



# The Emerging Threat of Zika Virus and the Public Health Response

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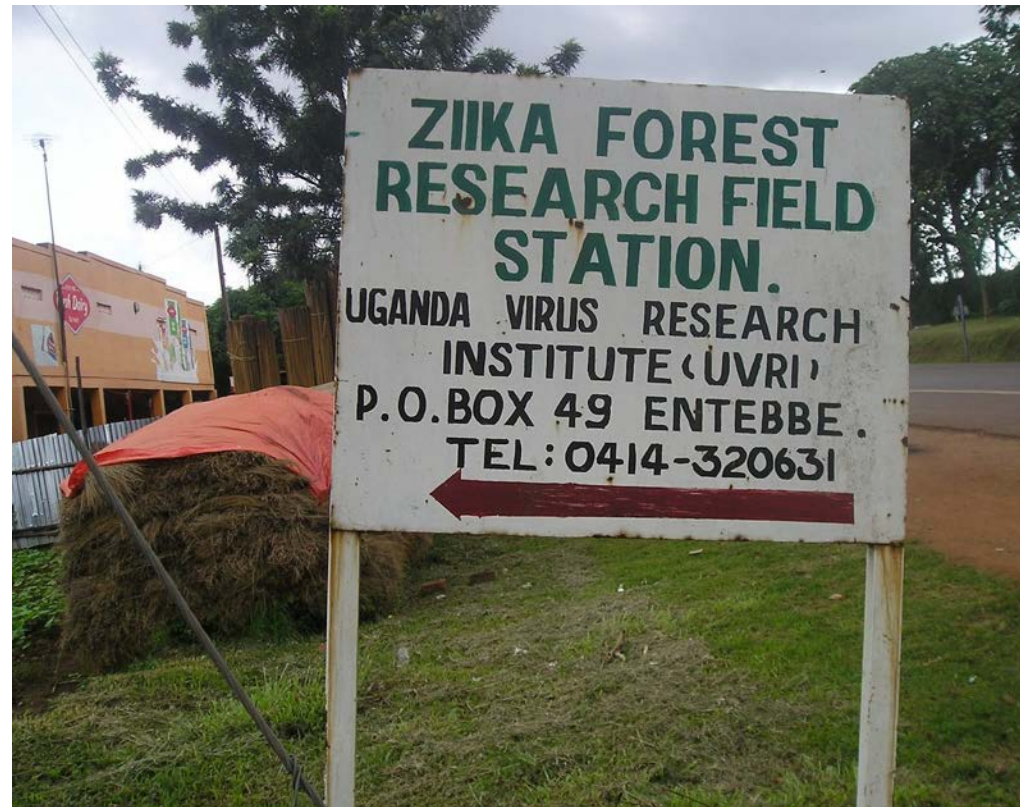
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

February 22, 2017



# Emergence of Zika Virus

- 1947 – Rhesus 766 develops a fever
- 1956 – First cluster of cases in Nigeria
- 1970-80s – Sporadic reports of infections
- 2007 – Outbreak on Yap Island, Micronesia
- 2013 – Outbreak in French Polynesia
- 2014 – Outbreaks in Brazil and Latin America



