



## Zika Webinar Transcript

Presented by the Society for Medical Anthropology's Zika Temporary Interest Group

January 18, 2017

**Linda Whiteford@All:** Good morning all - I am here but unable to get my mike to work, but I can hear you.

**Linda Whiteford@All:** Linda Whiteford

**You@All:** Good morning and welcome back to the official webinar!

**You@All:** Feel free to use the chat box for questions, you can also direct messages to specific people by selecting below

*[tech help questions removed for brevity]*

**Anton Schneider@All:** Hi Juliet!

**Monica Posada@All:** yes

**Alfonso Rosales@All:** Hi Juliet, thanks for the invitation

**Monica Posada@All:** neither Wbeimar Sanchez and me can hear anything

**Anton Schneider@All:** Let's set up a call - We can bring you up to date

**Anton Schneider@All:** Panama Report is coming out soon!

**Monica Posada@All:** ok now solved!

**Meg@All:** Should we be hearing something?

**You@Monica Posada:** kristin one moment

**You@All:** kristin one moment

**You@All:** good to go

*[tech help questions removed for brevity]*

**Shir Lerman@All:** I can hear everyone

**Kristin Hedges@All:** Hello Christine- we have some extra time, so if you want to take 15 that would be fine

*[tech help questions removed for brevity]*

**Adriana@All:** Yes thank you

*[tech help questions removed for brevity]*

**Linda Whiteford@All:** sounds good here.

*[tech help questions removed for brevity]*

**Alfonso Rosales@All:** is there a report?

**Alfonso Rosales@All:** Yes

**Lisa Figueroa-Jahn@All:** Thank you Christine, you could you briefly mention some of the government response to Zika?

Alfonso Rosales@All: Not able to clearly hear to Christine

Juliet Bedford@All: Alfonso and other colleagues - we will make sure to circulate all the reports and published papers that come out of this work

Susan Bell@All: please mute everyone. Thank you

Alfonso Rosales@All: Would presentations be available to us?

Kristin Hedges@All: Yes, the presentation is being recorded and will be available on the AAA site afterwards

Alfonso Rosales@All: thanks

Adriana@All: What's happening?

Juliet Bedford@All: Alfonso - yes, there will be a recording of this webinar online, and as Kristin says the presentations will be available

*[tech help questions removed for brevity]*

Kristin Hedges@All: Yes,

Susan Bell@All: Yes

Lucia Guerra-Reyes@All: yes..

Linda Whiteford@All: Having the presentations available to download would be very helpful. I can hear you.

Kristin Hedges@All: Thanks for the suggestion Linda- I will check with the presenters and get back to you on that

Juliet Bedford@All: Thanks Linda, we will make sure to have the presentations and the recording available.

Alfonso Rosales@All: Some findings from this qualitative research are aligned what we found with the KPC survey

Juliet Bedford@All: Yes Alfonso, I think synthesising the findings from the KAP surveys with these qualitative studies will be really valubale

Alfonso Rosales@All: such as knowledge on sexual transmission and association between ZIKV and microcephaly

Lisa Figueroa-Jahn@All: yes

Alfonso Rosales@All: yes

Juliet Bedford@All: Yes, and its also interesting how those emerging themes are broadly found across the region and now in other regions too

You@All: yes

Monica Posada@All: yes

Lisa Figueroa-Jahn@All: yes

Kristin Hedges@All: Yes, we can hear you!

Holly Horan@All: Yes!

Jose Hasemann@All: Yes

*[tech help questions removed for brevity]*

Adriana@All: Extremely interesting data

Adriana@All: On performing purity

Kristin Hedges@All: I agree, similar findings about condom use among HIV/AIDS risk

Adriana@All: Can you describe your use of the term public women

Adriana@All: ?

Lucia Guerra-Reyes@All: i cant unmute myself

Lucia Guerra-Reyes@All: nope

Susan Bell@All: and could you explain what you mean by performing purity?

Adriana@All: Wonderful research data

Kristin Hedges@All: Hold on everyone.

