

Dengue 3 Outbreak, Palau, December 2018 – January 2019

Report Date: January 15, 2019



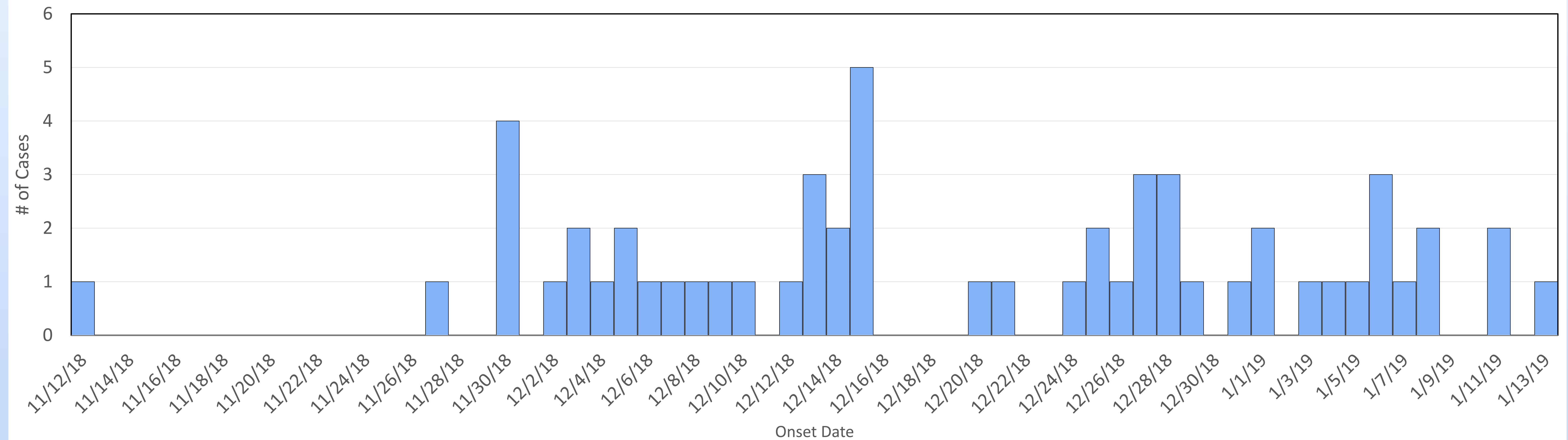
Outbreak Overview

On Friday, December 7, 2018, the Palau Ministry of Health alerted the public of an outbreak of dengue fever following the first ever laboratory confirmation of two cases with dengue serotype-3. This poses a significant concern for public health as the whole population is potentially vulnerable to infection. The first two confirmed cases of dengue-3 were encountered at the Belau National Hospital on October 28 and November 11.

