

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.

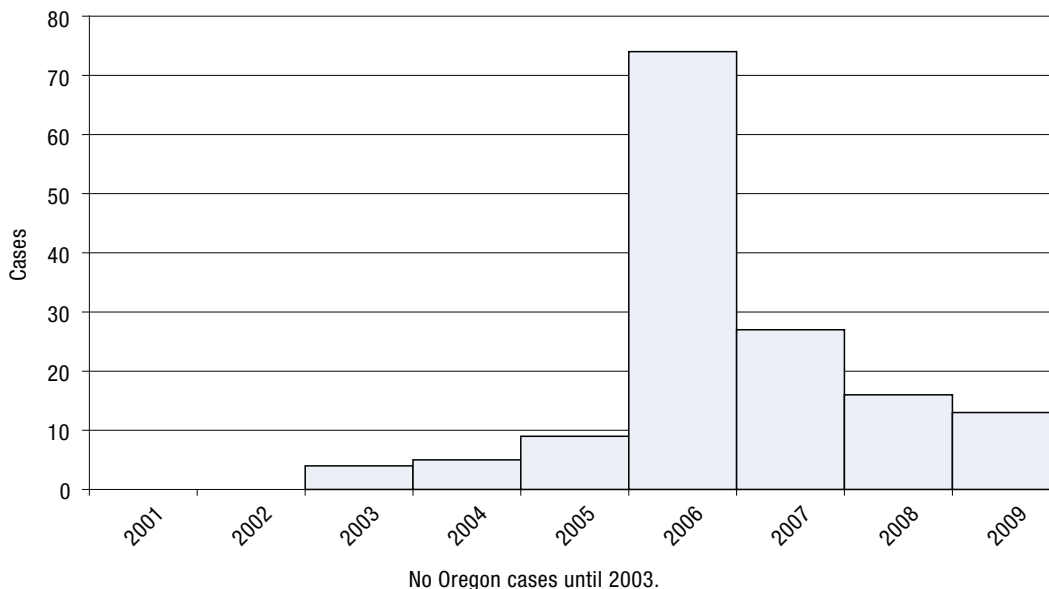
Of those infected, one in five will have mild symptoms such as fever, headache and muscle aches; fewer people, about one in 150, will have more severe symptoms that may include neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and coma.

The risk of getting WNV 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 2008, 16 cases of WNV were

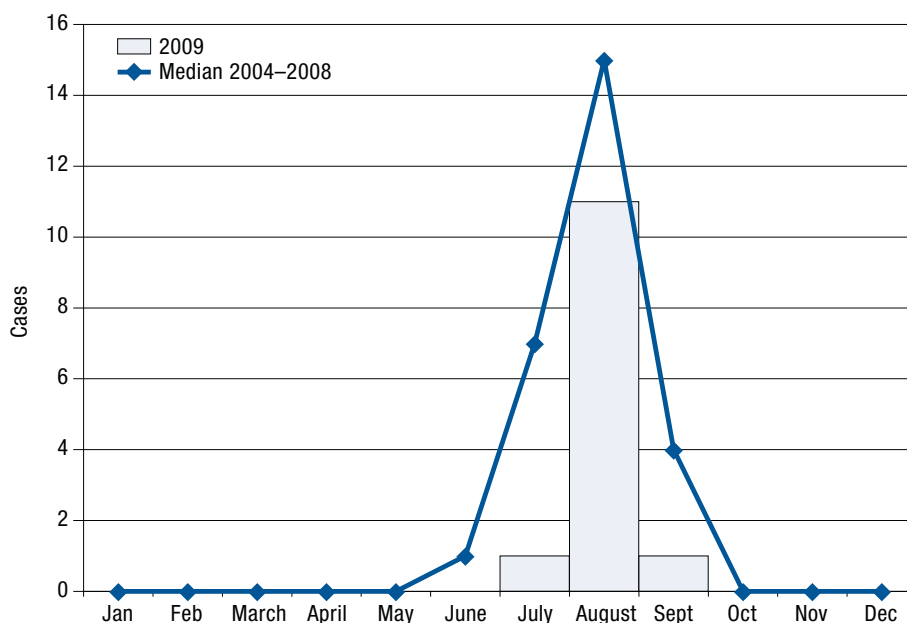
diagnosed in humans. Fourteen (88%) of the 16 cases identified lived in Malheur County. The median age was 52 (range 19-70) and 50 % were female. The first onset of illness was the first day of June and the last was in mid-September with 11 (69%) cases reporting onset in the month of August.

In 2009, 12 cases were diagnosed in Oregon. Ten of 12 cases (83%) were in Malheur County and two other cases were identified in Umatilla and Morrow counties. The median age was 46 years and 67% were female. Onset of illness in all cases except one occurred in August. Though human cases have been declining, 266 mosquito pools (50 mosquitoes of the same species) tested positive for WNV in Baker, Malheur, Morrow and Umatilla counties at Oregon State University, Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory. This is the largest number of positive mosquitoes tested since the arrival of West Nile to Oregon in 2004.

