

DEN-1 Outbreak in the Pacific — Update as at 22 May 2002

The DEN-1 outbreak which has been affecting the region for the past 18 months is not over yet. Half of the Pacific Island countries and territories have been involved. The chart below shows the information we have on hand about this outbreak by country/territory and in chronological order of appearance.

Country/ Territory	Mid-2002 population estimate	Virus serotype	Month outbreak began or first reported cases of dengue fever related to the current epidemic	Date/month of last official report	Number of suspected /estimated cases	Hospitalisations (including severe forms)	Deaths	Comments / Notes
Palau	19,900	DEN-1 virus confirmed	September 2000	April 2001	1,120	543	1	Not all the cases from private medical facilities were reported. No end of outbreak report received as of late April 2002.
French Polynesia	239,800	DEN-1 virus confirmed	January 2001	21 December 2001	32,800	1,375 (including 631 severe forms)	8	No end of outbreak report received as of late April 2002.
Vanuatu	199,600	Serotype not identified	February 2001	December 2001	9	N/A	N/A	9 suspected cases reported between February and April 2001.
Samoa	175,000	DEN-1 virus confirmed	March 2001	Late May 2001	About 200	N/A	N/A	Only confirmed cases. No end of outbreak report received as of late April 2002.
American Samoa	59,900	DEN-1 virus confirmed	June 2001	July 2001	N/A	33	3 (*)	No end of outbreak report received as of late April 2002.
New Caledonia	229,300	DEN-1 virus confirmed	June 2001	22 May 2002	50	N/A	0	Since June 2001 inclusive: 23 imported cases and 27 cases resulting from local transmission. Details for 2001: see report from <i>Institut Pasteur</i> published in this issue.

Cook Islands	17,900	DEN-1 virus confirmed	July 2001	22 May 2002	1,800	395	0	
Tokelau	1,538	Serotype not identified	July 2001	Early November 2001	More than 60	N/A	0	
Wallis and Futuna	14,700	DEN-1 virus confirmed	August 2001	August 2001	1	0	0	1 imported case.
Fiji	823,300	Serotype not identified	2001	March 2002	N/A	N/A	N/A	Isolated cases were reported in 2001.
Solomon Islands	439,400	DEN-1 virus confirmed	February 2002	March 2002	N/A	N/A	N/A	3 cases imported from the Solomon Islands were uncovered in New Caledonia in early February 2002. Other cases were subsequently confirmed.

Source: PACNET, Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) list-server and monthly SPEHIS.
SPC Population/Demography Programme for population estimates.

N/A: not available.

(*) reported in the media.

Certain other countries and territories in the region have been affected by this outbreak.

Hawaii recorded its first cases of dengue fever in June 2001 and reported 119 confirmed cases as of 5 April 2002.¹

More recently, a new DEN-1 focus appeared on **Easter Island** in early February 2002. As at 5 April 2002, the estimated number of cases was 360, including 57 confirmed cases.²

Finally, **Australia** experienced some cases of DEN-1 in Townsville (Queensland) in April 2002.³

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¹ Source: Hawaii Department of Health web site: http://www.state.hi.us/doh/dengue/update_report.html.

² Source: ProMED-mail post - Virus DEN-1 confirmed.

³ Source: ProMED-mail post.