

WSVI-WZVI-Quarterly Issues and Problems Report
From July 1 2016-September 30, 2016

2016 Hurricane Season Turns Deadly

The 2016 Atlantic hurricane season is the most active and costliest Atlantic hurricane season since 2012, as well as the deadliest since 2005. The season officially started on June 1 and will end on November 30. The season began nearly five months before the official start, with Hurricane Alex forming in the Northeastern Atlantic in mid-January, the first Atlantic January hurricane since Hurricane Alice in 1955.

Channel 8 initiated daily tropical weather reports in English and Spanish with open captions in the respective languages. This season has been the strongest, costliest and deadliest storm of the season was Hurricane Matthew, the southernmost Category 5 Atlantic hurricane on record, and the first Category 5 hurricane to form in the Atlantic since Felix in 2007. With at least 902 deaths attributed to it, Hurricane Matthew is the deadliest Atlantic hurricane since Stan in 2005.

Most forecasting groups have expected this season to be an above average season, due to a combination of factors including an expected transition to La Niña and warmer than normal sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and Western Atlantic, despite near-average sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic Main Development Region near Cape Verde. So far, eleven of the fifteen developed tropical cyclones (except Fiona, Ian, Lisa and Nicole) have impacted land, and seven of those storms caused loss of life, directly or indirectly. At least 984 people have died as of October 8, making this season the deadliest since 2008.

Mental Health Care Emergency

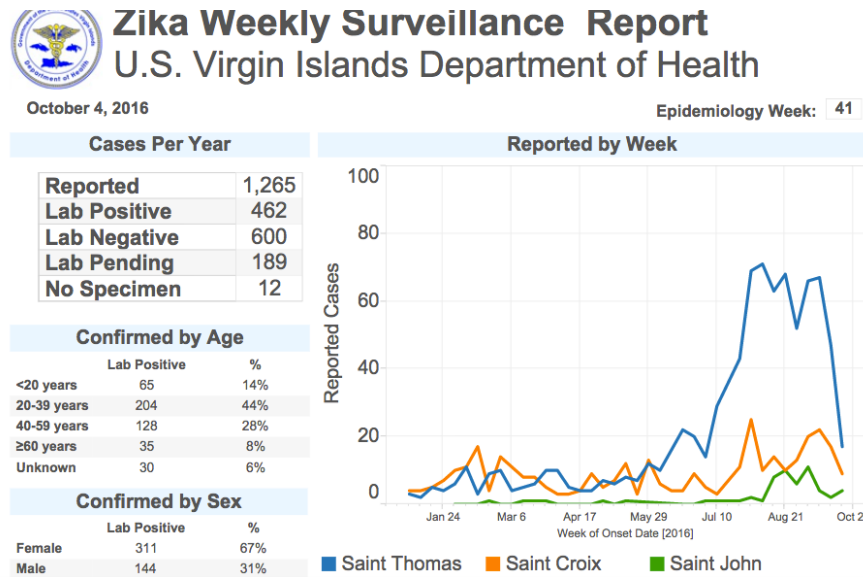
A State of Emergency in Mental Health Care has been declared by Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth E. Mapp. Channel 8 News covered this extensively. Noting the need to facilitate immediate emergency delivery of acute and chronic mental health services throughout the territory, the Governor is suspending temporarily statutory and contractual limitations on conditions of employment and compensation for retired psychiatric physicians. This will allow the Schneider Regional Medical Center, the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital, and the Department of Health to increase the now inadequate number of psychiatrists by rehiring retirees or by recruiting from other jurisdictions, and will permit a competitive level of compensation.

Governor Mapp's order declaring a State of Emergency in Mental Health Care also requests through the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services the immediate deployment of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, or other Federal Deployment Programs, to assist in providing acute and chronic mental health services at the territory's two hospitals and in the V.I. Department of Health.

The mental health emergency declaration takes effect immediately, and unless modified sooner, will expire only after confirmation by the hospitals and health department that are enough providers of psychiatric care in the territory, or thirty days following the effective date unless renewed by the Governor.

Ongoing health emergency

Channel 8 news has widely covered the Zika mosquito virus control efforts locally as well as the health departments' efforts to educate the public.



Reporting on WSVI TV In response to the Zika outbreak, we have highlighted that the DOH has increased its Zika prevention efforts through community health education presentations, clinician and public health practitioner seminars, public service announcements, and web and social media placements. Since activating its Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in February 2016, the DOH has conducted a total of 215 presentations throughout the territory, 18 on St. John, 70 on St. Thomas, 127 on St. Croix.

The DOH is also working closely with CDC to strengthen efforts to track the outbreak, enhance laboratory services for faster testing results, increase awareness about Zika prevention and ultimately curb the spread of the virus.

WSVI TV has highlighted the Department of Health continues to provide the following FREE services to pregnant women:

- Free Zika testing at 12 locations throughout the territory;
- Free Inspections to look for mosquito larvae and mosquito breeding grounds at/around her house;

- Free Larvicide treatment if mosquito larvae are found at/around her house;
- Free Zika Prevention Kit, includes educational materials, insect repellent, permethrin spray repellent, condoms to avoid sexual transmission of Zika, treatment tabs for preventing mosquitoes from breeding in standing water, and a bed net.

The DOH has also been offering free Zika testing to anyone exhibiting common symptoms of Zika infection -- fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes).

Zika is spread primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*) mosquito and can also be transmitted sexually. The most common symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Other common symptoms include muscle pain and headache. Many people might not realize that they have been infected with the virus, as symptoms can be mild, lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Others may be infected and have no symptoms.

We have presented long form talk shows including a broadcast of the 'Straight Talk' show of former territorial senator Holland Redfield with officials of the department of health to discuss the effects of the Zika virus are much more severe for pregnant women. If infected with Zika, pregnant women can pass the virus onto their unborn child during pregnancy or during delivery. Zika has the potential to cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly – a condition where a baby's head is much smaller than expected because the brain has not fully developed during pregnancy or has stopped growing after birth. In addition to microcephaly, fetuses and infants infected with the Zika virus before or during birth can also have other illnesses such as eye defects, hearing loss, and impaired growth. To better understand the impact of Zika on mothers and their children, researchers in the United States and around the world are collecting and analyzing data.

WSVI has highlighted that representatives from the DOH stress that there are simple steps everyone can take to protect themselves and their families from Zika and other mosquito-borne viruses by following the 4 Ds of prevention:

- Dress – wear protective clothing – long sleeves, long pants and light colors
- Drain – get rid of water containers in and around your home that can serve as breeding places for mosquitoes
- Defend – use repellent on exposed skin and treat clothes with one of several EPA-approved repellents
- Discuss – spread the word about the simple things you can do to make a difference

Crime in the Virgin Islands

WSVI-TV has been working closely throughout the quarter. Daily, WSVI highlighted crime reports from the public information officer of the VI Police Department. At the conclusion of each of the reports, we have conveyed the Virgin Islands Police

Departments requests for the help of the Public to bring the perpetrator of this crime to justice. We have advised the public you have any information pertaining to this incident please notify Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-tips.

Channel 8 broadcast daily updates from the public information office of the Virgin Islands Police Department forecast on their territory wide crackdown on illegal weapons and fugitives conducted by the Criminal Investigation Bureau and Special Operation Bureau conducted called "Operation Clean Sweep" .

WSVI-TV continues to carry the crime stopper initiative in its news.