

Ecuador, 1980-1995

Dengue continued to spread in the Americas and a large outbreak of the disease due to DEN-1 occurred in Guayaquil, Ecuador from late February through April 1988. As *Ae. aegypti* had been eradicated from the city by 1956, there had been no dengue transmission for at least 32 years prior to this outbreak. Based on a survey carried out in 8 of Guayaquil's 14 parishes which represent 72% of the city's population and the area-specific seropositivity rates, it was estimated that 420 000 individuals were infected with dengue during the epidemic (CDC, 1989). There were no reported cases of DHF but there was a rumour of 40 cases of yellow fever in the city. No laboratory evidence of yellow fever transmission was obtained and it was considered more likely that these were cases of severe haemorrhagic dengue (CDC 1988a).

In late 1990 a serious outbreak of dengue again occurred in Ecuador; the earliest case had onset of symptoms in December 1990 and the remainder had onset from 8 January to 24 March 1991. Three isolates were made of DEN-1 (CDC, 1991b). Table 31 lists cases of dengue and DHF from Ecuador during 1988 to 1994.

Table 31: Cases of dengue/DHF reported from Ecuador 1988-1995

Year	No. cases	Deaths	Serotypes
1988	25 + (official)		1
1989	19		
1990	302		
1991	94		1
1992	137		1
1993	9 015		
1994	8 145		
1995	2 899		1

+ Plus

French Guiana

Dengue is not a reportable disease in French Guiana and there is no disease surveillance system to provide data on its incidence. However, dengue virus has been repeatedly isolated in French Guiana since 1970, with DEN-2 first being isolated in 1970 (Serie, *et al.*, 1972) and DEN-1 and DEN-4 being isolated in 1978 and 1982 respectively. However, until the 1991-1992 epidemic, circulation of dengue remained low, though DEN-2 was isolated in 1987, 1988 and 1989 and DEN-1 once in 1989. An increase in flavivirus circulation, probably of dengue, was only reported in May 1991 and it was recognized as an epidemic in July 1991. At first the epidemic was restricted to the urban area of Cayenne but subsequently spread to the littoral cities, including Kourou in the fall of the year. In St. Laurent du Maroni, close to the border with Suriname, the first cases were reported at the beginning of 1992.