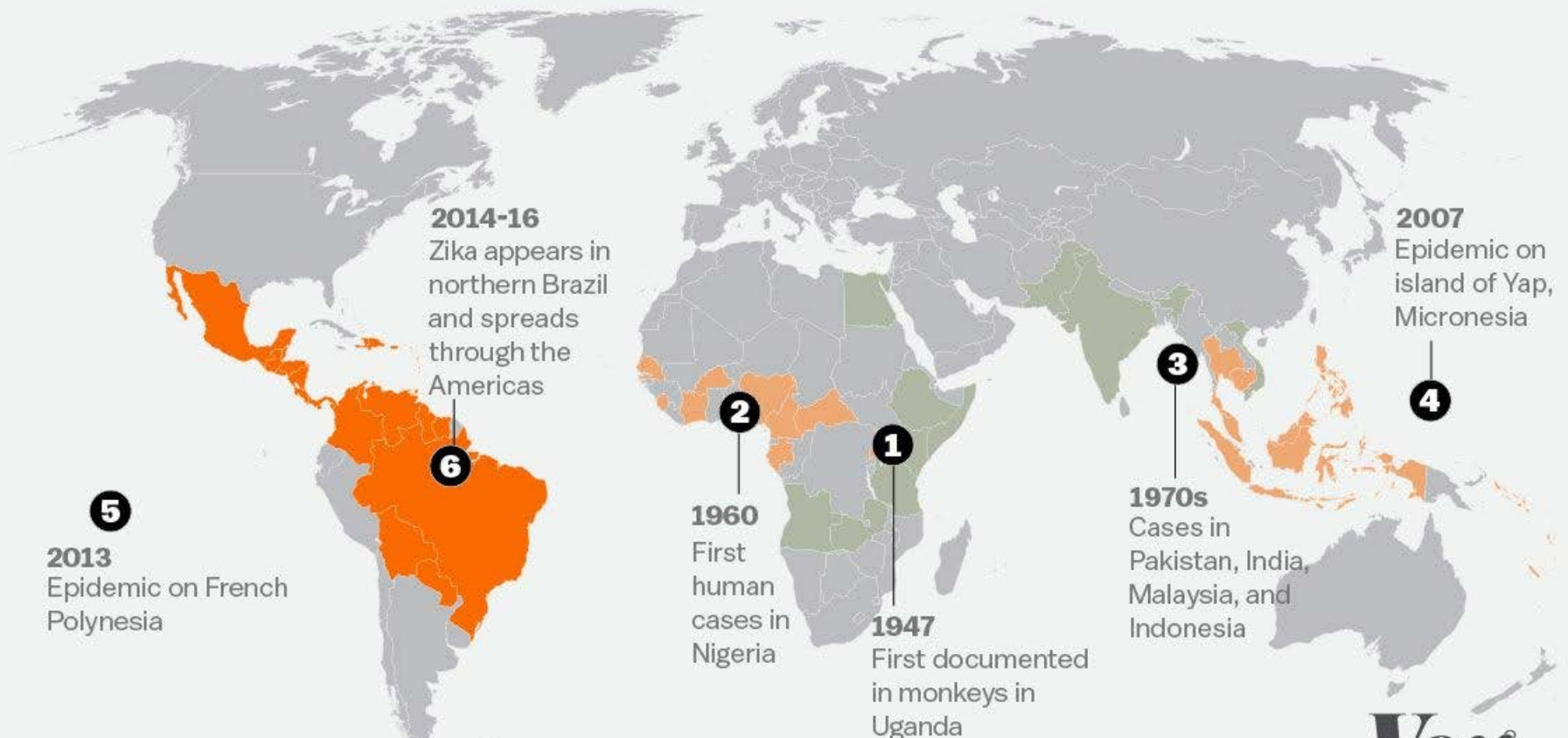
# Global Spread of Zika

## How the Zika virus spread

Active transmission

Known previous transmission

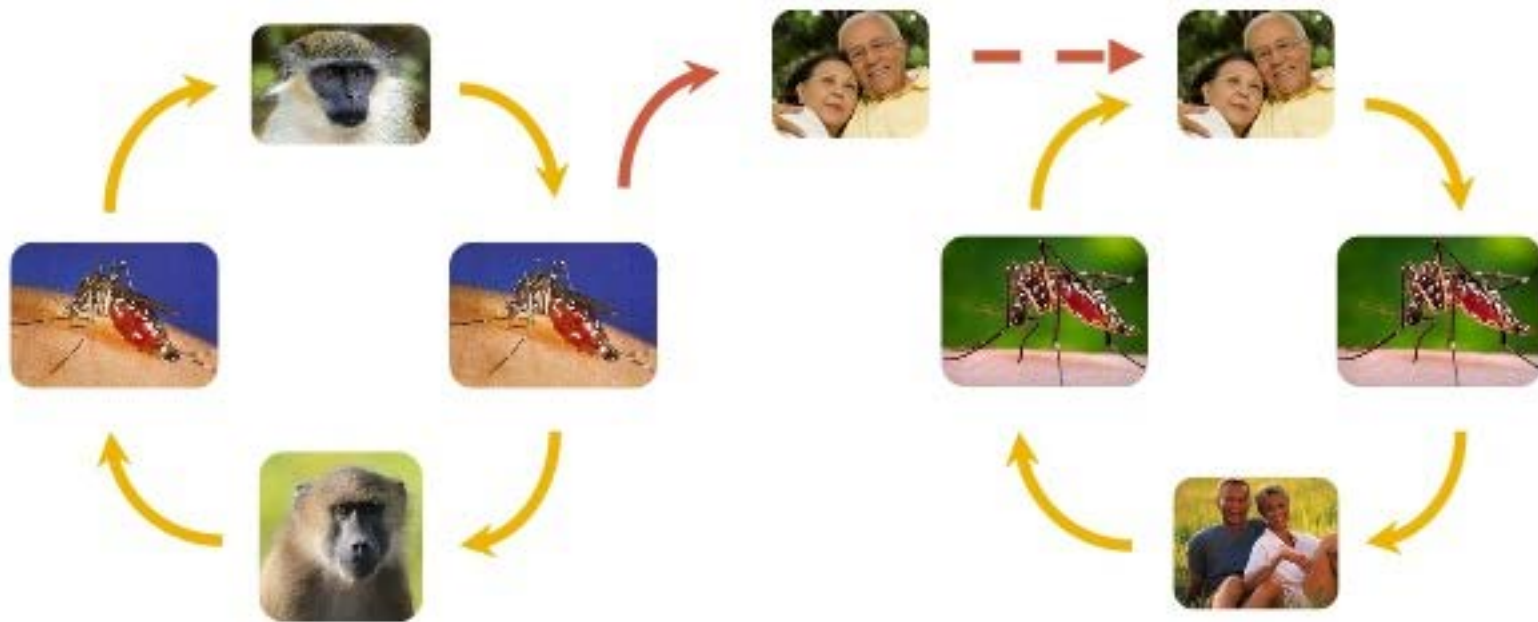
Antibodies also detected



SOURCE: WHO and Lancaster University , Feb.1

# Zika Virus Transmission Cycle

## Zika Virus Transmission Cycles



Sylvatic (jungle) cycle

Epidemic (urban) cycle



# Zika Virus Clinical Illness

- About 80% of infections asymptomatic
- Symptoms 3-12 d post exposure
- Symptomatic illness mild, lasting <1 week
- Rare hospitalization & death
- Symptoms/signs from 683 cases from Puerto Rico shown in the Table
  - 9 with thrombocytopenia and 5 with Guillain-Barre Syndrome

| Symptom        | Percent |
|----------------|---------|
| Rash           | 74%     |
| Myalgia        | 68%     |
| Arthralgia     | 63%     |
| Fever          | 63%     |
| Headache       | 63%     |
| Eye pain       | 51%     |
| Chills         | 50%     |
| Sore throat    | 34%     |
| Petichiae      | 31%     |
| Conjunctivitis | 20%     |

