

This is a sample of the summary to post on the Class Blog

Fact Sheet Topic: Zika Virus Disease (ZVD)

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Introduction I chose this topic because I am interested in infectious diseases and how they impact our health and wellness.

Section 1: Background and Problem Statement

ZVD is a major public health problem because it has multiple modes of transmission (i.e., mosquito bites, contaminated blood, vertically [mother to fetus], and sexual intercourse). Additional modes of transmission are currently being explored. The most common way the Zika virus is spread is through a mosquito that bites a person infected with the Zika virus and then goes on to bite another person. Each mosquito can bite up to 5 people in its short lifespan.

In 2016, researchers found that the virus can also be sexually transmitted. The virus has been sexually passed to male and female partners by those who have been exposed through homosexual and heterosexual sex. Semen is the focus of current studies to determine how long the virus survives so preventive measures can be developed.

Section 2: Research

The virus is currently found in fetal brain tissue, and semen. In 2016, several studies have shown that the Zika virus is responsible for microcephaly and other birth defects in babies born to mothers who were infected during their pregnancy.

In July, 2016. University of California/San Francisco doctors have reported that the Zika virus could be transmitted from mom to fetus through the placental route, only in the first trimester, or through breaking into the amniotic sac that only becomes available in the second trimester.

Section 3: Statistics

According to the CDC, as of July 20, 2016, there are 1,404 cases in the U.S., of which 1,403 were travel-associated cases. There were 15 that were sexually transmitted and 2 were associated with Guillain-Barre Syndrome. In August, 2016, local cases were found in Miami Florida.

According to the WHO, Brazil reported, between 10/22/2015 and 4/2/2016, a total of 6,906 cases.

Section 4: Consumer Information Most public health agencies, from international to local health departments have information about the Zika virus and available online. The CDC's Zika Virus has information about the epidemiology, prevention measures at: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

Section 5: Solutions to the Problem (or Issue)

There is currently no cure for those infected. Those who are infected usually have mild symptoms. Unfortunately, when pregnant women are infected their fetus can suffer from numerous abnormalities. The most common abnormality is microcephaly.

Aside from killing all mosquitoes, the next best solution is prevention. This includes mosquito control and practicing safe sex.

The Better World Campaign is a U.S.-UN Partnership Web site that provides information about what is being done to address the Zika outbreaks around the world. <https://betterworldcampaign.org/un-101/current-issues/who-zika-virus/>

Conclusions

The scariest part about the Zika virus is that it can be sexually transmitted. Sexually transmitted diseases are very hard to control and require multiple approaches to prevent their spread. A sad part is that babies born with birth defects have many cognitive problems and most likely will die at a very young age. If they do live longer they will require many health and social services to survive.