

National communicable diseases digest: epidemiological week 19

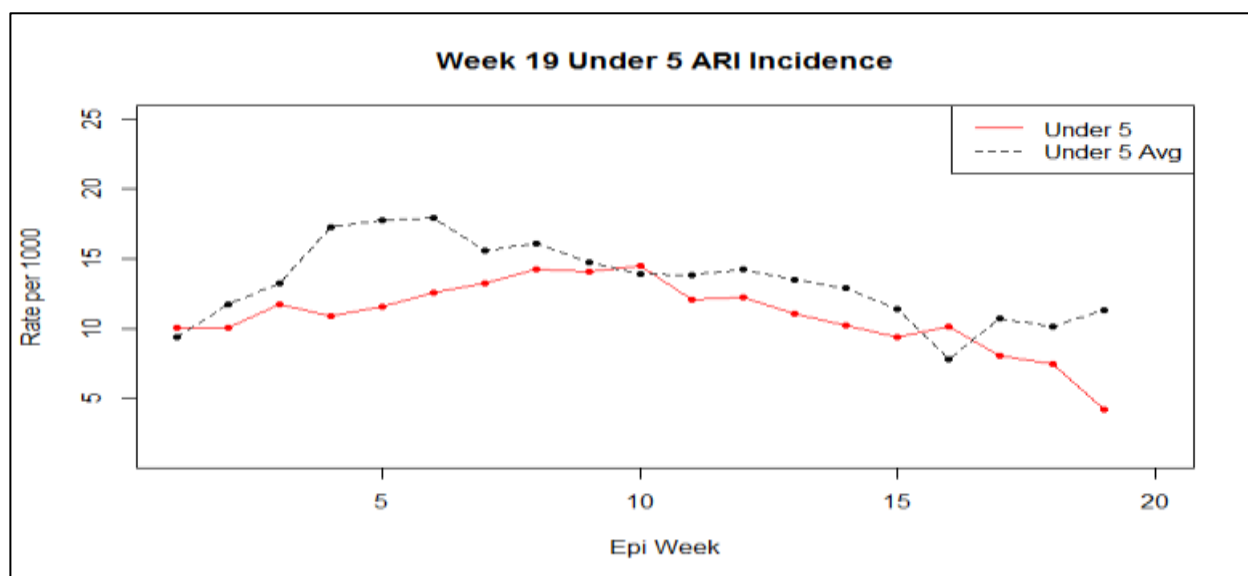
ABSTRACT

This communicable diseases digest offers a summary of incidence rates for the Ministry of Health's epidemiological week 19. It draws on weekly data retrieved through the Belize Health Information System (BHIS) which seeks to improve individual health outcomes and public health performance as well as to optimize resource utilization. Using graphics, national, seasonal and weekly trends are compared for the following: Acute Respiratory Infections (ARIs), a leading cause of death among children under the age of five; Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARIs), which have the potential for large scale epidemics; Gastrointestinal Diseases; Vector Borne Diseases; Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs); and other Communicable Diseases/Outbreaks/Public Health related incidents.

