



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

Vol. 5, No. 9 (26 March 2008)

Dengue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

From 1 January to 26 March, 2008, the Brazilian health authorities have reported 406 cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF), with 34 deaths nationally. This constitutes a significant increase in the number of cases in several states compared to the same period in 2007: Amazonas (9.8 times), Rondônia (5.3 times), Sergipe (4.7 times), Bahia (3.4 times), Rio Grande do Norte (2.8 times), Pará (2.5 times), and Rio de Janeiro (2.2 times). DEN 2 and DEN 3 are the circulating serotypes.



The state of Rio de Janeiro has reported 32,615 cases of dengue fever (DF), making up 38% of the total number of cases registered in the country, and 245 cases of DHF. A change in the age distribution of severe cases has been observed: of the 2,116 patients hospitalized, 53% were children under the age of 14 years. There have been 20 reported deaths due to DHF, 8 due to Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) and 19 due to DF with complications. More than 50% of the deaths have occurred among children aged 2–13 years. The number of deaths suggests a more severe evolution of clinical illness than expected.

The Ministry of Health (*Ministério da Saúde* / [MS](#)) is working closely with the Rio de Janeiro branch of the Center for Strategic Information in Health Surveillance (*Centro de Informações Estratégicas em Vigilância em Saúde* / [CIEVS](#): [about](#)) to implement the required control measures and identify priority areas for intervention. The Ministry has already mobilized 100 health professionals to the federal hospitals of Rio de Janeiro to support patient management activities, including clinical case management and laboratory diagnosis. Additionally, 550 public health and emergency services professionals will be recruited by the end of next week to assist community-based interventions. Vector control activities were implemented throughout Rio de Janeiro State and especially in the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro. The fire department, military, and health inspectors from the National Health Foundation (*Fundação Nacional de Saúde*, [FUNASA](#)/MS) are assisting in these activities.

Source: Information received by [PAHO-Brazil](#) from the Ministry of Health (*Ministério da Saúde* / [MS](#)) of Brazil.