

# ZIKA VIRUS IN A COHORT OF CANADIAN TRAVELLERS



Photo: James Guthrie/IOC

## Question

**What is the rate of Zika virus infection among Canadian travellers returning from the Americas who presented for care to a Canadian Travel Medicine Network (CanTravNet) site?**

## Background

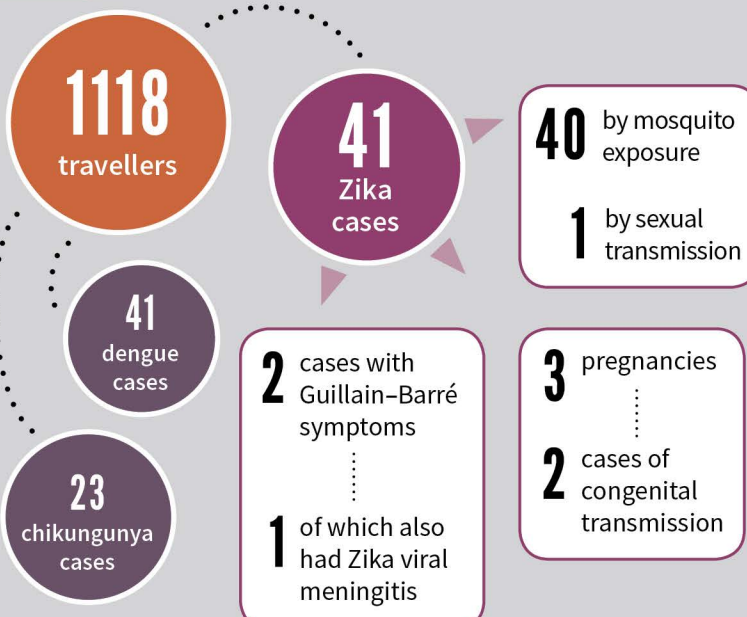


- Zika virus acquired in the Americas is being exported globally
- Sexual and congenital transmission of Zika in nonendemic areas are well described
- Data specific to Canadian travellers with Zika infection are sparse

## Study

- Included returned Canadian travellers who presented to a CanTravNet site (in 7 large urban centres in 5 provinces) between October 2015 and September 2016, who represented about 15% of travel-acquired illnesses imported to Canada
- Analyzed demographic and travel-related data: purpose of travel, acquisition of illness, symptoms and onset

## Results



Most cases of Zika:

October 2015 to March 2016	April to September 2016
<b>In visitors to friends &amp; relatives in South America</b>	<b>In tourists to the Caribbean</b>

## Interpretation

- Even in this small cohort, authors observed the full clinical spectrum of acute Zika virus, including adverse fetal and neurologic outcomes
- Observations suggest complications from Zika infection may be underestimated by data arising exclusively from populations where Zika is endemic
- Travellers should adhere to mosquito-avoidance measures and use barrier protection during sexual activity