



## SURVEILLANCE REPORT

### Annual Epidemiological Report for 2016

# Yellow fever

#### Key fact

- In 2016, there were no reported cases of yellow fever in EU/EEA countries.

#### Methods

This report is based on data for 2016 retrieved from The European Surveillance System (TESSy) on 4 April 2018. TESSy is a system for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on communicable diseases. For a detailed description of methods used to produce this report, please refer to the *Methods* chapter [1].

An overview of the national surveillance systems is available online [2].

In 2016, 29 EU/EEA countries reported case-based data (Liechtenstein and Malta did not report). Twenty-two countries used the EU case definition, four countries used an alternative case definition, and three countries did not specify which definition they used. Surveillance is compulsory in all EU/EEA countries but the United Kingdom, comprehensive in all countries, and mostly passive. The Czech Republic, Portugal and Slovakia conduct active disease surveillance.

#### Epidemiology

In 2016, there were no cases of yellow fever in EU/EEA countries.

#### Discussion

Yellow fever is endemic in tropical areas of Africa and Central and South America [3]. In 2016, six countries reported approximately 7 500 suspected and 1 100 laboratory-confirmed cases of yellow fever, including 171 deaths reported to the World Health Organization [4]. In Africa, outbreaks were reported by Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, while Brazil and Peru reported outbreaks in the Americas. In Brazil, the cases occurred in late 2016 and were the first cases of a major outbreak that would peak in 2017. For the outbreaks in Africa and the Americas, ECDC assessed the related risk for yellow fever transmission in the EU/EEA and rated it as 'limited' [5,6].

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Suggested citation: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Yellow fever. In: ECDC. Annual epidemiological report for 2016. Stockholm: ECDC; 2018.

Stockholm, October 2018

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## Public health implications

Vaccination is the most important preventive measure against yellow fever. The vaccine is safe, affordable and highly effective, and a single dose of yellow fever vaccine is sufficient to confer sustained immunity and lifelong protection against yellow fever disease. The vaccine provides effective immunity within 30 days for 99% of the vaccinated people [3].

## References

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2. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Surveillance systems overview [internet, downloadable spreadsheet]. Stockholm: ECDC; 2018. Available from: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/surveillance-systems-overview-2016>.
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4. [No authors listed.] Yellow fever in Africa and the Americas, 2016. Wkly Epidemiol Rec. 2017 Aug 11;92(32):442-52.
5. European Centre for Disease Prevention Control. Outbreaks of yellow fever in Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda: second update, 13 July 2016, ECDC: Stockholm; 2016 Available from: <https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/media/en/publications/Publications/RRA-Yellow%20fever-Angola-China-DRC-Uganda.pdf>
6. European Centre for Disease Prevention Control. Outbreak of yellow fever in Brazil, 25 January 2017. Stockholm: ECDC; 2017. Available from: <https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/media/en/publications/Publications/Risk-assessment-yellow-fever-outbreak-Brazil-25-jan-2017.pdf>