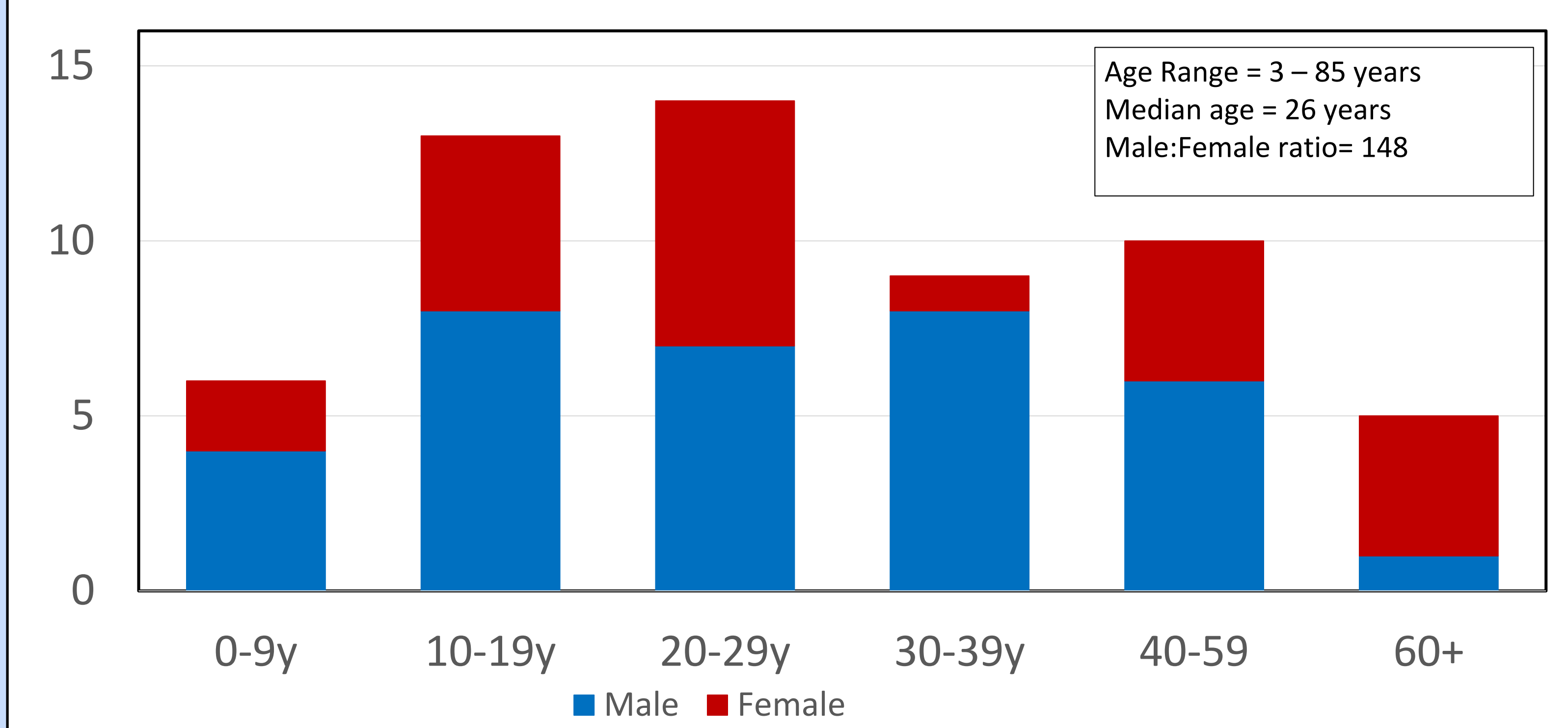
In response to the outbreak, the Ministry of Health activated its emergency response team on December 7, 2018. The team has been tasked with raising community awareness of the outbreak and dengue prevention measures, conducting disease surveillance and reporting, strengthening mosquito control measures, and ensuring adequate resources are available to combat the outbreak.

Between January 7 – January 13, 2019, there were 9 new cases identified. This brings the total from December 1, 2018 to January 13, 2019 to 57 cases.

