

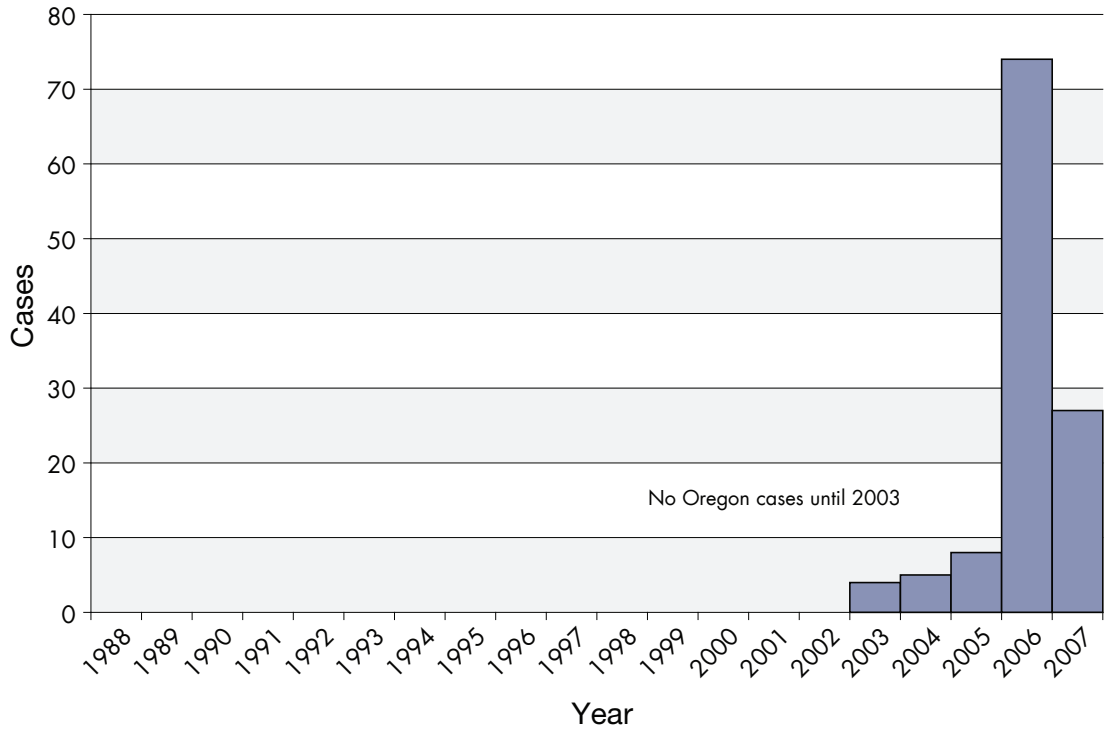
West Nile virus

West Nile virus (WNV) first appeared in the United States in 1999, and has moved westward across the country. In Oregon, the first case was reported in 2004. West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne virus that affects both animals and humans. Birds are the reservoir; humans and other animals are considered “dead-end” hosts.

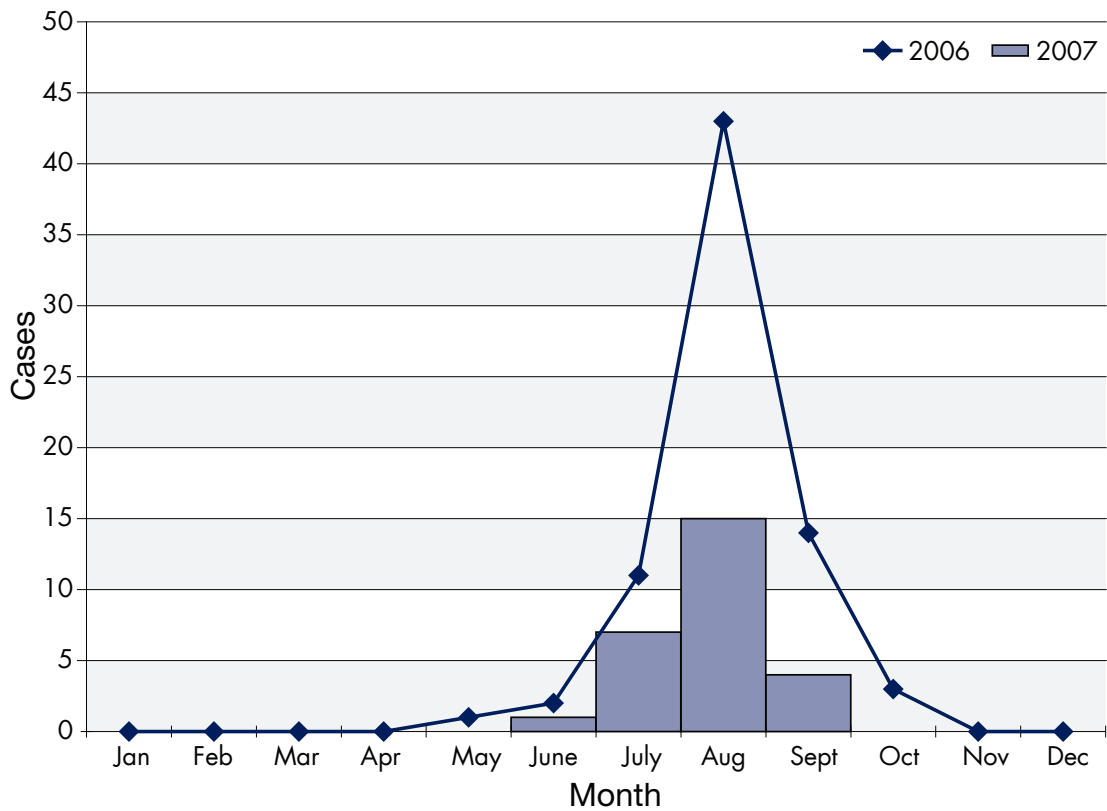
Of those infected, one in five will have mild symptoms such as fever, headache and muscle aches; fewer people, about one in 150, will have more severe symptoms that may include neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and coma. The risk of getting West Nile virus in Oregon has been very low. Though most cases were in those aged 20–50 years, those over 50 years of age have the highest risk of developing serious illness. The incidence in summer months is higher.

