

## Lessons Learned: U.S. Zika Pregnancy & Infant Registry



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**Meeting: Challenges in Initiating and Conducting  
Long-Term Health Monitoring of Populations  
Following Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies  
in the United States**

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Engineering, and Medicine*

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## US Zika Pregnancy & Infant Registry

- Established in early 2016 in all US states and territories
- Monitors pregnancy and infant outcomes in pregnancies with laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection to inform clinical guidance and public health response
  - Estimate the proportion of fetuses and infants with birth defects
  - Provide information to inform the phenotype of congenital Zika syndrome
  - Facilitate referral to care for infants with possible congenital Zika infection
- Over 7,400 pregnancies with lab evidence of possible Zika virus infection in US states and territories (pregnancies completed Dec. 2015 through March 2018)
- Follows infants to at least **2 years of age**





# How did it work?

US Zika Pregnancy & Infant Registry

## US Zika Pregnancy & Infant Registry: How It Works

- **Identification:** Health departments identify pregnant woman with Zika virus infection from healthcare providers and/or positive Zika test result
- **Data Collection:** Health departments abstract key data elements and submit to the US Zika Pregnancy & Infant Registry
- **Data Analysis & Reporting:** CDC receives data from health departments, aggregates and analyzes, regularly reporting data on CDC's website during outbreak
- **Publication:** Data Use Working Group (consisting of CDC and health department partners) jointly prioritize and publish results



# US Zika Pregnancy & Infant Registry: Data Collected

- **Maternal** Health and Pregnancy Data
  - Demographics
  - Zika virus exposure history, including travel
  - Zika virus testing results
  - Health history and pregnancy information
  - Prenatal imaging
  - Prenatal testing
  - Pregnancy outcome



# US Zika Pregnancy & Infant Registry: Data Collected

- **Neonatal** Assessment
  - Physical examination
  - Neonatal imaging
  - Zika virus testing
  - Other testing (e.g., infectious diseases, cytogenetics)
  - Hearing screening
  - Eye exam



## US Zika Pregnancy & Infant Registry: Data Collected

- **Infant** follow-up at 2, 6, 12, 18, & 24 months of age
  - Physical exam findings
  - Developmental assessment
  - Additional studies
  - Neuroimaging, hearing evaluation, retinal exam, consultations





## Reporting Data to the Registry

- US Zika Pregnancy & Infant Registry data types:
  - Line Lists
  - USZPR Forms
  - Electronic Data exchange – Access Database, Local REDCap, etc.
- Accepted secure methods of Registry data transfer:
  - Phone
  - SAMS
  - FTP
  - Fax



# Lessons Learned

US Zika Pregnancy & Infant Registry

# Challenges in Zika Pregnancy and Infant Surveillance

- Asymptomatic infection
  - Tension between traditional case-definitions (requiring symptoms) and importance of tracking infected but asymptomatic pregnant women
- Time delay from infection in pregnancy to outcome
  - Early information allowed monitoring of numerator data of infected pregnant women, but risk of infection couldn't be estimated before pregnancy completion
- Testing/diagnostics
  - Testing capacity at state and local level
  - Transient nature of virus
  - Lack of knowledge about definitive diagnostics in utero



## Data Protection via Assurance of Confidentiality

- Assurance of Confidentiality:
  - Special protection for identifiable information in the Registry
  - A formal confidentiality protection authorized under Section 308 (d) of the Public Service Act
- Under this Assurance
  - CDC cannot share information that could be used to identify patients and providers without their permission
  - Data can only be used to better understand Zika virus infection during pregnancy and its outcomes
- **Data reporting was voluntary**
  - **Healthcare providers and health departments felt confident that data were protected, which facilitated collaboration and reporting**



## Linked Mother-Baby Surveillance: Easy Access System

- Implemented a system that was easy and accessible for all jurisdictions to report data consistently
  - Data accepted in multiple formats
- Functionality to link data from pregnant woman with infant
- Clinical review or reported data by subject matter experts

