



Chikungunya in US travelers

Nicole Lindsey, MS

CDC Deputy Lead, Chikungunya Vaccines Work Group

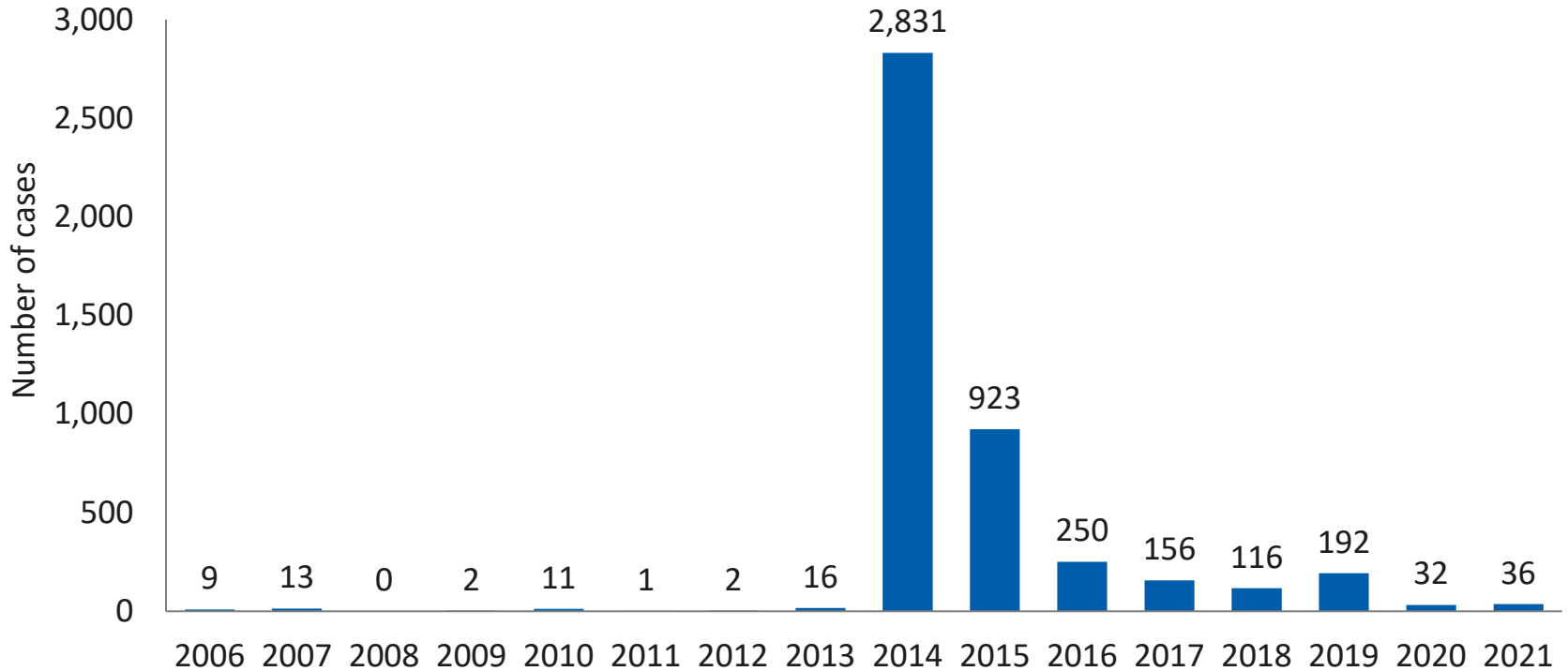
Arboviral Diseases Branch

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National surveillance data for chikungunya virus disease in US travelers

- Data presented include confirmed and probable cases in residents of US states reported to CDC (excludes US territories and associated states)
- Prior to 2006, very rarely identified in US travelers; data are included from 2006–2021
 - Not nationally-notifiable from 2006–2014
- From 2006–2021, 4,590 cases in US travelers reported to CDC

Chikungunya virus disease cases in US travelers, 2006–2021 (N=4,590)



Sex of travel-associated chikungunya cases, 2006–2021 (N=4,590)

Sex	No.	(%)
Male	1,614	(35%)
Female	2,973	(65%)

