

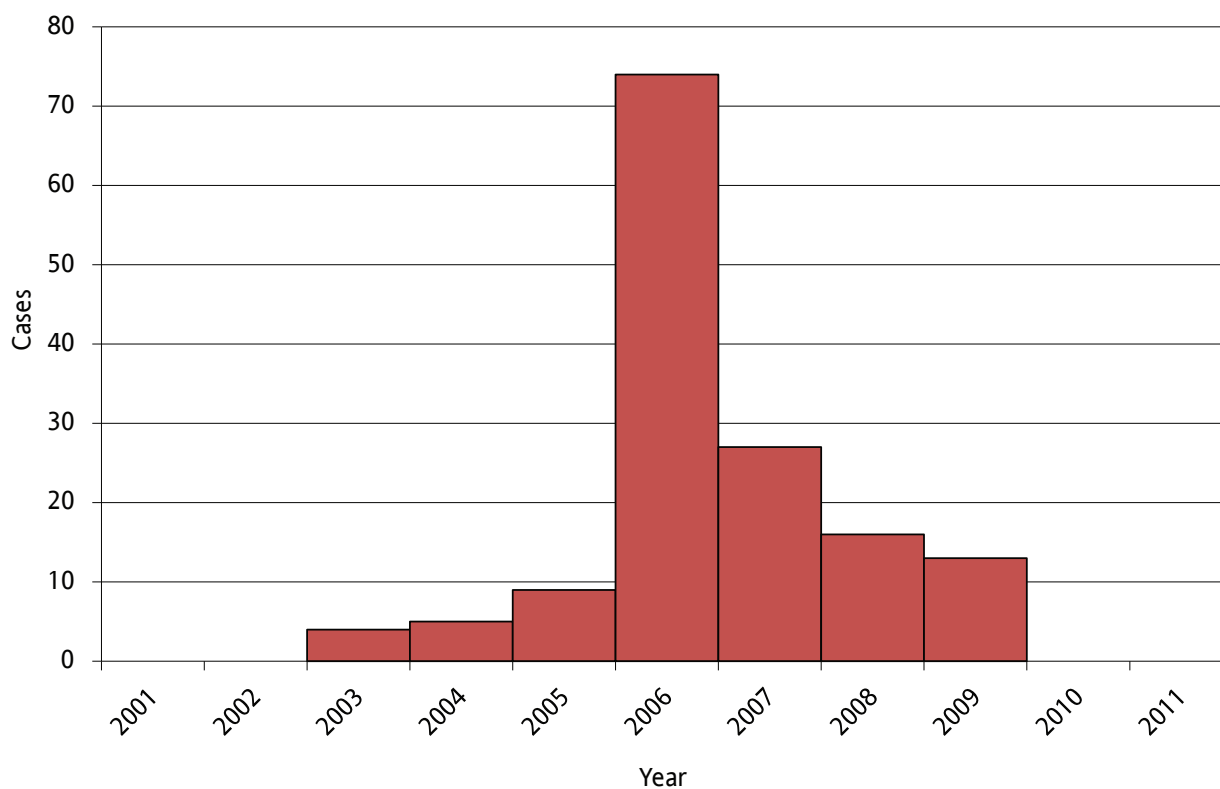
West Nile virus

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. While the chart below notes 2003 cases, those residents acquired the illness in another state. 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, approximately 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.

No human cases of West Nile virus were reported in 2010 or 2011; however, mosquito pools continue to test positive.

West Nile virus by year: Oregon, 2001–2011



Incidence of West Nile virus by county of residence: Oregon, 2005–2011