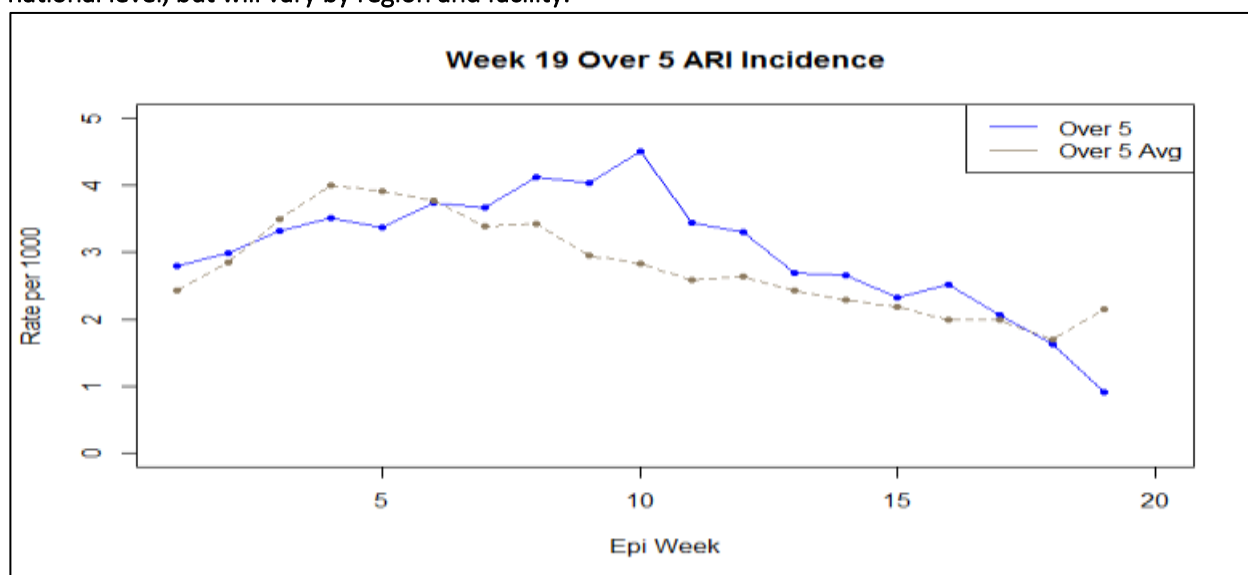


National Communicable Diseases Digest†: Epidemiological Week 19

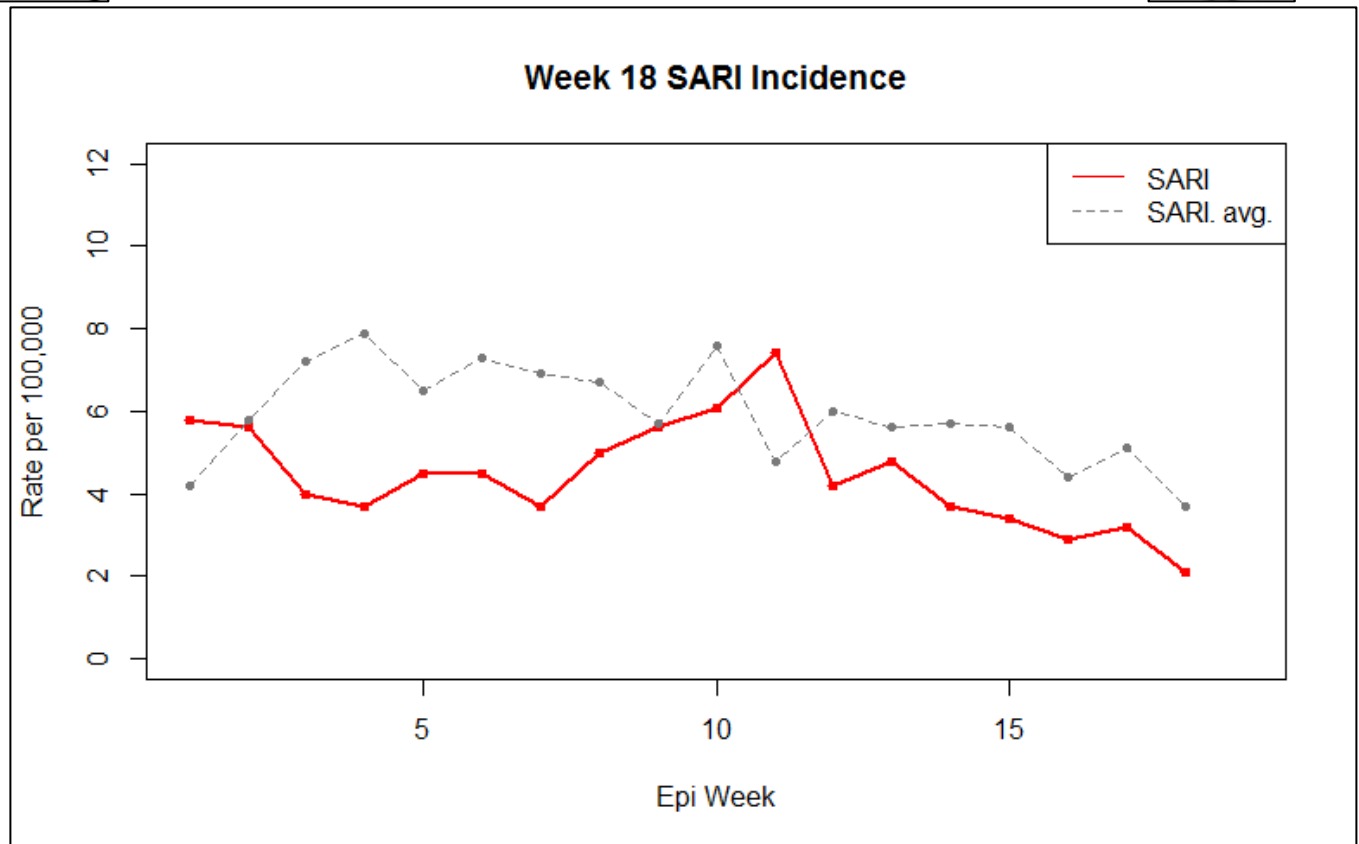
ARIs and SARIs:



- The national under 5 ARI incidence rate for epidemiological **week 19** was **below the average** for the season, and **that of the previous week**. The steep fall in incidence is in line with the trend for this time of year at the national level, but will vary by region and facility.