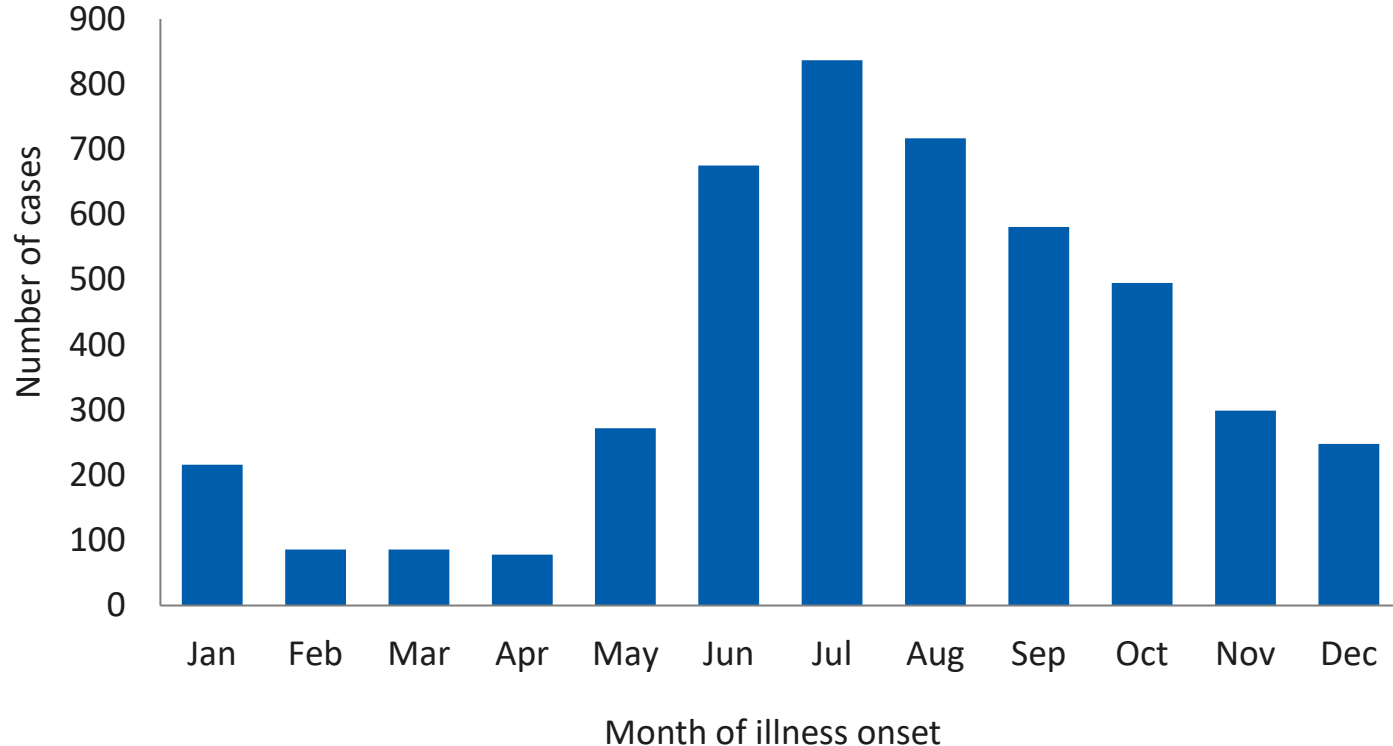
3 cases unreported sex

Age of travel-associated chikungunya cases, 2006–2021 (N=4,590)