Cases by Date of Onset of Symptoms

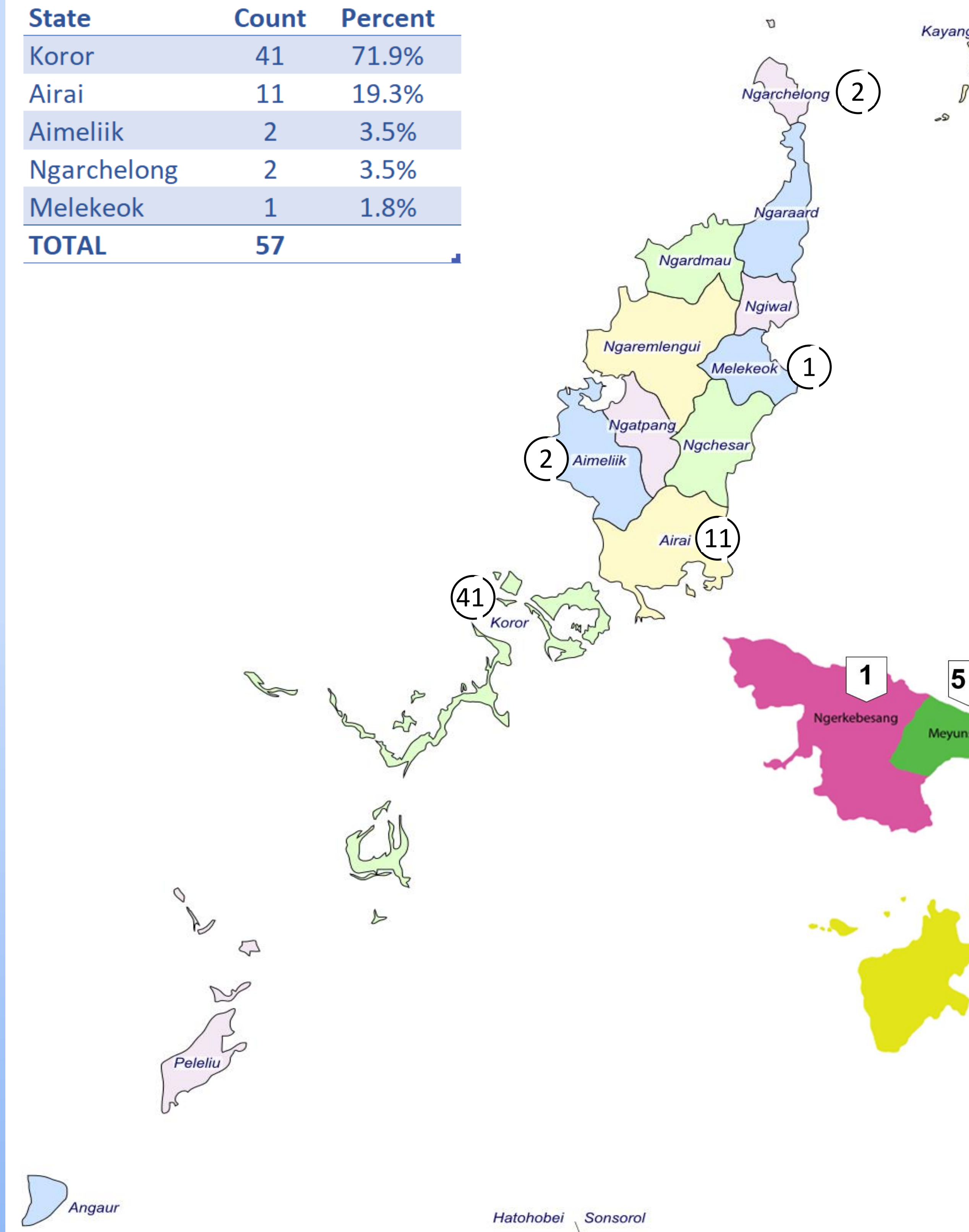


Cases by Age & Sex



Cases by State and Koror Hamlets

State	Count	Percent
Koror	41	71.9%
Airai	11	19.3%
Aimeliik	2	3.5%
Ngarchelong	2	3.5%
Melekeok	1	1.8%
TOTAL	57	



Lab Testing

- The Belau National Hospital (BNH) Laboratory and 3 private clinics on-island continue to screen symptomatic patients for dengue with a rapid diagnostic test kit.
- The BNH Lab continues to send serum specimens to Hawaii State Laboratory (HSL) for confirmation and serotyping.
- 15 specimens were sent to HSL on January 10, 2018.
- BNH Lab is reaching out to reference laboratories to determine the origin of the strain of DEN-3 circulating in the country.

Response Measures

The dengue outbreak response team is continuing efforts to increase community awareness of the dengue outbreak and prevention measures through:

- Radio talk shows
- Dissemination of print material about dengue prevention
- Partnership with schools, state governments, and community organizations to organize community clean-up efforts
- Development of dengue prevention videos for public consumption