# Zika Conjunctivitis and Rash





# Zika Virus Congenital Infection

- Series of 72 Zika pos. pregnant women from Rio de Janeiro
- All women with symptomatic infection
- Of 42 women with ultrasound, 12 (29%) were abnormal
  - Fetal death (36 and 38 wks gestation)
  - *In utero* growth restriction
  - Microcephaly
  - Cerebral calcification
  - Other abnormalities (ocular defect, CNS lesions, reduced cerebral or umbilical artery flow, abnormal amniotic fluid volume)
- Of 8 births, only 2 were normal



# Risk of Microcephaly with Zika

- French Polynesia (2013-14)
  - First trimester risk of microcephaly estimated at 0.95% (95% CI 0.34 – 1.91)
- Bahia, Brazil (2015-16)
  - Based on various estimates of infection rate, over-reporting, and baseline microcephaly risk, estimate first trimester microcephaly rate from 0.88% to 13.2%
  - Microcephaly in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> trimesters – “negligible association”





# Polling Question: Perception of Zika

Given the 1% to 13% risk of microcephaly, what's your perception of the level of concern Zika has engendered in the U.S.?

- A. The concern is exaggerated as so few infants will get this defect
- B. The concern is appropriate and about the right level
- C. We should be more concerned since Zika is likely to spread and even 1% would be a lot of infants

# Congenital Zika Syndrome

- Severe microcephaly (<3 SD below mean) – consistent with fetal brain disruption sequence (overlapping cranial sutures, redundant scalp skin, severe neurological impairment)
- Subcortical calcifications, cortical thinning, decreased myelination, consistent with neural cell injury & death
- Ocular abnormalities – optic nerve atrophy, chorioretinal mottling and atrophy
- Congenital contractures – arthrogryposis, clubfoot, hip dislocation associated with motor neuron involvement

# Congenital Zika Syndrome



Microcephaly from fetal brain disruption

Optic nerve hypoplasia and chorioretinal scar



Congenital contractures

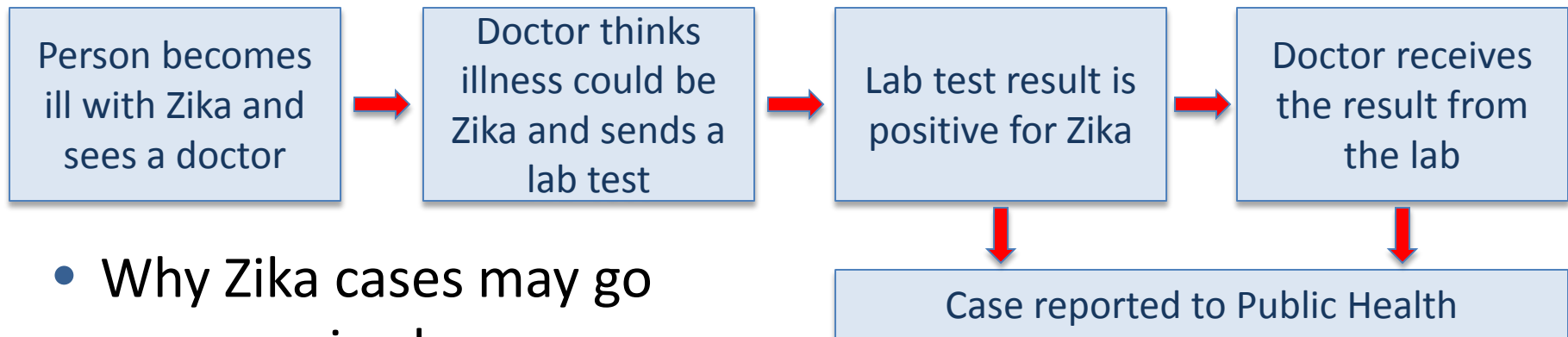


# Other Neurological Findings of Zika Infection

- In series of infants with microcephaly, ocular findings in 35% and hearing loss in 10%
  - Unclear how often these occur in infants without microcephaly
- Guillain-Barre syndrome
- Case reports of encephalitis and encephalomyelitis in adults
- Currently no evidence of abnormal post-natal neurological development associated with congenital infection

# Zika Surveillance

- Clinical suspicion, laboratory diagnosis



- Why Zika cases may go unrecognized:
  - Infection often asymptomatic (80%)
  - Ill person may not seek medical care
  - Doctor may not think of Zika or send a test



# Zika Testing and Reporting

- Testing recommended **1)** for all pregnant women exposed through travel to an affected area or by sexual contact; **2)** others with Zika consistent symptoms and an exposure history; **3)** all infants of Zika infected moms
- Lab testing available at the Public Health Lab and commercially