Kristin Hedges@All: Yes, and we can hear you

Monica Posada@All: Under your perspective, how do you think we could influence men (decision makers) on reproductive/ contraception use? Is it a matter of Zika risk perception?

Kristin Hedges@All: Can you give a quick answer? and then move on

Susan Bell@All: thank you. yes you have answered my question about purity

Carl Kendall@All: available is a term. Brazil uses "program", links with lots of research in Brazil about sex and marriage, and pudor in Spanish speaking LA

Monica Posada@All: thank you! very interesting

Lisa Figueroa-Jahn@All: Thank you that was fascinating!

Kristin Hedges@All: Yes

Lisa Figueroa-Jahn@All: I can not hear her clearly.

Alfonso Rosales@All: not good sound from current presenter

Juliet Bedford@All: Having difficulty hearing Shir - think the line isn't good and there is a lot of background noise

Ketan Chitnis@All: so your research I suggesting that averting negative pregnancy outcomes is possible if we engage with men and women proactively re possible consequences of Zika on children - interesting

*[tech help questions removed for brevity]*

Carl Kendall@All: toxic chemical cause was an unfortunate and well intentioned misdirection

Adriana Garriga-López@All: The mosquitos do seem to reduce during the winter

Adriana Garriga-López@All: That's right.

Adriana Garriga-López@All: The family circulated a request on Facebook

Adriana Garriga-López@All: Looking for a pediatric neurologist that would help

Adriana Garriga-López@All: Yes

Adriana Garriga-López@All: Any data on accessing the free birth control that CDC has offered?

Adriana Garriga-López@All: There are only about 130 doctors that are working with CDC

Adriana Garriga-López@All: So it seems hard to access

Alfonso Rosales@All: Any thoughts on why "sexual transmission" has not been a priority in any one country and even WHO's approach?

Ida Jooste@All: I would also like to know re sex TX

Holly Horan@All: I am currently in Puerto Rico conducting my dissertation research on stress and pregnancy. We interviewed women about stressors including their reaction to Zika - many believe that God will protect them in addition to the regular precautions in mosquito-country. Have you seen this discussion about religion and protection in your research?

Vicki Hedley@All: I have heard of instances when it takes up to a month to get lab work back regarding Zika. Is this true? I have also heard there is only one doctor performing legal abortion on the island. Has this doctor seen great increase in her practice?

Isa Rodriguez-Soto@All: There are more clinics that perform abortions

Isa Rodriguez-Soto@All: it is legal, though expensive, so not quite accessible

**Juliet Bedford@All:** In the broader discussion, I would be interested to follow up on Alfonso's question why sexual transmission has not been a priority. Is it just because it is 'political sensitive' (it definitely is for the WHO) or are there other reasons too?

**Elli Leontsini, JHSPH@All:** because sex transmission equates to one infectious mosquito bite, in the minds of the authorities. so much effort to prevent the equiv of one mosquito bite; better off preventing the multiple bites one receives per day

**Holly Horan@All:** Ok thank you!

**Alfonso Rosales@All:** Any thoughts on USG response to PR emergency?

**Isa Rodriguez-Soto@All:** To answer Holly as well...

**Isa Rodriguez-Soto@All:** There is a distinction between what religious discourse is and what people actually do. So great area to continue to research

**Holly Horan@All:** Thank you Isa!

**Vicki Hedley@All:** I am so curious with only two cases of babies with microcephaly and such a high % of people on the island with Zika. Are there any research studies being conducted to figure out the differences between for example high numbers in Brazil and low numbers in other countries?

**Isa Rodriguez-Soto@All:** Specially regarding abortion and religious affiliation

**Isa Rodriguez-Soto@All:** Part of the issue is the abortion rates in PR

**Isa Rodriguez-Soto@All:** different to Braqzil

**Vicki Hedley@All:** oh wow!

**Kristin Hedges@All:** Yes, thanks

**You@All:** yes

**Monica Posada@All:** yes

**Lisa Figueroa-Jahn@All:** yes

**Vicki Hedley@All:** Thank you for these amazing presentations, everyone!

**Alfonso Rosales@All:** Yes US government

**Susan Bell@All:** how can someone join the SMA Zika group?

**Deon Claiborne@All:** Kristin, can you please make sure that people in the group understand that they should fill out the survey regardless of what type of research they do? Thanks.

