

How Zika virus spread

The mosquito-borne virus was first found in a monkey in Uganda in 1947, and very few cases of human infection were reported before 2007.

1947

Zika virus first documented in Uganda in a rhesus monkey. It was subsequently identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and Tanzania.

1966

First case recorded in South-east Asia, in Malaysia.

1968

A dozen confirmed cases in Nigeria.

Late 1970s

Cases documented in Pakistan, India, Malaysia and Indonesia.

2007

First major outbreak on the island of Yap in Micronesia, with 200 people affected.

2013

Outbreak of 35,000 cases in French Polynesia, with cases of virus leading to Guillain-Barre syndrome, paralysis and microcephaly.

2014

Virus spreads in Brazil, causing alarm a year later when the country recorded nearly 4,000 cases of microcephaly that may be linked to Zika.

2016

Cases recorded in Colombia, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Venezuela, Puerto Rico and the United States.