



**The Zika virus is alarming.** In Puerto Rico, an estimated 5,900-10,300 pregnant women may be affected by Zika by the end of 2017. Z-CAN aims to reach 26,000 women of reproductive age in Puerto Rico.

## Unite with us to stop Zika

**The issue:** Never before has a mosquito-borne virus been associated with a catastrophic birth defect or with sexual transmission. The effects of brain damage due to microcephaly and consequences of other Zika related birth defects are devastating, lifelong and costly.

**Why it matters:** To protect women and their unborn babies, there are three key prevention strategies. One is preventing mosquito bites. Another is protecting pregnant women from sexual transmission of Zika. And lastly, an effective strategy to reduce Zika-related pregnancy complications is to prevent pregnancy by offering a range of reversible contraceptives to women who want to delay or avoid pregnancy during a Zika outbreak.

**Solution and impact:** The CDC Foundation, with technical leadership from CDC and partners in Puerto Rico, has established the Zika Contraception Access Network (Z-CAN). The island-wide network of trained OB/GYNs and other physician providers, family planning clinics and community health centers provides women who choose to avoid or delay pregnancy with access to client-centered contraceptive counseling and a full range of reversible contraceptive methods. For the first time in Puerto Rico women have access to highly-effective reversible contraception on the same day of their medical visits, free of charge. To date approximately 20,000 women have benefited from this program.

**About us:** The CDC Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization and the sole entity created by Congress to mobilize philanthropic resources to support CDC's critical health protection work. Since 1995, we have launched nearly 1,000 programs in more than 100 countries and raised over \$700 million through engagements with philanthropies, corporations, organizations, governments and individuals.

**How you can help:** \$2.5 million in additional support is urgently needed to fully fund Z-CAN and extend the program through the end of 2017, at which time the Puerto Rican government will be well-positioned to continue the program. Without additional funding, product donations will go unused and women will go unprotected during the gap period.

Beyond federal support, philanthropic and private sector investments are essential to ensure CDC's ability to support the global community in detecting and responding to Zika. CDC has a unique role in protecting America's health security, and its world-class experts are dedicated to containing Zika and other diseases before they become epidemics that could affect us all.

**Learn more:** To invest in CDC's efforts to fight Zika, or to learn more, contact Advancement at the CDC Foundation: [advancement@cdcfoundation.org](mailto:advancement@cdcfoundation.org), 404.653.0790.

### In Puerto Rico, access to contraception has been constrained by four factors



**LIMITED AVAILABILITY**



**INSURANCE COVERAGE**

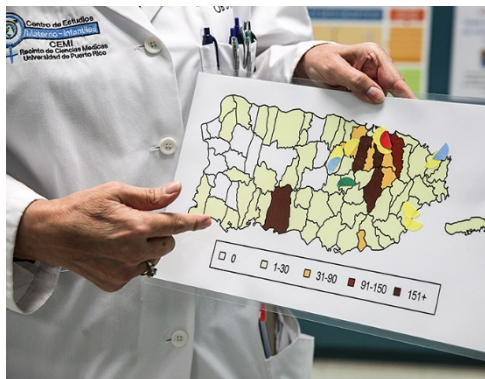


**HIGH COST**



**SHORTAGE OF PHYSICIANS**

## Stories of impact: Protecting women from Zika in Puerto Rico



**You can make a difference:** Beyond federal support, investments by the philanthropic and private sectors are essential to protect women and children from the Zika virus.

In 2016, Tashira, 22, of Puerto Rico got pregnant with her second child. Tashira didn't plan to have another baby so soon, but she got pregnant when she ran out of birth control pills. During one summer visit to a health clinic in San Juan, Tashira disclosed her anxiety about the current Zika virus outbreak and the link between Zika infection during pregnancy and birth defects.

"I know Zika is spread by mosquitoes, but I didn't learn that from a doctor. I heard it on the news," Tashira said. "I didn't know about Zika before I was pregnant, and now I am worried."

Tashira's concern was warranted. There is laboratory evidence that more than 4,000 pregnant women in Puerto Rico and U.S. territories have possible Zika virus infection as a result of the outbreak. The number of cases continues to increase.

Zika is one cause of microcephaly, a birth defect causing brain damage, which can have devastating, lifelong and costly effects. Babies with microcephaly can have a range of problems, including developmental delays, hearing loss and vision problems. Even babies without microcephaly who were infected by Zika before birth can experience many serious health problems. There is also an economic toll, since lifelong care is estimated to cost up to \$10 million for a single infant with birth defects.

Women who choose to delay or avoid pregnancy in Puerto Rico can now access client-centered counseling and a full range of reversible contraceptive methods, free of charge, on the same day of their healthcare service at a variety of clinics, thanks to the Zika Contraception Access Network (Z-CAN). This collaboration brings the CDC Foundation together with the Puerto Rico Department of Health, the

Puerto Rico Health Insurance Administration, and relevant federal agencies and implementing partners.

In Puerto Rico, where an estimated 65 percent of pregnancies are unplanned, Z-CAN offers highly-effective, reversible contraception methods.

Traditionally, women in Puerto Rico wanting to access contraception have faced hurdles. Their challenges have included high out-of-pocket costs, a lack of options, personal beliefs, limited public knowledge of contraceptive products and lack of access to same-day contraception. Additionally, there has been a shortage of trained physicians.

Since Z-CAN launched in 2016, over 160 providers and hundreds of staff have been trained to safely provide reversible contraception to patients, and as of July 1, 2017, over 18,000 women have benefited from the island-wide program. An additional \$2.5 million is needed to fully fund Z-CAN and extend the program through 2017.

CDC Foundation partners and donors have generously provided initial funding, along with tens of millions of dollars in reversible contraceptive product donations and offers. Additionally, a distribution supply chain is now in place across the island to ensure timely product delivery.

Z-CAN gives women options for choosing to delay or avoid pregnancy during the Zika outbreak. Women like Tashira now have more options for planning future pregnancies.

**Learn more:** To find out how you can help CDC fight health threats, or to learn more, contact Advancement: [advancement@cdcfoundation.org](mailto:advancement@cdcfoundation.org), 404.653.0790.