In 2006, a record 74 human cases were reported. In 2007, a total of 27 humans, 52 birds, 16 horses, 11 sentinel chickens, two pet dogs and one squirrel were diagnosed with WNV infection. Of the 27 human cases, the median age was 52 years; seven (26%) were neuroinvasive, and 15 (55%) were reported in males. Twenty-six of them acquired WNV in Oregon and one person contracted WNV in another state. Of the 26 Oregon residents, one of the cases developed WNV as a result of an organ transplant. The organ recipient developed neuroinvasive disease. Further investigation revealed that, although the organ donor was positive for WNV, the person died of non-WNV related causes.

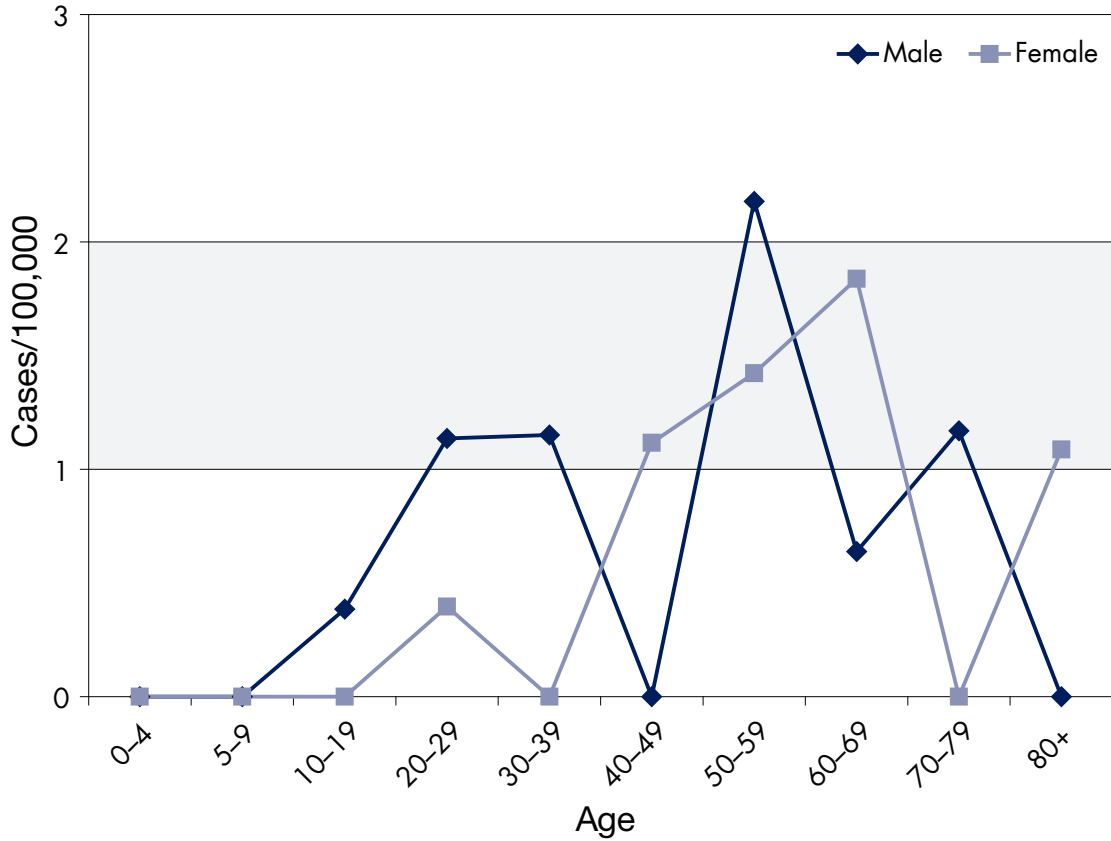
West Nile virus by year: Oregon, 1988–2007



West Nile virus by month of onset: Oregon, 2007



Incidence of West Nile virus by age and sex: Oregon, 2007



Incidence of West Nile virus by county of residence: Oregon, 2005-2007