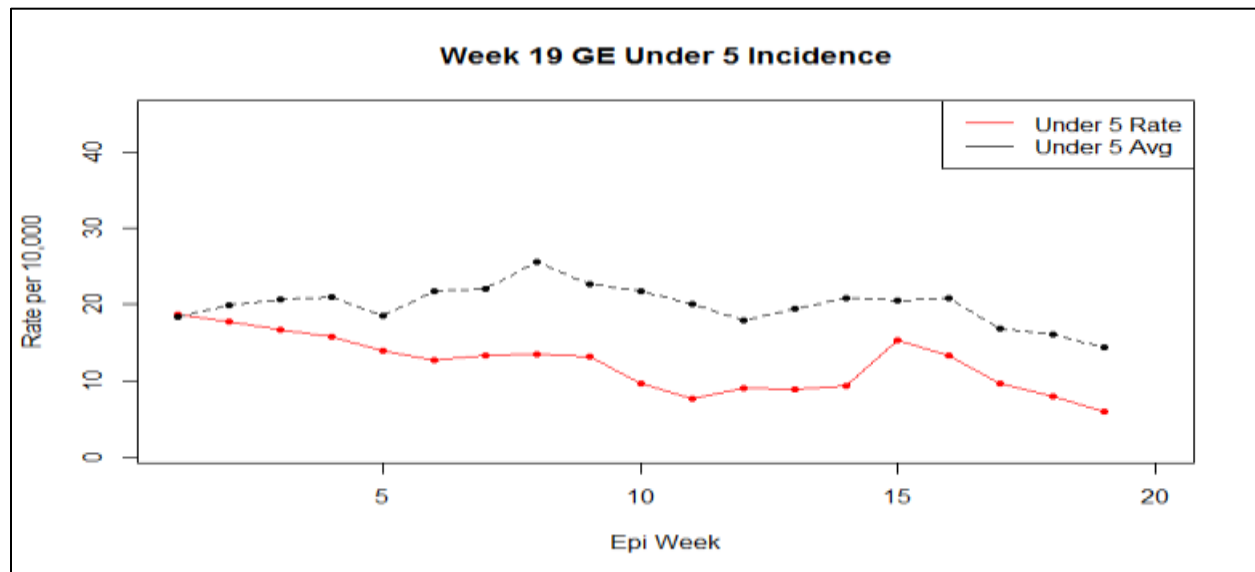
- The national over 5 ARI incidence rate for **week 19** was **below the average** for the season, and **below the previous week**. There was a steep decline of ARI among the over 5 following a peak at week 10 although rates vary at the regional and facility level.



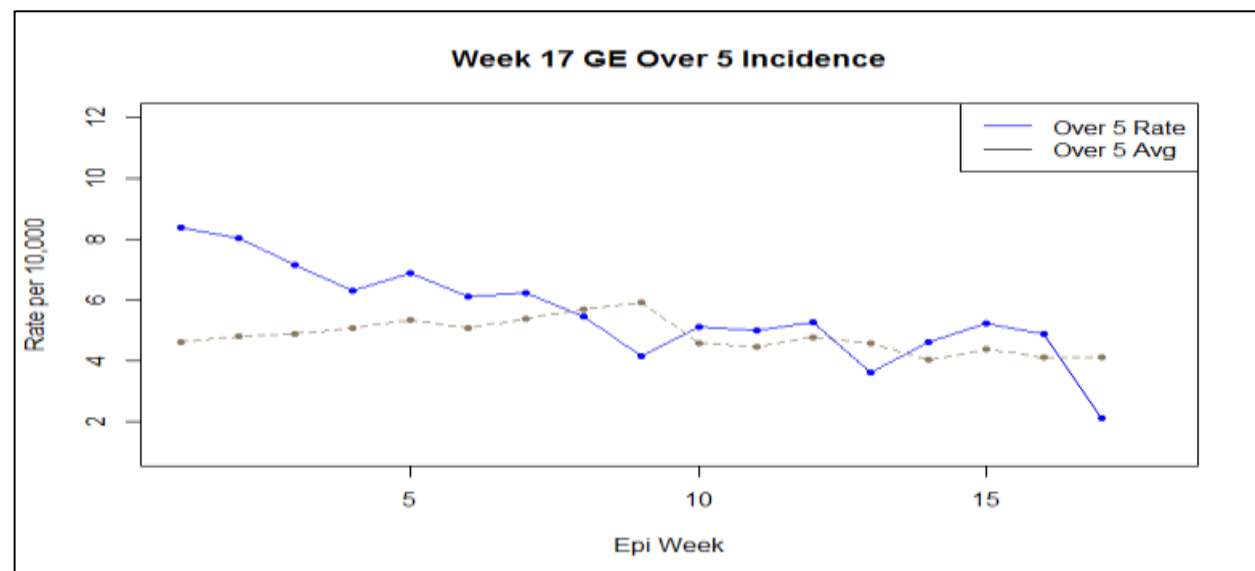
The rate of severe acute respiratory illnesses for **week 18 stood below the seasonal average and below that of the previous week**. Reported SARI cases continue to decline but health professionals must be mindful of local trends at regional and facility level.



