

Perceptions and understanding of Zika virus in Northern Belize

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INTRODUCTION

- In early 2016, Belize identified its first confirmed cases of Zika virus.
- Case are still being detected in Belize and in the Central American region.
- Since the global emergence of Zika, knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) surveys have been used in endemic countries to assess what communities perceive and understand regarding Zika virus, with hopes of guiding future Zika control efforts.

SPECIFIC AIM

The aim of this study was to assess the understanding and awareness of Zika virus of residents in Orange Walk Town and neighboring villages in northern Belize.

METHODS

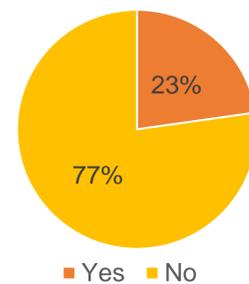
- Oral KAP survey administered to 145 residents in Northern Belize—four zones in Orange Walk Town and three villages in the district.
- KAP surveys conducted orally in Spanish and English on weekday mornings.
- Households and villages selected according to convenience sampling directed by the Belize Vector and Ecology Center and the Belize Ministry of Health.
- Survey responses recorded using Ona tablet software.
- The World Health Organization Zika KAP survey served as a template for development of the questionnaire, with modifications made to fit the local setting in Belize and the specific aims of this study.

RESULTS

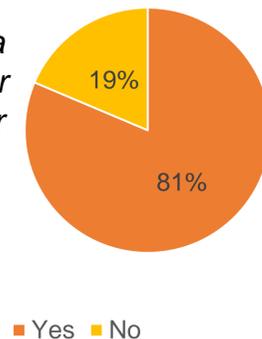
Respondent Demographics (n=145)

Average Age (yrs)	43 (18-79)
Sex	
Female	104 (72%)
Male	41 (28%)
Education Level	
No formal schooling	11 (8%)
Incomplete Primary	28 (19%)
Complete Primary	53 (37%)
Incomplete Secondary	10 (7%)
Complete Secondary	25 (17%)
Post-secondary or above	18 (12%)
>1 pregnant woman in household	11 (8%)
>1 woman 15 – 49 yrs in household	117 (81%)

Do you know what microcephaly is?



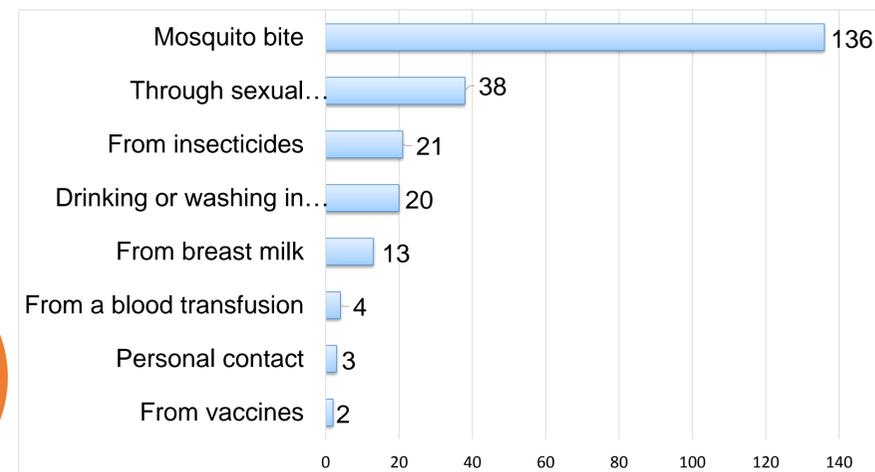
Do you think that Zika is a health concern for you or anyone in your household?



How do you receive your healthcare information? (select multiple)

Information delivery method	Villages (n= 54)	Orange Walk (n= 91)
Signs/ Posters	13%	16%
Pamphlets	37%	38%
Newspapers	4%	8%
Radio	57%	41%
TV	50%	57%
Internet	15%	31%
Verbally by doctor	33%	31%
Community health sessions	15%	4%
Word of mouth	31%	31%
Other	9%	7%

How does a person get Zika? (select multiple, n=145)



DISCUSSION

- 10% of individuals in Orange Walk and 17% in villages heard about Zika only within the last month
- 94% of those surveyed knew that mosquito bites are a mode of Zika transmission
- Knowledge of microcephaly and Guillan-Barre syndrome was limited
- 76 respondents said a person with Zika would not experience discrimination; responses toward microcephaly discrimination were less favorable
- 81% of individuals perceived Zika as a health concern for themselves or their household

CONCLUSION

KAP survey results show an existing knowledge and understanding of Zika in this region. The findings also highlight gaps in messaging that the Belize Ministry of Health can target in future Zika prevention efforts, while providing useful information for other endemic regions.

NEXT STEPS

Secondary data analysis including comparison of town and village results separately; assessing relationships with Zika prevalence at zone and district level

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the **Belize Vector and Ecology Center** and the **Eck Institute of Notre Dame** for their collaboration and guidance of the study; to the **Vector Control team** with the **Belize Ministry of Health** for their indispensable support in executing the survey; and the **Dr. Elaine Kohler Summer Academy of Global Health Research** for funding this research experience.