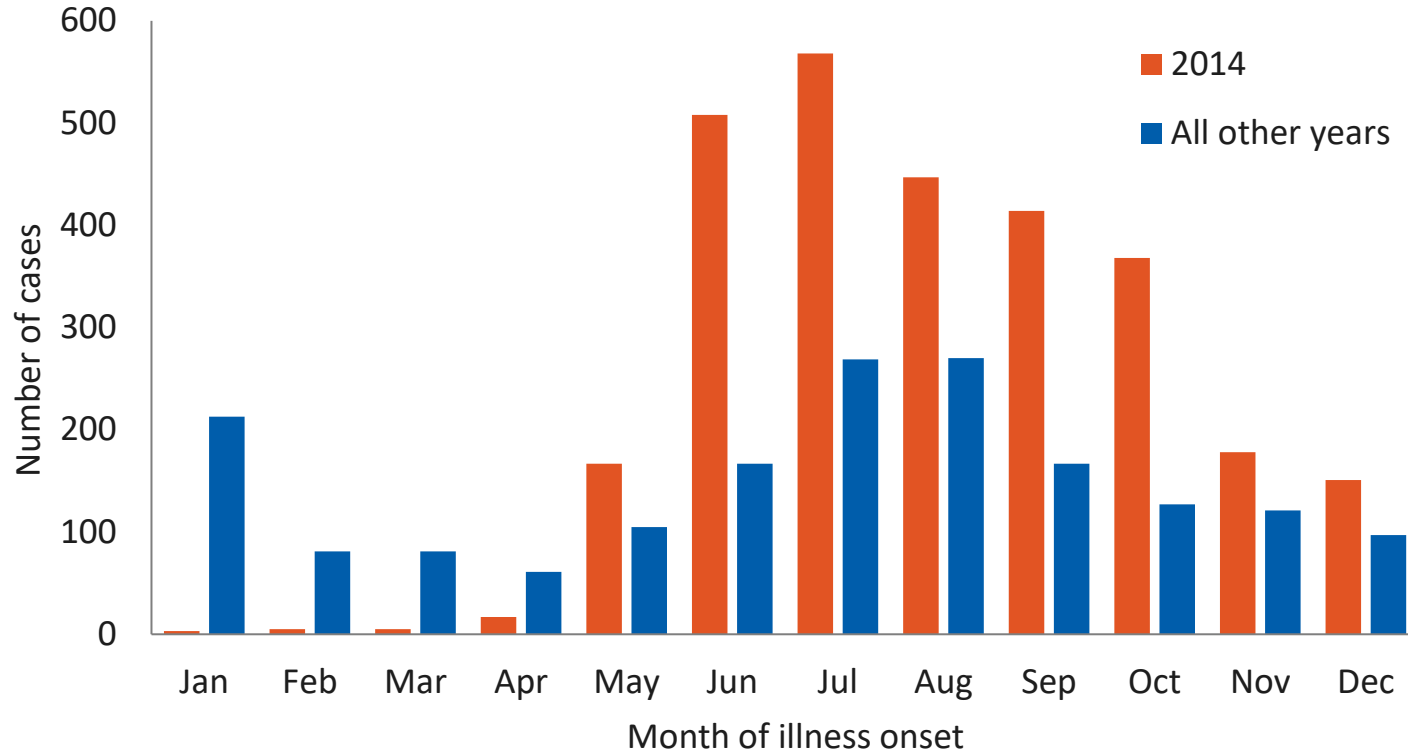
Years	No.	(%)
0–19	445	(10%)
20–39	1,166	(25%)
40–59	1,927	(42%)
60–79	952	(21%)
80+	86	(2%)

14 cases unreported age

Month of onset of travel-associated chikungunya cases, 2006–2021 (N=4,590)



Month of onset of travel-associated chikungunya cases, 2006–2021 (N=4,590)



Outcomes of travel-associated chikungunya cases, 2006–2021 (N=4,590)

Outcome	No. (%)
Hospitalized	834 (18%)
Died*	4 (0.1%)