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Public Health**

Public Health Laboratories  
12750 Erickson Avenue  
Downey, CA 90242  
Phone: 562-858-1330/1300  
Fax: 562-401-5999

CA Certified PHL #935637  
CLIA #65D1069369

**ZIKA TEST REQUEST FORM**

**FAILURE TO COMPLETE ALL FIELDS WILL RESULT IN SPECIMEN REJECTION OR DELAYED TESTING**

For Zika virus testing eligibility:  
[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/health/CommunicableDiseases/EpiForms/ZikaEligibility.pdf](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/health/CommunicableDiseases/EpiForms/ZikaEligibility.pdf)

For Zika virus testing and notification information:  
[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/health/ZikaTesting.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/health/ZikaTesting.htm)

**PUBLIC HEALTH LAB USE ONLY**

DATE SUBMITTED: [Redacted]

**SUBMITTER INFORMATION**

Requesting Physician Name (Last, First) [Redacted] Requesting Physician Phone [Redacted] Requesting Physician Email [Redacted]

Facility Name [Redacted] Facility Address (Street) [Redacted] City [Redacted] State [Redacted] Zip [Redacted]

Facility Phone Number [Redacted] Secure Fax Number For Results Reporting [Redacted] Contact Person For Specimen and Phone Number [Redacted]

**PATIENT INFORMATION**

Patient Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) [Redacted] Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) [Redacted] Sex  Male  Female

Patient Address (Street) [Redacted] City [Redacted] State [Redacted] Zip [Redacted]

Patient Primary Telephone Number [Redacted] Patient Alternate Phone Number [Redacted] MFRN/Patient ID [Redacted]

**LAB INFORMATION**

Specimen Source:  Serum  Cord Blood  Amniotic Fluid  Urine  Placenta  Other: [Redacted]

Specimen Collection Date/Time (mm AMPM) [Redacted]

Specimen Storage Condition:  Refrigerated  Frozen (-20°C)

**TEST(S) REQUESTED** – Current Lab Testing Algorithms Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nczvlz/disease-prevention/labs/guidance.html>

Arbovirus serology panel (with reflex to confirmatory PRNT or rRT-PCR if required) for Zika, Chikungunya, Dengue, and West Nile Viruses

Arbovirus rRT-PCR (with reflex to serology, PRNT, or rRT-PCR if required) for Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue Viruses

Immunohistochemistry (fixed tissue or paraffin block)

Histopathology (fixed tissue or paraffin block)

PRNT for Zika/Chikungunya/Dengue/West Nile Virus Confirmation

**CLINICAL INFORMATION**

**PREGNANCY STATUS**

Yes: # Weeks Pregnant [Redacted] OR Estimated Due Date: [Redacted]  Ultrasound Evidence of Microcephaly/Calcification

Not Pregnant  Not Applicable

**SYMPTOMS (CHECK ALL APPLICABLE)**

Symptomatic:  Fever  Arthralgia  Rash  Conjunctivitis AND Symptom Onset Date: [Redacted]

Asymptomatic

Guillain-Barré Syndrome: Onset Date: [Redacted]

Other: Specify [Redacted]

**FLAVIVIRUS HISTORY (CHECK ALL PREVIOUS KNOWN VACCINATIONS AND ILLNESS)**  Flavivirus History Unknown

Tick-borne Encephalitis  Yellow Fever  Japanese Encephalitis  West Nile Virus  Saint Louis Encephalitis  Dengue

**TRAVEL AND EXPOSURE HISTORY** See current areas with Zika transmission at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geoactive/countries.html>

Did patient travel to an area with Zika transmission (including U.S. location with ongoing local Zika spread) within 14 days of symptom onset?

Yes  No  Unknown

List all cities/countries/areas of travel: [Redacted] Last Date of Travel: [Redacted]

Did patient's sexual partner travel to area with Zika transmission (including U.S. location with ongoing local Zika spread)?  Yes  No  Unknown

List all cities/countries/areas of travel: [Redacted] Last Date of Travel: [Redacted]

