

# The Virgin Islands Consortium

## No New Cases Of Zika Reported This Week

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The Department of Health in its latest Zika report said all three islands registered no new cases of Zika this week, with St. Croix holding steady at 252 confirmed cases, St. John with 89 confirmed cases, and St. Thomas with 683 confirmed cases week-on-[week](#).

Pregnant women cases also remained unchanged, with a total of 286 confirmed cases.

In May, D.O.H. made known that a [child in the territory was born with the Zika-related birth defect microcephaly](#) — the first and so far only recorded case in the U.S. Virgin Islands — which was confirmed by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (C.D.C.) testing, according to D.O.H. Health officials did not reveal on which island the baby was born.

However, five percent of pregnant women with a confirmed Zika infection in the United States territories, went on to have a baby with a related birth defect, according to the most comprehensive report to date from federal officials.

The report, published on June 8 by the C.D.C. (via The New York Times), also provided for the first time preliminary estimates of this risk by trimester. Previously, there were not enough births following exposure to the Zika virus to make such estimates.

This new report reviewed nearly 2,550 cases of women with possible Zika virus infection who completed pregnancies — meaning they gave birth, miscarried or experienced stillbirth — from Jan. 1, 2016 to April 25, 2017.

Roughly 1,500 of those women had Zika infection actually confirmed by laboratory testing.

Eight percent of offspring of pregnant women in U.S. territories with a positive nucleic acid test for Zika infection in the first trimester had birth defects linked to the virus. By contrast, 5 percent of these infants did when infection occurred in the second trimester, and 4 percent in the third trimester.