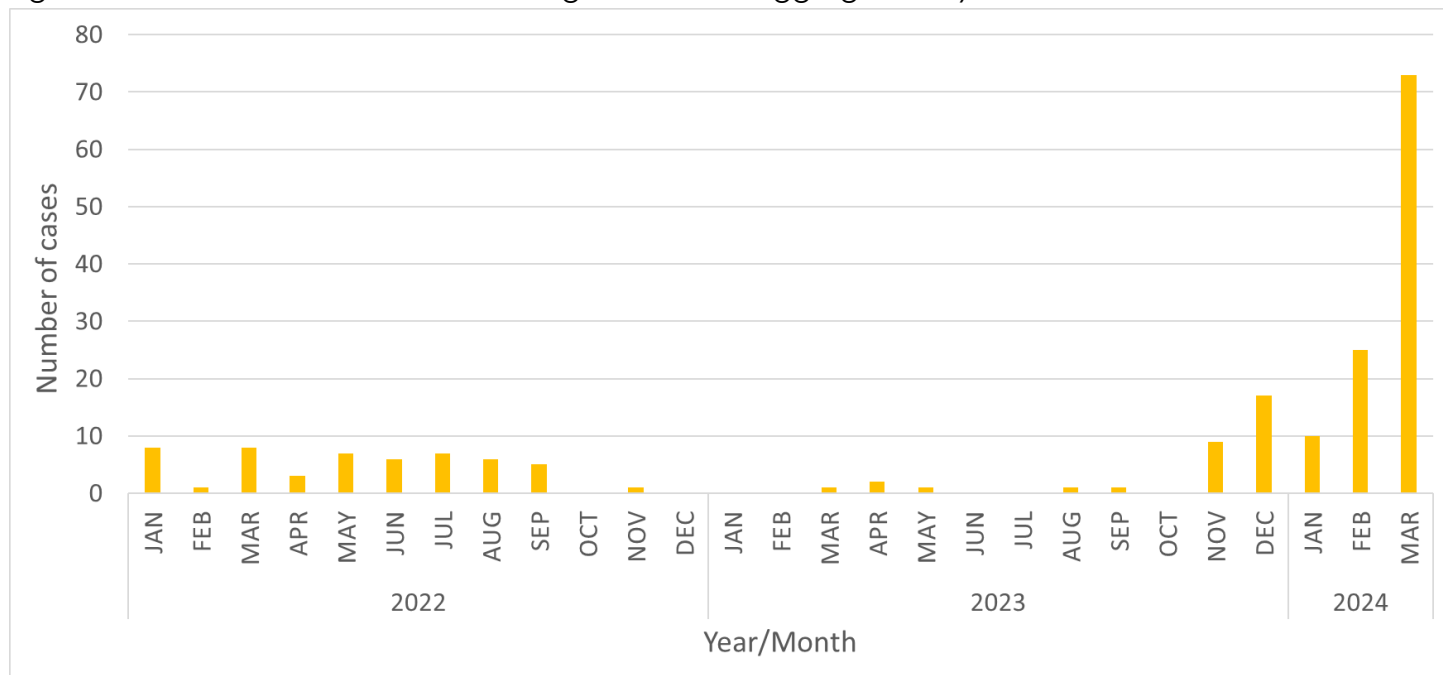
- Anorexia and nausea
- Aches and pains
- Rash
- Low white blood cell count
- Warning signs, including:
 - Abdominal pain or tenderness
 - Persistent vomiting
 - Mucosal bleeding
 - Liver enlargement $>2\text{cm}$ below costal margin
 - Clinical evidence of fluid accumulation
 - Lethargy, restlessness
 - Laboratory: increase in hematocrit, rapid decrease in platelet count

Confirmed case

Isolation of dengue virus or detection of dengue-specific antigen or antibodies in tissue, blood, CSF or other body fluid by an advanced laboratory test