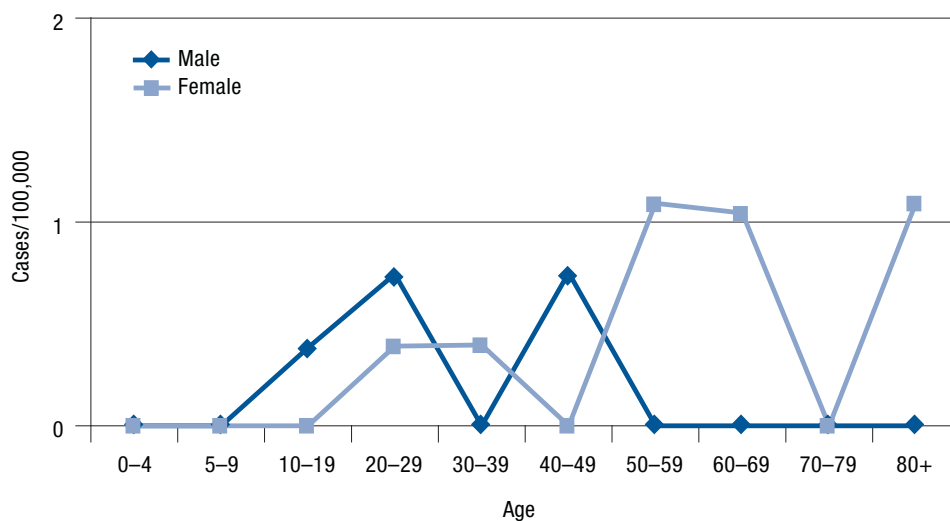
West Nile virus by year: Oregon, 2001–2009



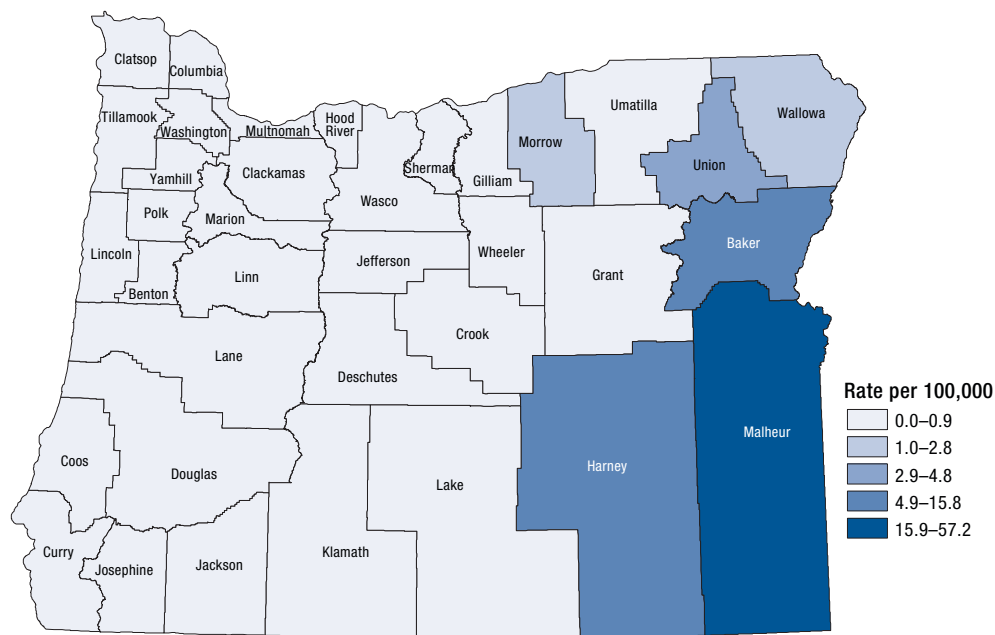
West Nile virus by month of onset: Oregon, 2009



West Nile virus by age and sex: Oregon, 2009



Incidence of West Nile virus by county of residence: Oregon, 2005–2009



Yersiniosis

Yersiniosis is a bacterial infection characterized by (sometimes bloody) diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain. The main reservoir for *Yersinia* is the pig. Transmission occurs via the fecal-oral route through contaminated food and water, or through contact with infected people or animals. Preventive measures include cooking food thoroughly, avoiding cross-contamination with raw food of animal origin, and washing hands after handling food.

The incidence of yersiniosis in Oregon has been fairly stable over the years. In 2003, the number of cases dropped to six, the lowest reported incidence since 1995. The 19 cases reported in 2009, and 17 in 2008, are slightly above the mean of 14 cases reported each year since the new millennium. Yersiniosis occurs throughout the year with no seasonality. The most common species is *Y. enterocolitica*.