Gastrointestinal Diseases:



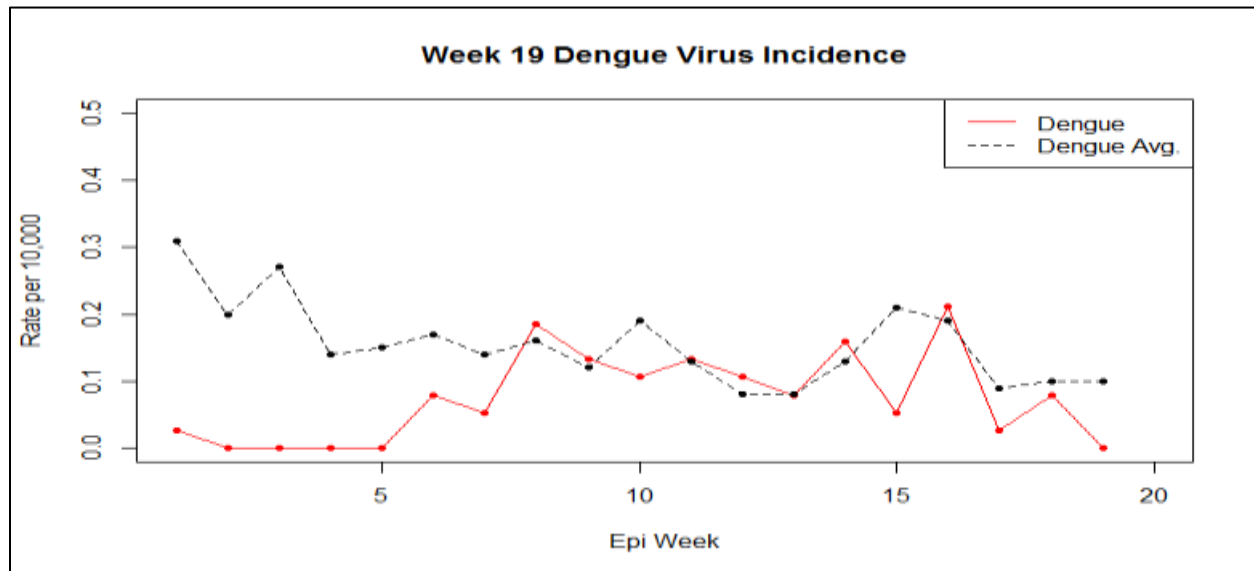
- The national under 5 GE incidence rate for epidemiological **week 19** was 59% below the seasonal average and 25.7% below the previous week.