Last Date of Unprotected Sexual Intercourse: [Redacted] OR  Unknown



# Zika Cases by Jurisdiction

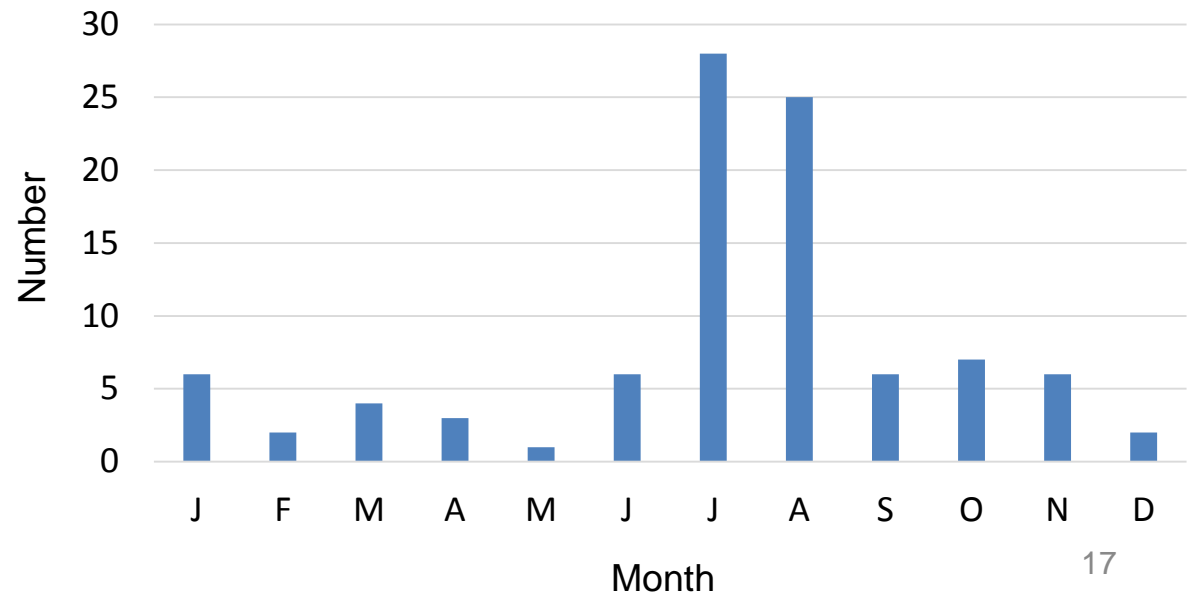
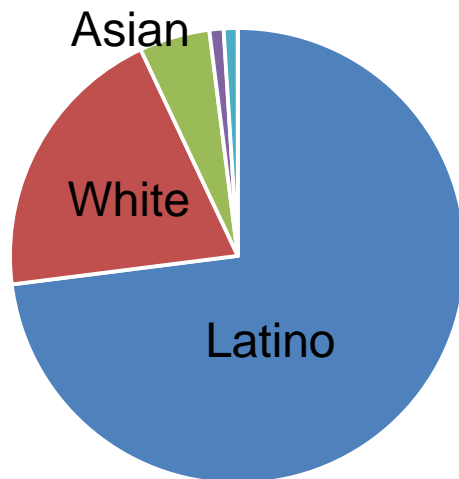
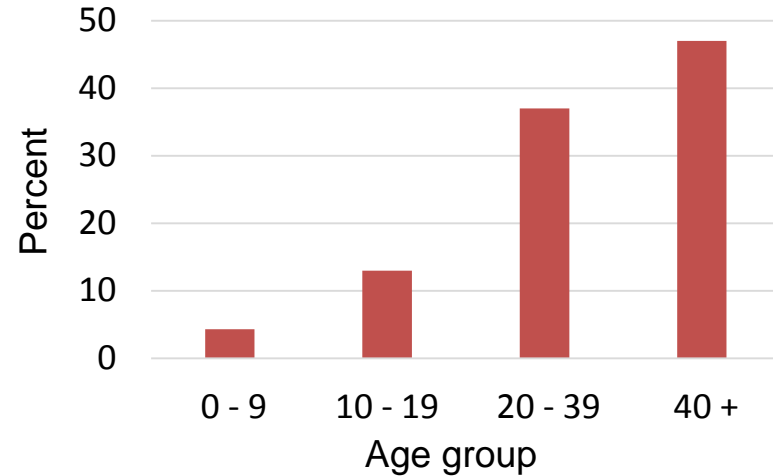
LAC – 2016; other through end of January February 2017

|                | Total cases | Pregnant women | Local transmission | Sexually acquired |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| LA County      | 96          | 14             | 0                  | 0                 |
| California     | 486         | 81             | 0                  | 0                 |
| US States/DC   | 4,973       | 1,394*         | 220                | 41                |
| US Territories | 36,414      | 3,071          | 36,274             | NA                |

\*999 completed pregnancies, 43 known with birth defects

# Demographics of LAC Zika Patients (n=96)

| Gender       | N (%)    |
|--------------|----------|
| Male         | 25 (26%) |
| Female       | 71 (74%) |
| Pregnant     | 14 (15%) |
| Non-pregnant | 57 (59%) |





| Country            | Number (%)    |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Mexico             | 25 (26%)      |
| Nicaragua          | 15 (16%)      |
| Guatemala          | 13 (14%)      |
| Honduras           | 9 (9%)        |
| El Salvador        | 7 (7%)        |
| Dominican Republic | 7 (7%)        |
| Puerto Rico        | 4 (4%)        |
| Jamaica            | 3 (3%)        |
| Costa Rica         | 3 (3%)        |
| Virgin Islands     | 2 (2%)        |
| Brazil             | 2 (2%)        |
| Bahamas            | 1 (1%)        |
| <b>Florida</b>     | <b>1 (1%)</b> |
| Fiji               | 1 (1%)        |
| St. Maarten        | 1 (1%)        |
| Peru               | 1 (1%)        |

# LAC Zika Cases' Country of Exposure



72 (75%) cases from Mexico and Central America



# Polling Question: Travel Plans

How would the threat of Zika affect your plans to travel to Latin America or the Caribbean?