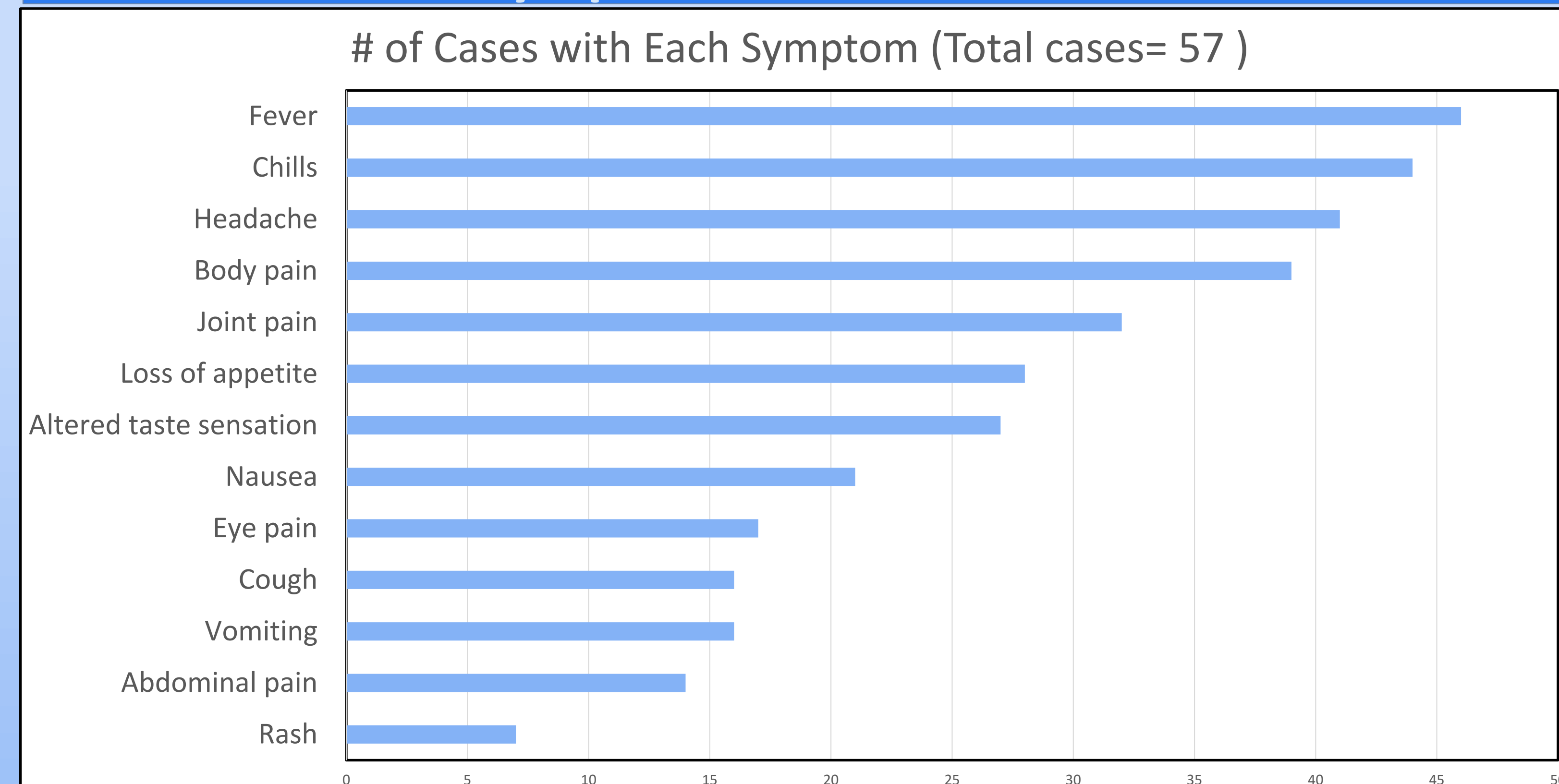
The Communicable Disease Unit and the DEH Vector Control Program continue to respond to reported cases of dengue fever.

The Ministry of Health's community dengue prevention 3S message is to:

- Search and eliminate** mosquito breeding sites.
- Self-protect** by wearing insect repellent and ensuring a mosquito-free environment.
- Seek early consultation** if you show signs or symptoms of dengue.

The next report will be released on Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

Symptom Profile of Cases



Contact:

Tmong Udui, Epidemiologist
 epidemiologist@palauhealth.org