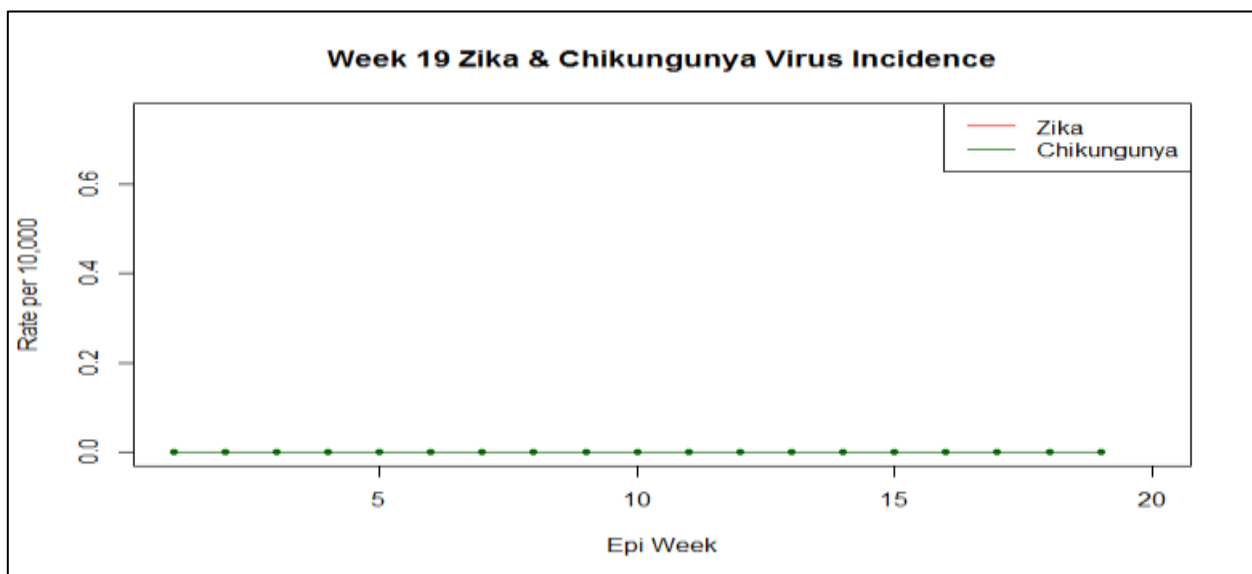
- The national over 5 GE incidence for **week 19** was 47.5% below the seasonal average, and 38.5% below the **previous week**. All data has not been made for this epi week and rates may vary by region.



Vector Borne Diseases:



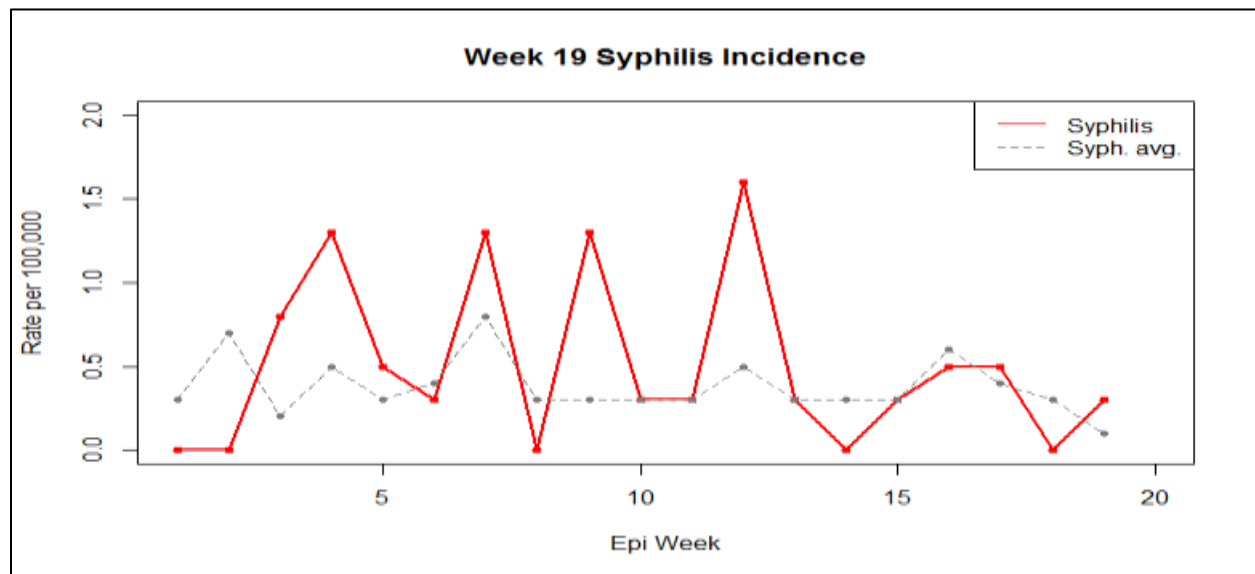
- The national laboratory confirmed dengue incidence rate for epidemiological week 19 was 0 or no confirmed cases, and was below the seasonal average, it was also below to the previous week.