Figure 1. Number of lab-confirmed dengue cases disaggregated by month, 2022 to date



Source: Clinical laboratory serology data

Figure 2. Number of lab-confirmed dengue cases by epi-week against the alert threshold

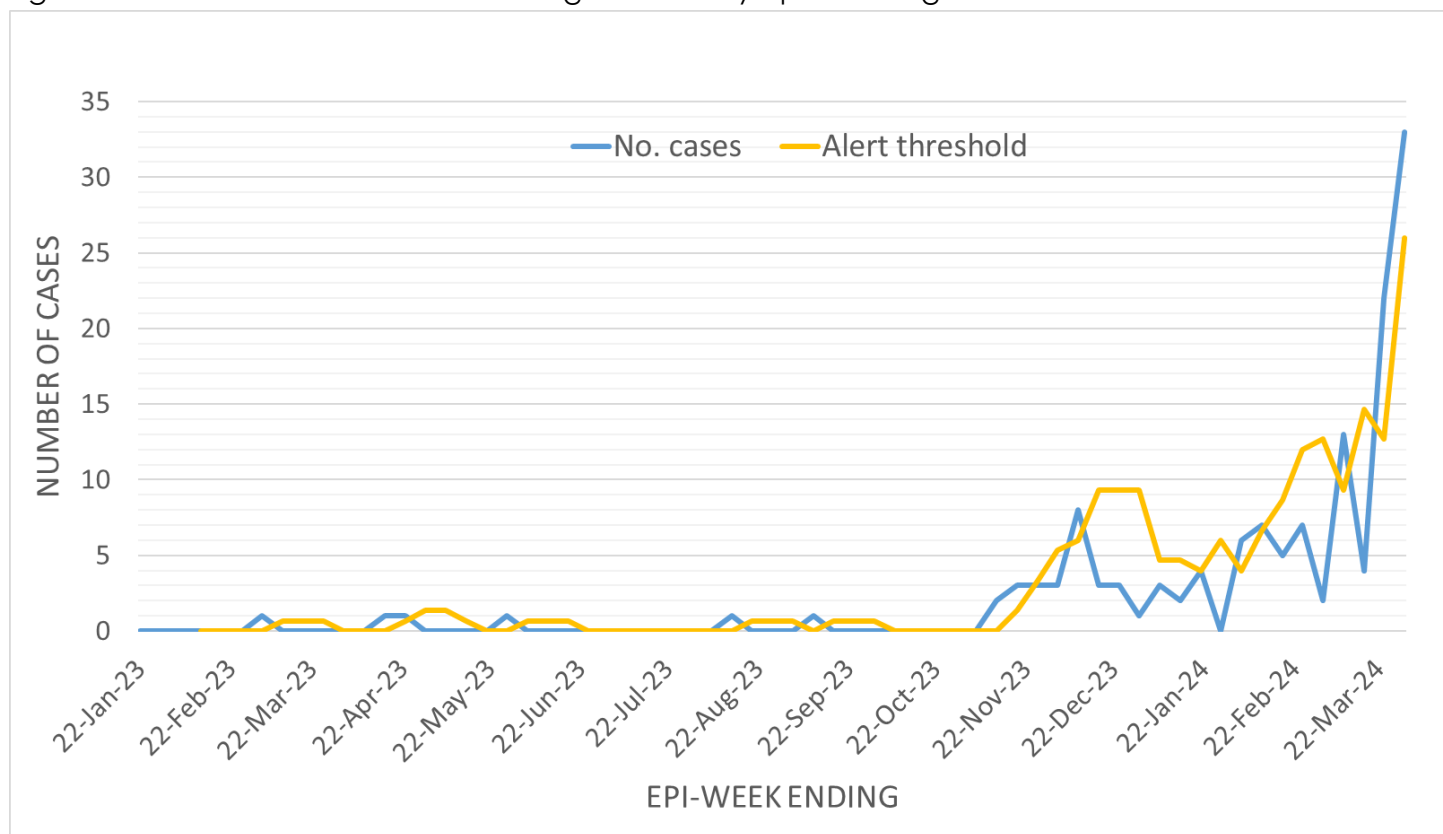
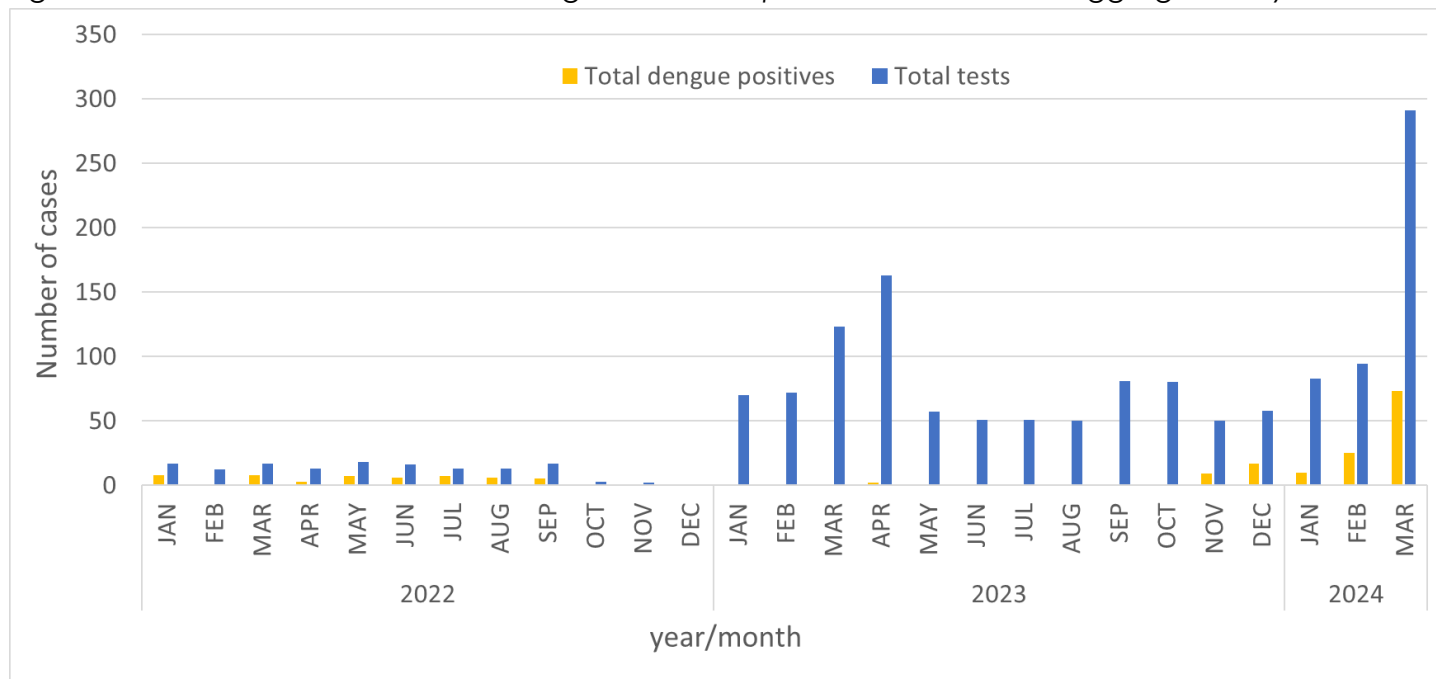
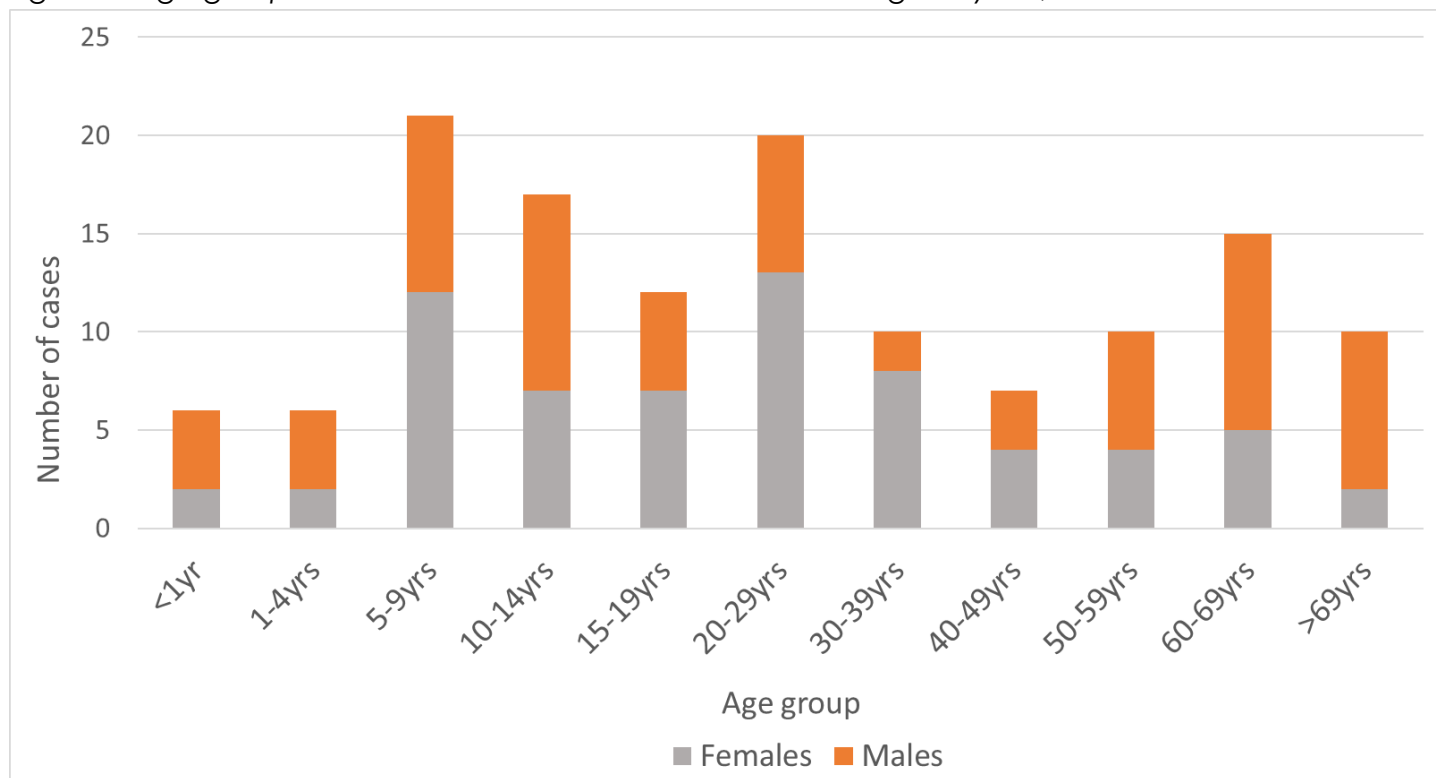