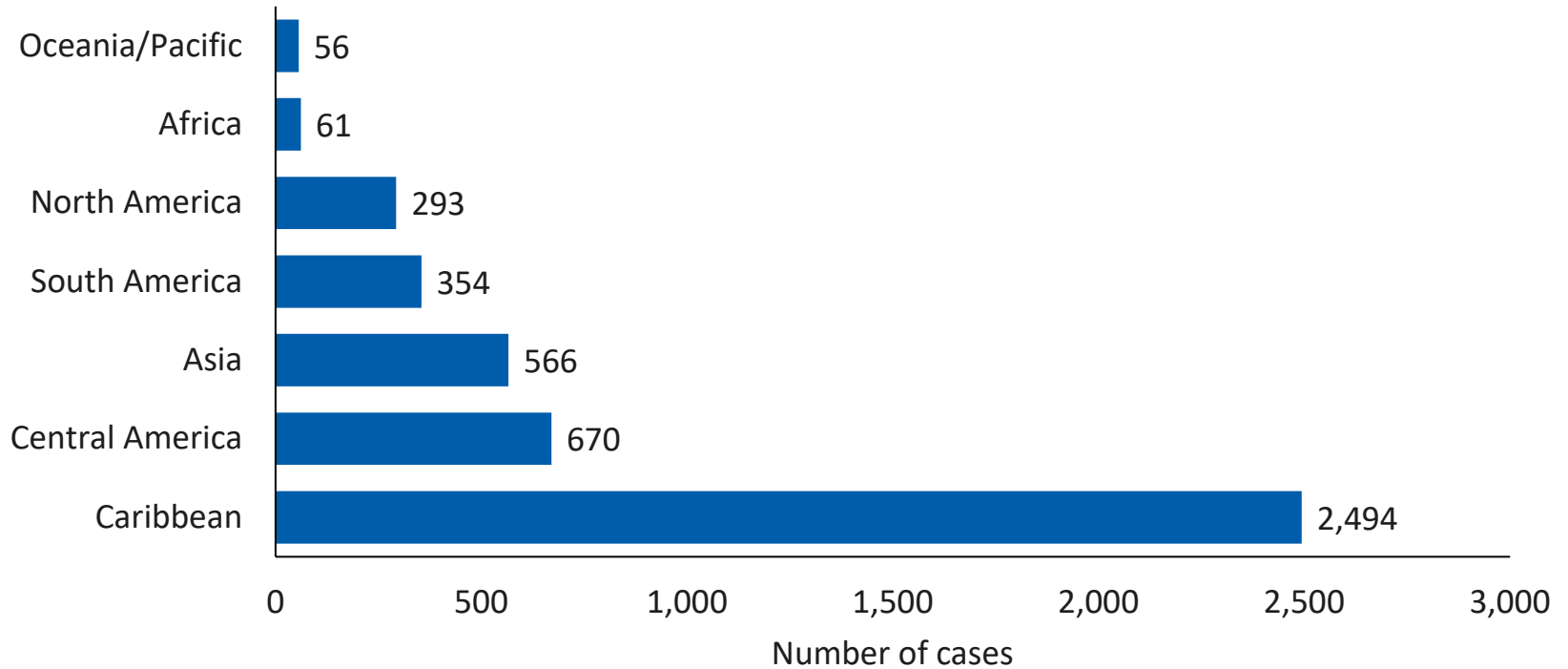
*Cause of death unknown: All aged 63–84 years and died 36–61 days after illness onset

Hospitalization rates by age among travel-associated chikungunya cases, 2006–2021 (N=4,590)

Age (years)	No.	Hospitalized (%)
0–1	17	7 (41%)
2–9	101	31 (31%)
10–19	327	60 (18%)
20–39	1,166	192 (16%)
40–59	1,927	295 (15%)
60–79	952	220 (23%)
80+	86	33 (38%)

