

Karina Ross

Title: A literature review: health provider and patient knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors towards Zika Virus in the U.S.

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The Zika Virus (ZIKV) has drawn much attention in the Americas in the past few years. ZIKV transmission via mosquito bites, sex, and blood transfusions and infection during pregnancy may cause fetuses to have microcephaly, a birth defect of the brain (CDC, 2017). Similar to Ebola virus and H1N1, this public health emergency has placed a burden on health professions to expand their knowledge about this newly emerged virus and educate the public on risks, transmission, and prevention techniques. The objective of this literature review is to examine the latest science related to public/patients as well as healthcare providers' knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors towards ZIKV in the United States. Articles that met the inclusion and exclusion criteria were extracted from data sources, which included: PubMed, CINAHL, Google Scholar, and MEDLINE. A total sample of 9 articles was critically evaluated for topical focus, stated method, sample description, and main findings. The findings of this review suggest there is a larger knowledge gap between socioeconomically disadvantaged women and their providers than between highly-educated, white women and their providers. Pregnant women were more concerned with the health of their babies than of their own. Providers can relay information readily and accurately if they are able to update sources such as Obstetrician Web sites and other online sources. Continuing to review the latest developments in science will aid in the ultimate goal of preventing infection.