**Juliet Bedford@All:** [www.facebook.com/groups/1650483251869010](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1650483251869010)

**Juliet Bedford@All:** The survey has been really helpful, so please do fill it in!

**Adriana Garriga-López@All:** Alfonso, the US government should extend full Medicaid coverage to PR. The longer this is delayed, the more government emergency responses will be inadequate.

**Juliet Bedford@All:** Thank you!

**Juliet Bedford@All:** And this is the link to the survey, so you can copy it into your browser straight away!

<http://goo.gl/forms/5Bgv6N7Rihs5BFG3>

**You@Kristin Hedges:** Best way is probably to type questions and switch to each specific presenter to answer

**You@Kristin Hedges:** ::thumbs up::

**Lisa Figueroa-Jahn@All:** Just a follow-up for clarification on Vicki's question to Shir and Isa. Are the low rates of babies born with mircocephaly or other Zika related birth defects in PR related to abortion? If so can you please elaborate?

**Lucia Guerra-Reyes@All:** me

**Vicki Hedley@All:** Just cut and pasted and went to survey and it said "page not found"

**Juliet Bedford@All:** Sorry Vicki - let me check. Deon can you help?

Alfonso Rosales@All: Was the integration of ZIKV into "arboviruses" the right approach to address the epidemic?

Alfonso Rosales@All: Did this integration played a role on "ignoring" other sources of transmission? and/or confused the populations in affected countries?

Deon Claiborne@All: Here is the link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHGZD2GbxV3n9-WRfh9MsnhPglco5F4tB6DfISu13i7TYOAO/viewform>

Ida Jooste@All: A question on another topic: Anyone/all: given much of this work is about rapid response, with evolving science, have you considered proactively working with local media?

Isa Rodriguez-Soto@All: Lisa, I would say it is a combination of factors. 1) Zika epidemic started later in PR than Brazil. So maybe we will see more cases of microcephaly in the future. And 2) Abortion is legal.

Deon Claiborne@All: Hopefully that works. Otherwise, you can give me your email address and I'll send the link to you.

Adriana Garriga-López@All: I'm here but I didn't see the question

Adriana Garriga-López@All: I'm game to answer

Adriana Garriga-López@All: I'm on my phone

Vicki Hedley@All: my e-mail is vickimidwife@gmail.com

Adriana Garriga-López@All: The major issue in PR is the lack of funds for public health.

Adriana Garriga-López@All: There are several ways in which this manifests

Shir Lerman@All: I'll need to type out my answers, there's a lot of background noise on my end

Isa Rodriguez-Soto@All: I can elaborate on Lisas questions

Adriana Garriga-López@All: Both locally and at the level of federal government

Juliet Bedford@All: Ida - our colleague Meg Stalcup has been working on some interesting aspects of social media

Juliet Bedford@All: Meg - are you online?

Ida Jooste@All: Tks Juliet

Isa Rodriguez-Soto@All: not sure it worked

Ida Jooste@All: would be great to hear more

Raphaëlle Rabanes@All: participants can individually mute their mic

Jorge Benavides-Rawson@All: I think there is also the risk of focusing on microcephaly as the only sign of child harm. There is pathologic evidence that it is probably a Zika-spectrum of neurological and developmental issues that might not show up until later in the child's life

Lisa Figueroa-Jahn@All: Got it. Thank you Isa!

Lucia Guerra-Reyes@All: Thanks Isa, yes! abortion is costly BUT available. Some of our more middle income participants used the day after pill when worried about possibility of unplanned pregnancy.