- A. It makes me much less likely to go
- B. It makes me somewhat less likely to go
- C. It wouldn't affect my plans because I can use mosquito protection and take other precautions
- D. I don't want to go to Latin America or the Caribbean anyway

# Profile of LAC Pregnant Women with Zika (n=16)

- 85% are Latina
  - 60% report Spanish as their first language
  - 90% were born outside of the U.S.
- All traveled to Mexico or Central America
- 40% traveled to a rural area
- 50% had a residence in the country where they traveled and 25% were visiting family
- Most traveled for >30 days, spent >8 hours per day outside, and used mosquito repellent





# Additional Surveillance Activities

- **National Zika Pregnancy Registry** – Pregnant women with Zika are included in the registry and information on the baby collected at birth, 2, 6, and 12 months to determine outcome
- **Birth defects surveillance** – Information for newborns with specific deficits will be collected and testing may be done to determine if the defect was related to Zika
- **Vector surveillance** – Mosquito and vector control agencies identify locations of mosquitos that can spread Zika

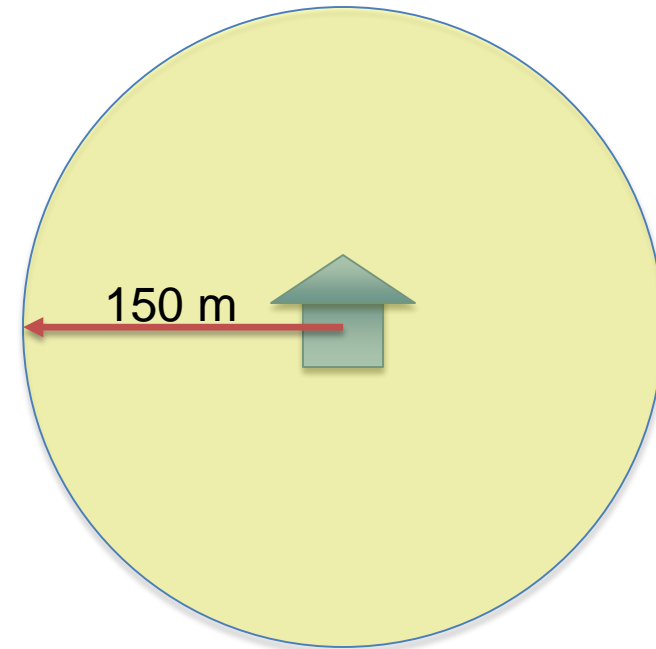


# Prevention of Zika Infection

- Pregnant women should not travel to Zika affected countries
- All persons traveling to an affected country should take measures to reduce mosquito exposure
  - Insect repellent with an EPA registered ingredient (DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus)
    - Repellents safe for use by pregnant women
    - Most can be used on children aged >2 months
  - Wear long sleeves and pants
  - Stay in places with air conditioning or screens

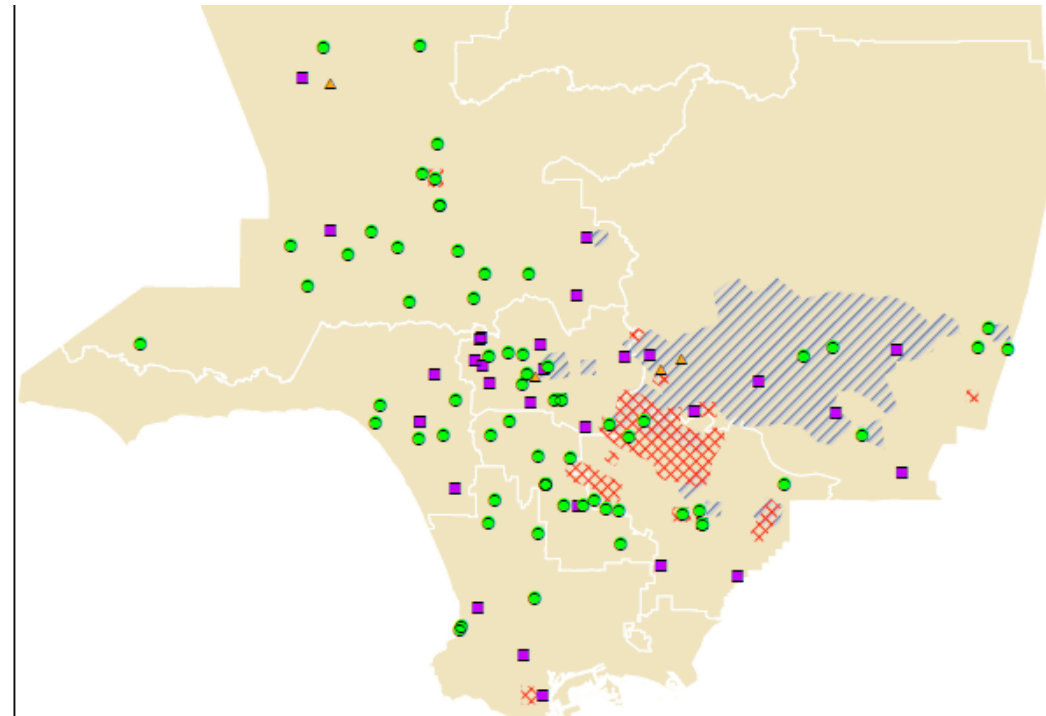
# Vector Control Investigation for Zika Cases

- Conduct surveillance for *Aedes* mosquitos within 150 m radius of case residences in Vector Control districts where *Aedes* previously identified
- If *Aedes* are found, implement control (adulticiding, larvaciding) and prevention
- Provide education on reducing mosquito breeding