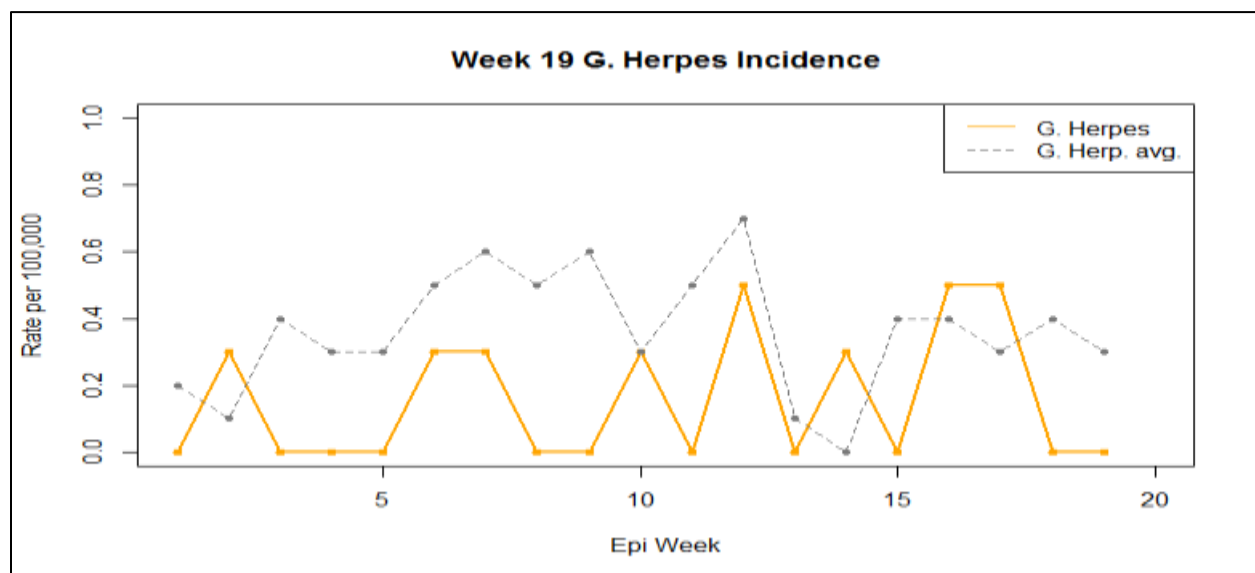
- The national laboratory confirmed zika incidence rate for week 19 is zero.
- The national laboratory confirmed incidence chikungunya rate remains at zero.
- The national laboratory confirmed malaria incidence rate remains at zero.



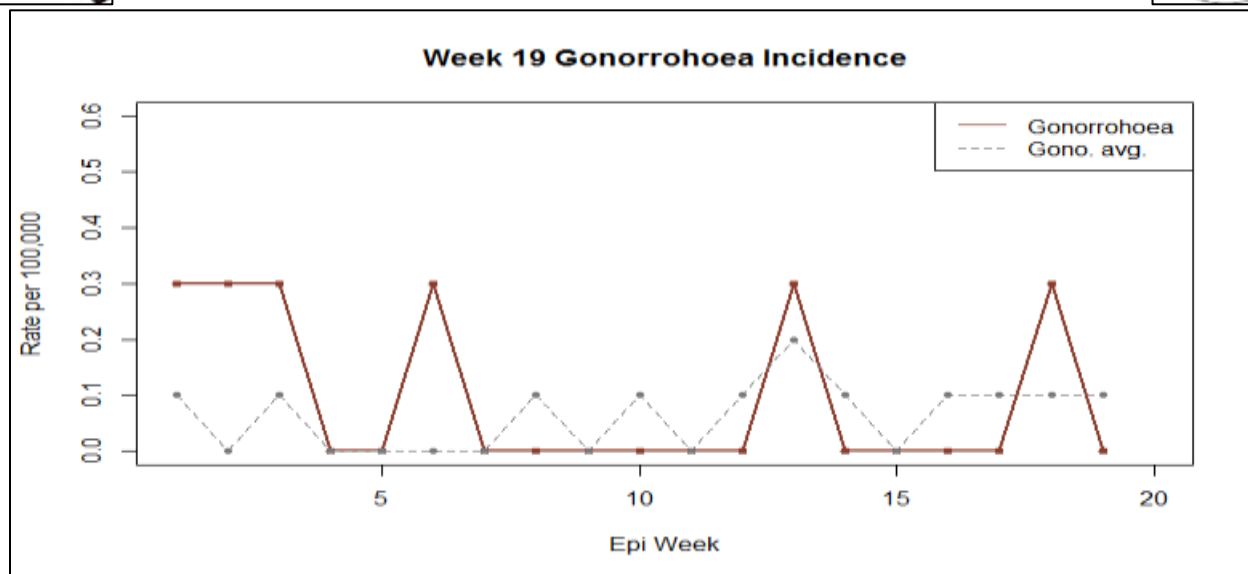
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs):