Ida Jooste@All: No response

Christine Ricardo@All: i can say something

Raphaëlle Rabanes@All: Has anybody done research on the impact of rumors of pesticides causing microcephaly rather than zika?

Ida Jooste@All: let me suggest it;s a good idea :-)

Vicki Hedley@All: This is an important comment, Jorge.

Deon Claiborne@All: Vicki: I just sent you an email with the link

Juliet Bedford@All: Ida - I will introduce you to Meg Stalcup when we are offline as she has been doing some really interesting work on mapping controversies in social media

Lucia Guerra-Reyes@All: Yes Jorge. Thanks..

**Shir Lerman@All:** Jorge's comment is important. I don't know if we have enough evidence at the time to answer that in Puerto Rico specifically

**Ida Jooste@All:** Yes, it is a big challenge re overwhelming pple in media- Tks. Proactive outreach to media could include having conversations with media about responsible, measured coverage and scouting out what it is their audiences do or don't know about Zika

**Lisa Figueroa-Jahn@All:** @Raphaelle during my time in PR this summer. I spoke with various people who articulated a mistrust of the connection between Zika and birth defects.

**Monica Posada@All:** @Raphaelle during our Community Based Surveillance work in Panama, some community members raised this question to volunteers conducting the survey.

**Lisa Figueroa-Jahn@All:** @ Raphaelle Many people I spoke with in PR questioned the high level of water pollution in Brazil as a potential source for the transmission of Zika to the mosquito vector. People in Puerto Rico also pulled from historical memory to contextualize their mistrust of the local and international government (e.g. history of medical abuses etc).

**Ida Jooste@All:** For those who conducted FGD's - after you raised the topics with people, did it seem to pique their interest and did they then have more questions about Zika and modes of transmission, symptoms, etc? What is your sense of that?

**Juliet Bedford@All:** PR Dept of Health has reported 10 congenital birth defects, and we can anticipate more given that the epidemic here peaked in August. Please see <http://www.salud.gov.pr/Estadisticas-Registros-y-Publicaciones/Pages/VigilanciadeZika.aspx>

**Gabrielle Hunter@All:** To add to the discussion around social media, our project (Center for Communication Programs, JHU) is looking at social media posts about Zika in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Dominican Republic. Capturing rumors (like pesticides as causes for microcephaly and Zika) will be something we look at.

**Ida Jooste@All:** Tks

**Juliet Bedford@All:** and also <http://www.salud.gov.pr/Sobre-tu-Salud/Pages/Condiciones/Zika.aspx>

**Raphaelle Rabanes@All:** Thank you for your responses. Wariness towards pesticides may influence prevention behaviors, it's an important dimension of public health campaigns I think!

**Monica Posada@All:** Ida, Absolutely. Bringing people into FGD or even household surveys increases their interest in the topic. It further engages people and adds value into topic since they trust the volunteers researching into specific themes (in our case, Red Cross volunteers)

**Isa Rodriguez-Soto@All:** Thank you!

**Ida Jooste@All:** Thank you

**Raphaelle Rabanes@All:** Wonderful webinar, thank you!

**Adriana Garriga-López@All:** Thanks to all

**Deon Claiborne@All:** If you need the link: [deon.claiborne@gmail.com](mailto:deon.claiborne@gmail.com)

**Deon Claiborne@All:** to the survey that is

**Monica Posada@All:** Congrats and thank you

**Lucia Guerra-Reyes@All:** thanks to all!

**Lisa Figueroa-Jahn@All:** Thank you!

**Monica Posada@All:** Juliet- yes IFRC

**Sean Maloney HC3 Zika@All:** Thank you!

**Monica Posada@All:** thanks to you!

**Monica Posada@All:** [monica.posada@ifrc.org](mailto:monica.posada@ifrc.org)

**Juliet Bedford@All:** Also, I would like to share them with colleagues in the response

**Shir Lerman@All:** OK, that would be great, thank you

**Juliet Bedford@All:** There were quite a few agency colleagues on the line, so will follow up

**Juliet Bedford@All:** Thanks all!