### Pregnancy and Zika Virus Disease Surveillance Form

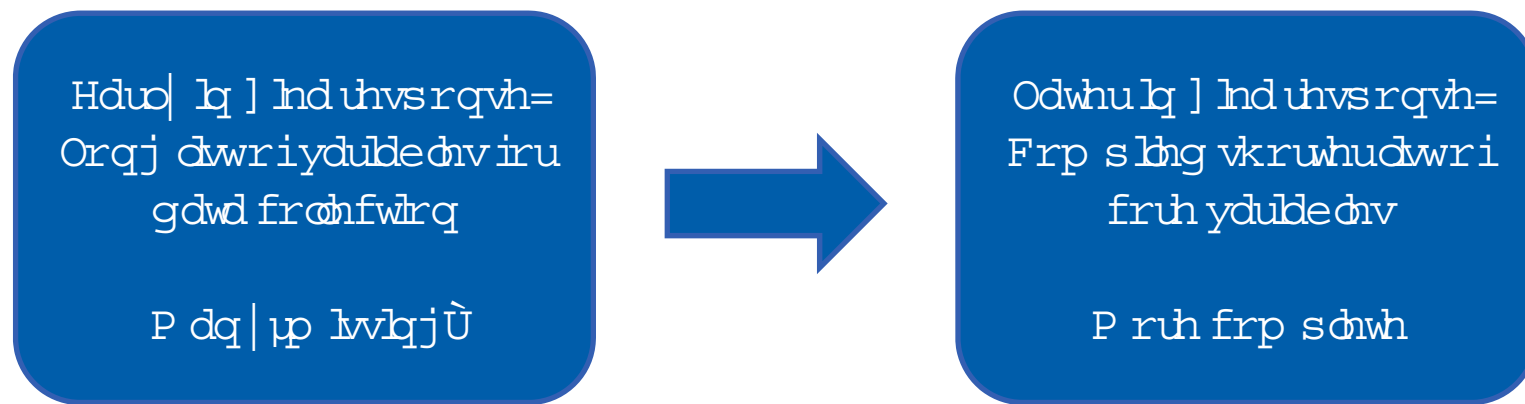
These data are considered confidential and will be stored in a secure database at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Please return completed form by sending an encrypted email to [ZIKApregnancy@cdc.gov](mailto:ZIKApregnancy@cdc.gov) or by fax to the secure number: 404-718-2200. Pregnancy & Birth Defects Task Force phone number: 770-488-7100

Mother's Zika virus infection		
State/Territory ID:	Maternal Age at Diagnosis:	State/Territory of residence:
	Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	
Race (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White		
Indication for maternal Zika virus testing: <input type="checkbox"/> Exposure history, no known fetal concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Exposure history and fetal concerns		
Date of Zika virus symptom onset: ____/____/____ OR- <input type="checkbox"/> Asymptomatic		
<small>If date not known, trimester of symptom onset: ____</small>		



## Standardized Core Variables



- Moving forward: Developing list of core variables for surveillance of exposures during pregnancy



## Modules to Address Specific Health Threats

- Because long-term sequelae of congenital infection unknown, unsure of outcomes for data collection
  - Started with microcephaly, but surveillance cohort approach allowed us to follow-up for any potential outcomes
- Moving forward: Developing modules to address specific health threats
  - Environmental exposures
  - Infectious diseases



# Loss to Follow-Up



- Mobility
  - Families move and often seek care from different pediatric providers
  - Hurricanes that hit Caribbean resulted in challenges to follow-up of infants with possible congenital Zika infection
- Moving forward:
  - Working across jurisdictions to find families and follow-up infants, with data sharing between jurisdictions
  - Clinical outreach to pediatric providers to encourage them to ask parents about possible Zika exposure during pregnancy





## Data from the US Zika Pregnancy and Infant Registry



About **5-10%** of infants born to women with possible Zika infection had Zika-related birth defects and another **8-10%** had neurodevelopmental disabilities potentially related to Zika

Identified that Zika infections during **all trimesters** have been associated with birth defects



Revealed no discernable differences between **symptomatic versus asymptomatic** maternal infection in impact to their babies

Recognized pattern of **birth defects** associated with prenatal Zika virus infection





Zika birth defects tracking systems could be key to fighting other emerging threats to mothers and babies.



**#PREVENT2PROTECT**

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