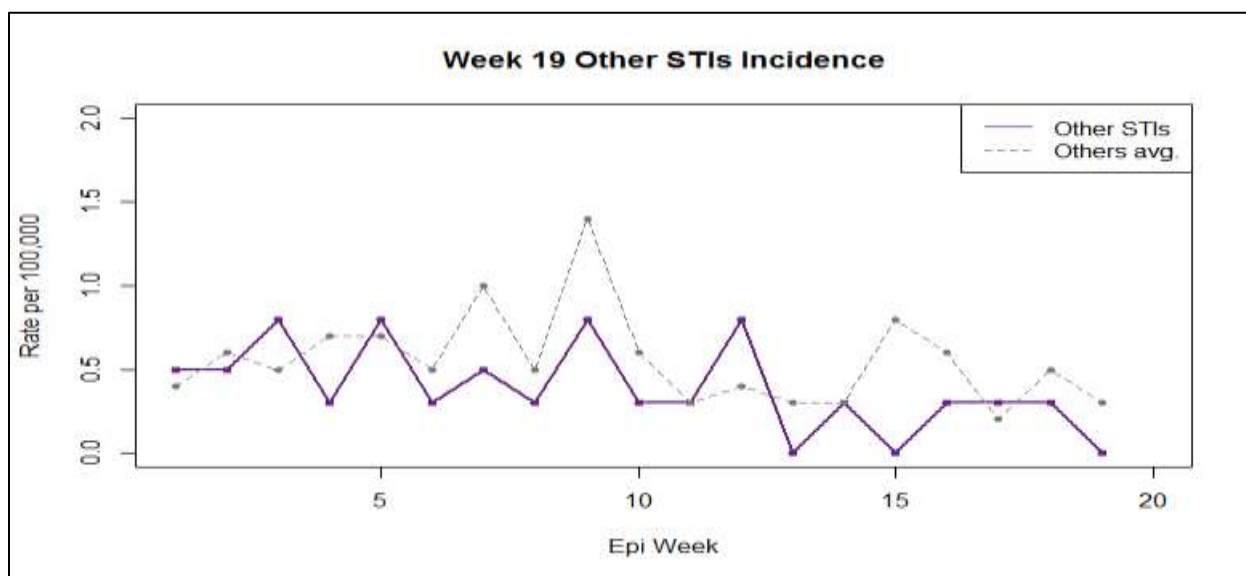
- The national syphilis incidence rate for **week 19** was **0.3 per 100,000** which is **200% above the seasonal average** and **100% above the previous week**. Rates are based on syndromic surveillance and not lab confirmation.



- The national genital herpes rate for epidemiological **week 19** stands at **0 per 100,000** which is **100% below the average** and **equal to the previous week**. Rates are based on syndromic surveillance and not lab confirmation.



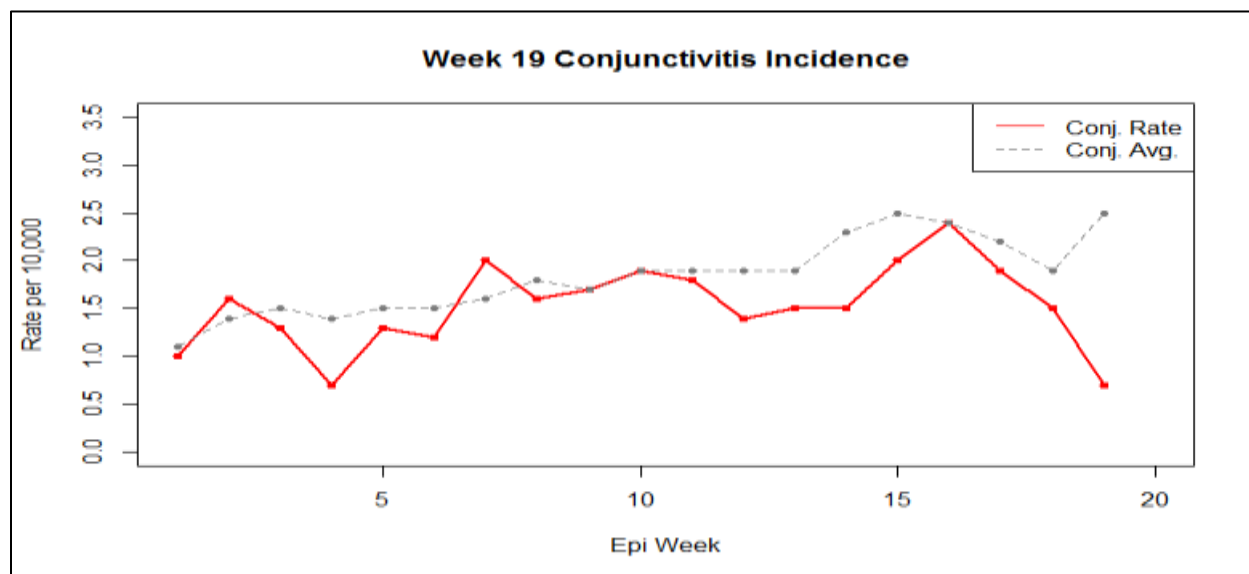
- The national gonorrhoea incidence rate for week 19 was 0 per 100,000 which is 100% below the seasonal average and 100% below the preceding week. Rates are calculated on syndromic surveillance and not lab confirmation.