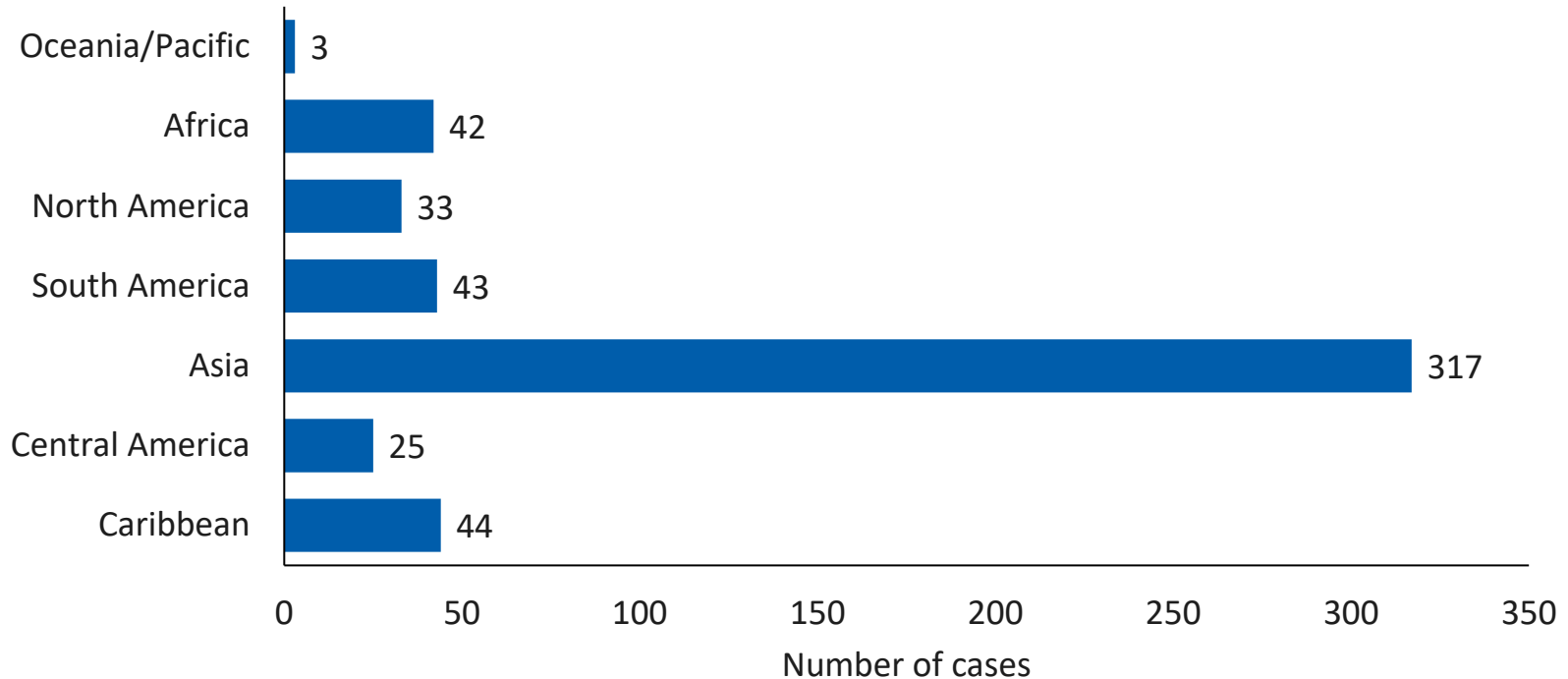
14 cases unreported age

Regions of probable acquisition of travel-associated chikungunya, 2006–2021 (N=4,590)



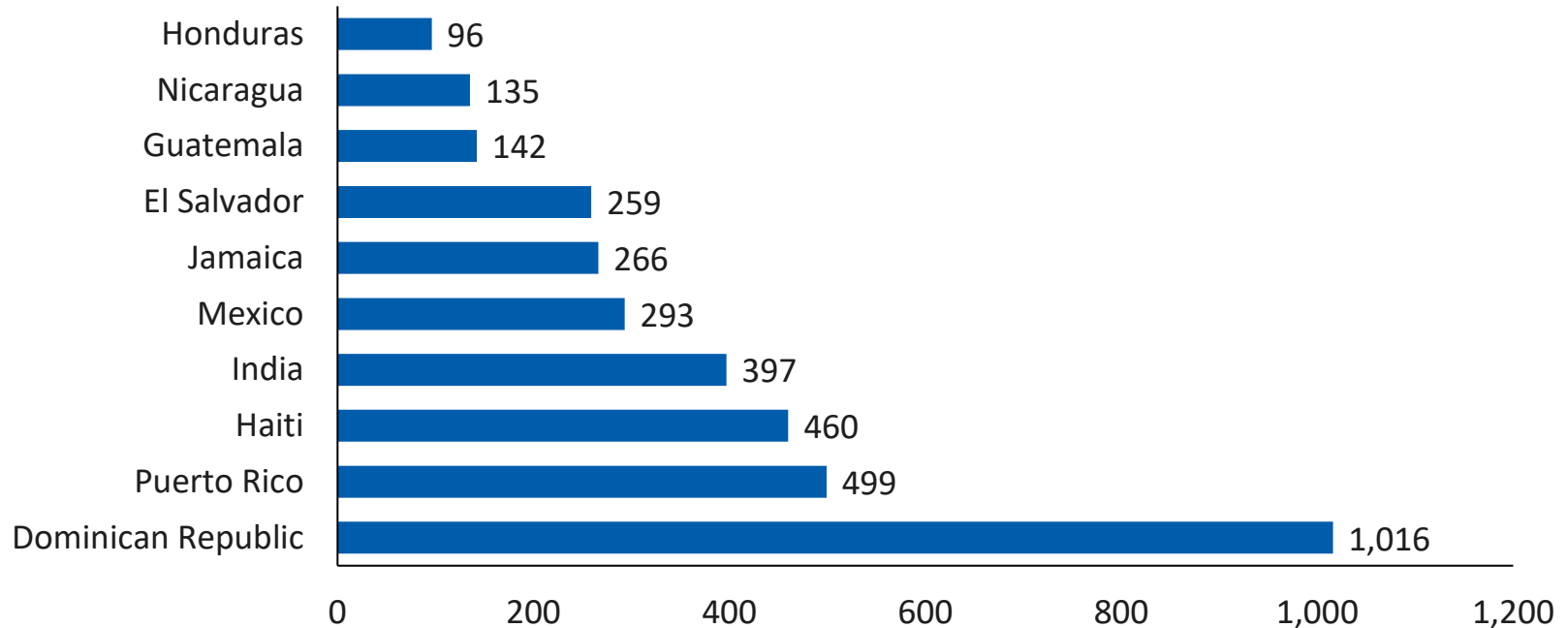
95 cases unknown location of infection

Regions of probable acquisition of travel-associated chikungunya, 2017–2021 (N=532)



