The Zika virus was first discovered in 1947 in rhesus monkeys; the first human case was identified in 1952.

Zika is transmitted primarily through the bite of the Aedes aegypti mosquito; the virus can also be transmitted via sexual contact and blood transfusion.

Public health officials have determined that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other fetal neurological conditions.

No vaccine or cure exists, and despite ongoing research, a vaccine likely remains years away.

The US Government Response: Key Agencies and Roles*

**CDC**
Provides technical and financial assistance to U.S. states and territories, and technical support to other countries to expand surveillance and response activities such as testing, vector control, and prevention education; has activated its emergency operations center.

**NIH**
Conducts basic research and natural history research on Zika virus, and development and testing of Zika vaccine and drug candidates.

**FDA**
Develops and oversees methods for detecting and reducing risk of Zika virus in blood products; reviews Zika vaccine research and development for regulatory approval and will support post-market surveillance of any vaccines, therapies or other medical products related to Zika.

**USAID**
Supports efforts to track and prevent Zika in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**State Department**
Coordinates diplomatic response and public education campaigns, supports multilateral partners such as the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization.

*In February, the Administration requested $1.9B in additional funding for Zika response. Congress has yet to appropriate any additional funds.*


**Countries in the Americas Affected by Zika (as of 8/5/16)**

- **Suspected:** 444,884
- **Confirmed:** 91,692
- **Projected by end of 2016:** 4 MILLION

**The 2015–2016 Zika Outbreak**

**Key Facts About the Zika Virus**
- 1 out of 5 people infected experience symptoms, and in those who do, symptoms are mild.
- Zika is transmitted primarily through the bite of the Aedes aegypti mosquito; the virus can also be transmitted via sexual contact and blood transfusion.
- Public health officials have determined that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other fetal neurological conditions.
- No vaccine or cure exists, and despite ongoing research, a vaccine likely remains years away.
- Outbreaks have occurred in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific, and more recently, the Americas.

**Cumulative Number of Countries, Territories and Areas Worldwide Reporting Local Zika Virus Transmission, January 2015 – July 2016**

- **2015**
  - JAN 10
  - FEB 12
  - MAR 13
  - APR 13
  - MAY 13
  - JUN 13
  - JUL 15

- **2016**
  - JAN 23
  - FEB 29
  - MAR 42
  - APR 49
  - MAY 56
  - JUN 60
  - JUL 61
  - AUG 68

**Brazil Confirms Zika Transmission**

**WHO Declares Public Health Emergency**

**First Locally Acquired Case in Puerto Rico**

**First Locally Acquired Case in U.S.**

Source: Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).