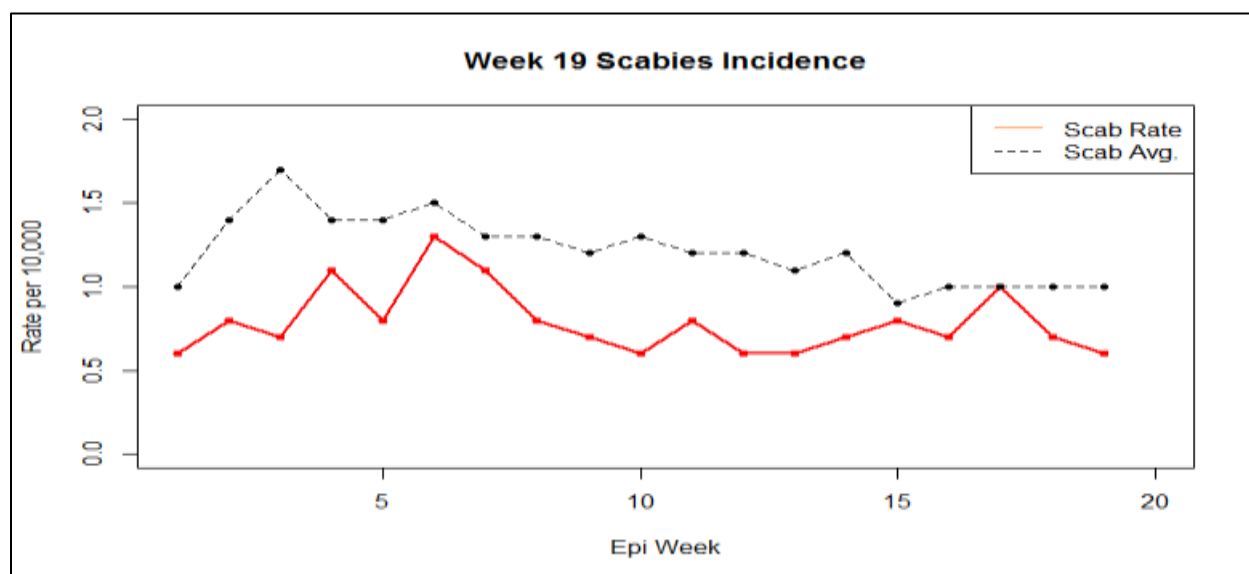
- All other unspecified sexually transmitted infections combined for week 19 was 0 per 100,000 which is 100% below the average, and 100% below the previous week. Rates are calculated on syndromic surveillance and not lab confirmation.



Other Communicable Diseases/Outbreaks/Public Health Related Incidents:



- The national conjunctivitis incidence rate for epidemiological **week 19** was **72% below the seasonal average** and **53% below the previous week**. Current rates are safely within the normal range.



- The national scabies incidence rate for **week 19** was **40% below the seasonal average**, and **decreased 14% from the previous week**.

† It should be noted that all figures stated herein are based on data retrieved through the BHIS. Given that compliance in using the BHIS remains inconsistent among and within health facilities, as well as the fact that not all diseases in the weekly endemic channel are reported by laboratory results this digest should be treated as a summary to be complimented by additional surveillance methods and sources, and not necessarily as a definitive guide.