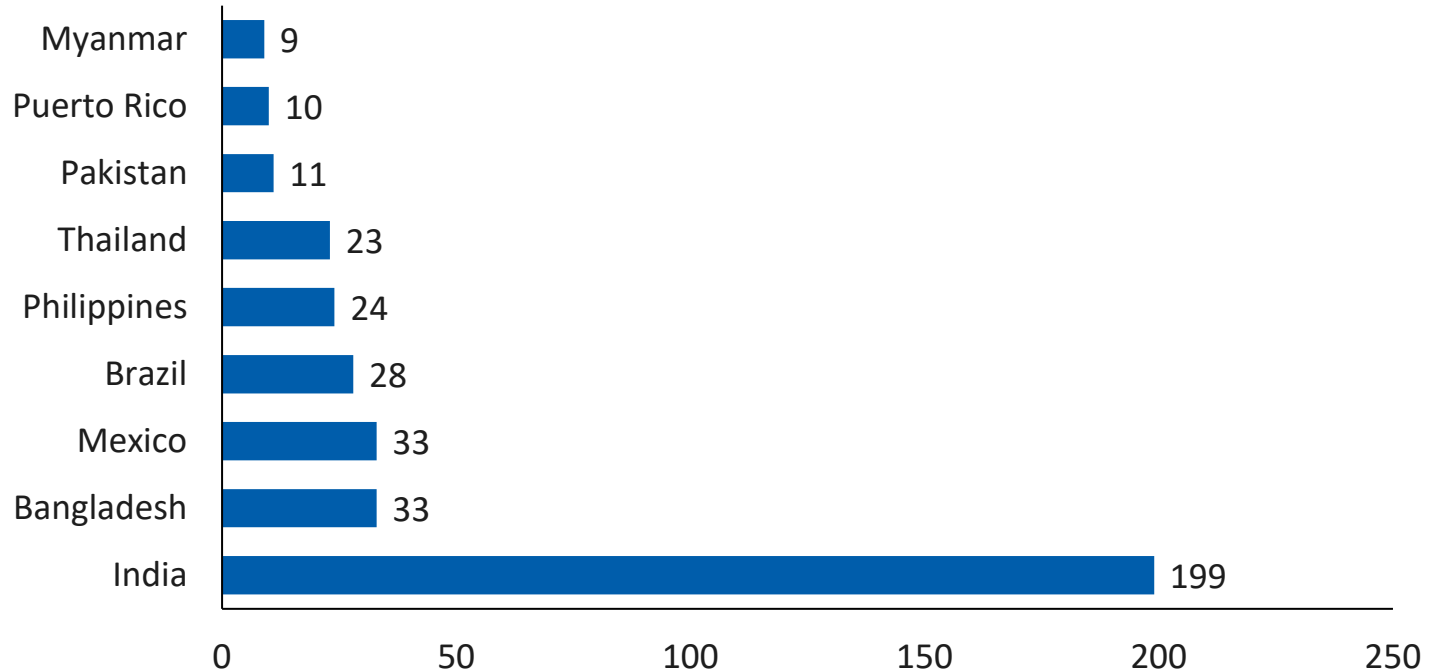
25 cases unknown location of infection

Most common locations of probable acquisition of travel-associated chikungunya, 2006–2021 (N=4,590)



95 cases unknown location of infection

Most common locations of probable acquisition of travel-associated chikungunya, 2017–2021 (N=532)



25 cases unknown location of infection

Limitations of national surveillance data

- Reported cases likely underestimate true incidence of chikungunya disease among travelers
- Reported cases likely represent higher proportion of severe outcomes
- Complete data often unavailable, particularly for travel history
 - No information on duration of travel or activities during travel
- No information on duration of symptoms or long-term sequelae

Summary

- Relatively few traveler cases reported annually except during time of large outbreaks in Americas
- Reported cases likely underestimate true incidence but overestimate proportions of severe outcomes
- Very young children and older adults have highest hospitalization rates
- Cases have occurred among travelers to all regions with chikungunya risk and can occur year-round
 - Case numbers reflect level of chikungunya virus activity in, and number of travelers to, destinations with risk