

The first recognition of the Ebola virus occurs in Zaire (now called the Democratic Republic of the Congo), resulting in 318 human cases and 280 deaths. Almost simultaneously, an outbreak of a different strain of Ebola occurred in Sudan (now called South Sudan), resulting in 284 cases and 151 deaths. In Sudan, many of the infected were healthcare workers. In England, one person in a medical laboratory was infected after an accident with a contaminated needle; the patient survived.

1976

In a laboratory in Reston, VA (a suburb of Washington DC), macaque monkeys arrive from the Philippines for medical testing and are found to be infected with a new strain of Ebola (later named the Ebola-Reston virus). No humans were infected, but the story led to the 1995 bestselling book, *The Hot Zone*, by Richard Preston.

1979

An outbreak of Ebola occurred in Sudan (now called South Sudan), resulting in 34 cases and 22 deaths.

Macaques died en mass at a primate facility that exports animals to the United States. Three workers in the facility tested positive for Ebola antibodies but none got sick.

1989

Ebola-Reston virus was discovered in laboratories in Virginia and Texas in monkeys imported from the Philippines. Four humans tested positive for Ebola antibodies but none got sick.

1989-1990

52 people became sick and 31 died in gold mining camps in Gabon. The cause was originally thought to be yellow fever but was later identified as Ebola. A scientist contracted Ebola after conducting an autopsy on a chimpanzee in Ivory Coast. He was airlifted to Switzerland, where he recovered.

1992

Monkeys in a lab in Italy tested positive for Ebola-Reston virus. The monkeys came from the same Philippine export facility that was involved in the previous cases in the United States. No humans were infected.

1994

A small outbreak occurred in Gabon, resulting in 37 cases and 21 deaths, when a dead chimpanzee was discovered and eaten. 19 of the people involved in the butchering of the chimp became ill; the other cases were family members. A few months later in Gabon, another 60 cases resulted in 45 deaths, the source of which was also a dead chimpanzee. A medical professional treating the Gabon cases became infected and was airlifted to South Africa. He recovered, but a nurse who treated him became ill and died. Infected monkeys were again discovered in Texas and the Philippines.

1995

An outbreak occurred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), resulting in 315 cases and 250 deaths. The epidemic swept through hospitals and families.

1996

2000-2001

An Ebola outbreak in Uganda led to 425 cases and 224 deaths. This outbreak made it known that some African funeral practices can spread Ebola from the dead to the living.

An Ebola outbreak occurred at the border of Gabon and Republic of Congo, resulting in 122 cases and 96 deaths.

2001-2002

2002-2003

An outbreak occurred in the Republic of Congo, resulting in 143 cases and 128 deaths. Later that year in the same country, another 35 cases and 29 deaths were identified as from Ebola.

An outbreak in Sudan (now called South Sudan) resulted in 17 cases and 7 deaths. An outbreak of measles occurred simultaneously, which at first led to several cases of misidentification.

2004

An outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo resulted in 264 cases and 187 deaths. An outbreak in Uganda resulted in 149 cases and 37 deaths and was identified as a new strain (the fourth) of the Ebola virus.

2007

The first known instances of pigs having Ebola are discovered at a farm in the Philippines. Six workers from the pig farm tested positive for Ebola, but none became ill. An outbreak occurred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, resulting in 32 cases and 15 deaths.

2008

2011

One person in Uganda died of Ebola.

Two outbreaks occurred in Uganda just months apart, resulting in 17 cases and 7 deaths. An outbreak occurred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, resulting in 36 cases and 13 deaths.

2012

2014

The largest outbreak of Ebola on record occurred in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria, resulting in 1528 cases and 844 deaths as of August, 2014. Two American doctors in Liberia contracted the virus and were airlifted to Atlanta, GA, where they recovered. An unrelated outbreak occurred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, resulting in at least 2 deaths. These outbreaks are ongoing.