# Zika Cases and *Aedes* Mosquito Locations

- 9/38 (24%) investigations positive for *Aedes* mosquitoes, some in areas not previously known to be infested



## Legend

### Disease

- Zika
- Dengue
- ▲ Chikungunya
- ▣ *Aedes aegypti*
- ▨ *Aedes albopictus*

## Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya cases and *Aedes* mosquito distribution in Los Angeles county

Data for viral infections 1/1/2016 - 10/27/2016  
GLA mosquito data covers 9/1/2011 - 6/17/2016  
SGVMVCD data covers 9/14/2011 - 10/27/2016

Prepared by the  
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Acute Communicable Disease Control program  
Response and Control Unit  
Prepared on 10/27/2016

# Will Investigation & Abatement Prevent Local Spread of Zika?

- By the time a patient seeks healthcare and Zika is identified, the period of viremia already would have occurred
  - Mean time from onset of symptoms to case referral to Vector control = 9.3 days



- Most Zika cases are not detected so no abatement occurs
- Thus, the incremental benefit is likely to be low





# Detecting Locally Acquired Zika

- Astute clinician testing someone with Zika symptoms
- Positive screen on an asymptomatic blood donor
- Detection from sentinel surveillance (pending)

Los Angeles County is designated by CDC as one of the seven highest risk jurisdictions for local transmission in the U.S.

# Invasive *Aedes* Mosquitos in LA County

- *Aedes albopictus*  
El Monte, 2011
- *Aedes aegypti*  
Los Angeles, 2014





*Aedes aegypti*

# Zika Virus Vectors



*Aedes albopictus*

- *Aedes aegypti* (Yellow Fever mosquito) is the primary vector
- *Aedes albopictus* (Tiger mosquito) also may transmit
- Peak feeding during day; aggressive!
- Container breeders - lay eggs in small amounts of water around houses
- Eggs resistant to desiccation



# Aedes Response: Eliminate Breeding Sites



# Inspection of a Yard near a Zika Case





# Polling Question: Plant Saucers

What will you do with the saucers you have under flower pots after hearing this presentation?

- A. I'll get rid of them immediately
- B. I might get rid of them if the mosquitos are bad this summer
- C. I will keep using them since I don't want to get water all over my porch
- D. I don't have flower pots around my residence

# Local Pesticide Application

- Larviciding at the breeding source
- Hand-held adulticiding
- ULV truck-mounted fogging



# Aerial Spraying

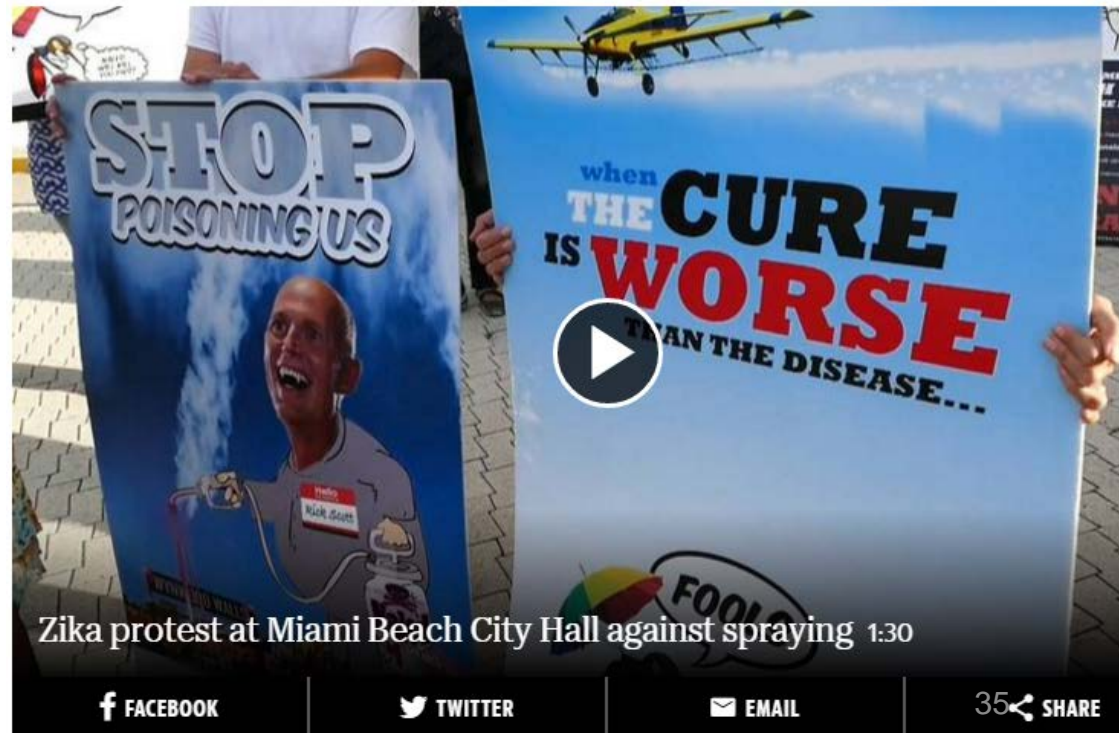
- Aerial strategy may be used to control a local outbreak
- Very small amount of active ingredient
- Degrades with exposure to sunlight
- No adverse effects





