



Zika testing levels off (for now)

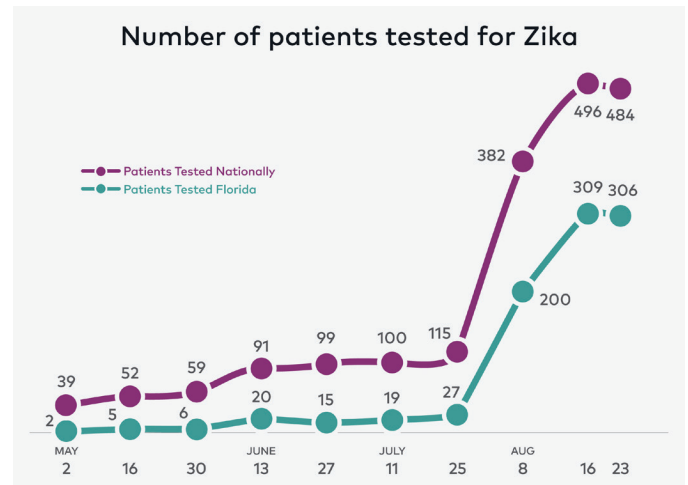
By James Furbush | August 25, 2016

What began as a steady drumbeat of tests for the Zika virus this summer, giving way to a tsunami-like increase after the CDC advised residents of Florida to get tested two weeks ago, has appeared to level off over the past week.

The number of patients on athenahealth's nationwide network who received Zika tests declined slightly from 496 the week of August 16 to 484 the week of August 23. Over the same period in Florida, the number of Zika tests ordered also declined slightly from 309 to 306.

This, despite new cases popping up in North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida's Gulf Coast, where 43 confirmed cases have been identified and experts saying they expect more Zika virus cases in the United States to occur.

To help control the public health issue going forward, the Centers for Disease Control says it handed out \$6.8 million to national public health partners to "assist state, tribal, local, and territorial jurisdictions with their Zika responses in a wide range of activities, including surveillance and epidemiology, vector control, communication and outreach to pregnant women



and vulnerable populations, and planning with key stakeholders."

James Furbush is the managing editor of athenaInsight



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