Figure 3. Number of lab-confirmed dengue vs test requests/conducted, disaggregated by month



Source: Clinical laboratory serology data

Figure 4. Age group distribution of lab-confirmed cases of dengue by sex, Nov 2023 to date



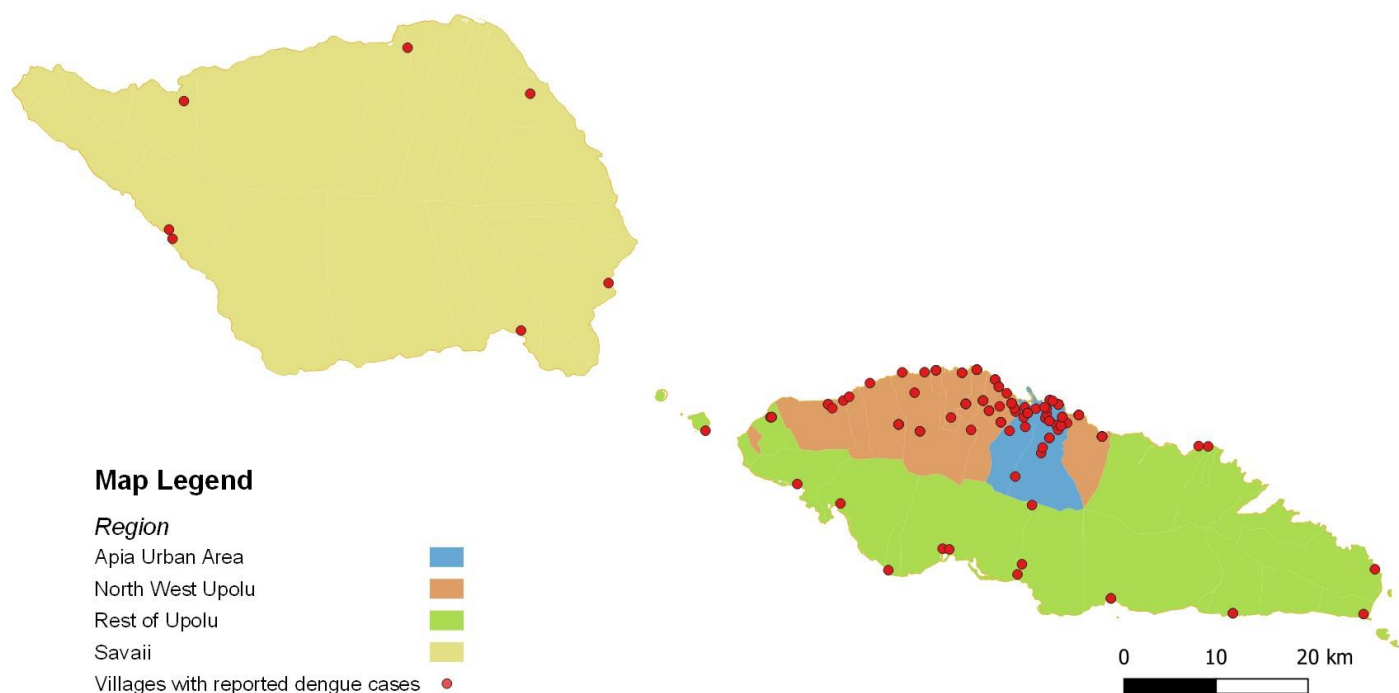
Source: Clinical laboratory serology data



Figure 5. Density map for lab-confirmed dengue cases by village, Nov 2023 to date

Source: Clinical surveillance data

Density map for reported cases of Dengue by village for the period November 12, 2023 - March 31, 2024



Actions taken

- Disseminated a press release for public awareness, heeding advice and recommendations from the Ministry of Health on preventative measures for dengue fever.
- Continue to boost media awareness on dengue preventative measures including talk shows and advertisement on all media outlets
- Continue collaboration with other sectors and partners to increase awareness and activities on source reduction
- Disseminated a public health alert to all clinicians to report and test all patients presenting with dengue like illnesses
- Drafting a cabinet submission to propose for mass cleanup campaigns

Recommendations for the public

- Continue to clean up and remove all stagnant water sources around the house to ensure breeding grounds of mosquitoes are eliminated
- Wear appropriate clothing to minimize mosquito bites
- Use mosquito nets and repellents such as lotion and sprays
- If you are affected, watch out for severe symptoms, and seek medical attention immediately. Monitor other people in the household for similar symptoms and present to the hospital for testing and health advice.