# Challenges in Zika Prevention & Response

- Changing travel and personal protective behaviors
- Effective outreach to highest risk communities
- Improved physician diagnosis
- Reducing *Aedes* population
- Public opposition to use of pesticides for mosquito control if local spread occurs





# Community Meetings: Zika & Vector Control

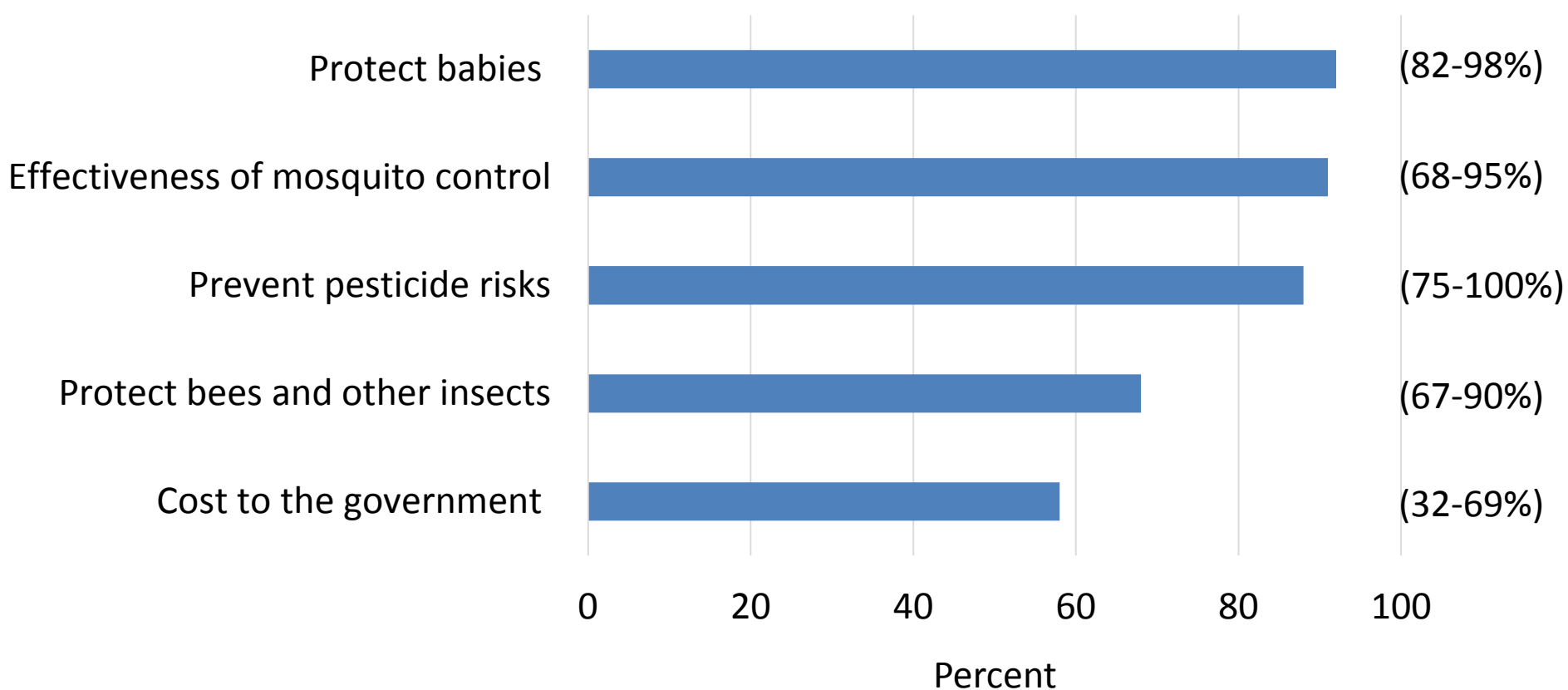
- Objective: Obtain information to support programs & policy on mosquito control for a local Zika outbreak
  - Learn community values, preferences and concerns associated with mosquito control techniques
  - Understand motivations, barriers and decision-making process that drive behavior changes related to mosquito control
- 3-hour community meetings
  - Locations: Van Nuys, San Gabriel, Silver Lake, East LA, South LA
  - Local recruitment – participants reflect communities
  - Pre-post surveys, brief presentations, Q & A, small group discussion, electronic polling



# Values of Community Meeting Participants

Median percent “Very important”

(Range)





# Polling Question: Pesticides

If a local Zika outbreak occurred in Los Angeles County, which of the following would be more important to you...

- A. Preventing birth defects from Zika?
- B. Preventing the risks of pesticide exposure?

# Balancing Risks: Birth Defects vs Pesticides

During a Zika outbreak, which of the following would be more important to you:

Preventing birth defects:

**67%** (range 40-81%)

Preventing risks of pesticide exposure:

**33%** (range 27-67%)



# New *Aedes* Control Technologies

- Population control by release of *Wolbachia*-infected sterile male mosquitoes
- Spread of larvicide by release of chemical-dusted adult male mosquitoes
- Genetically-modified mosquitoes





# Stay Up-to-Date

- **Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health**  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/vectorZika.htm](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/vectorZika.htm)
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
[www.cdc.gov/zika/](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/)