EBOLA Reproduction Numbers, History, and Mortality Rates

Graphic by Luca Wistendahl | Info courtesy of HuffingtonPost.com, CNN.com, WHO.int, and NPR.org

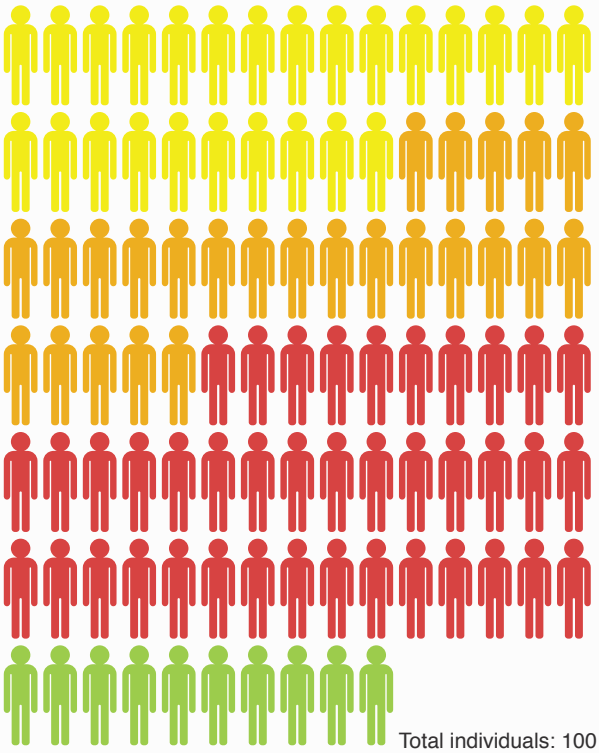
Ebola, formally known as Evola virus disease (EVD), is a severe illness, contractable by humans. It originates in wild animals, and is transmitted through contact with the bodily fluids. Since its first outbreak in 1976, EVD outbreaks have occured almost exclusively in Africa, and kill up to several hundred people per-outbreak. In March of 2014, the largest outbreak in history started in West Africa

Mortality Rate

25% – Lowest At best, an outbreak will only kill 1-in-4 of those infected. Represented by all yellow individuals.

50% – Average On average, an outbreak of ebola will kill 50% of those infected. Represented by all yellow and orange individuals.

90% - Highest The most lethal outbreaks claim 90% of those infected. Represented by all but green individuals.



Total individuals: 100

Reproduction Number

A disease's reproduction number (R0) equals the average number of people who will be infected by one sick person. With an R0 of only 2, Ebola isn't nearly as contagious as it is lethal.

Ebola – 2

Hepatitis C – 2

HIV – 4

SARS – 4

Mumps – 10

Measles – 18

Top-10 Largest Ebola Outbreaks (from 1976 – 2013)*

*The outbreak of 2014 has been excluded. With 17,256 cases and 6,113 deaths as of Dec. 4th, 2014, it is so large that the death toll alone would be about three times as tall as this piece of paper.