

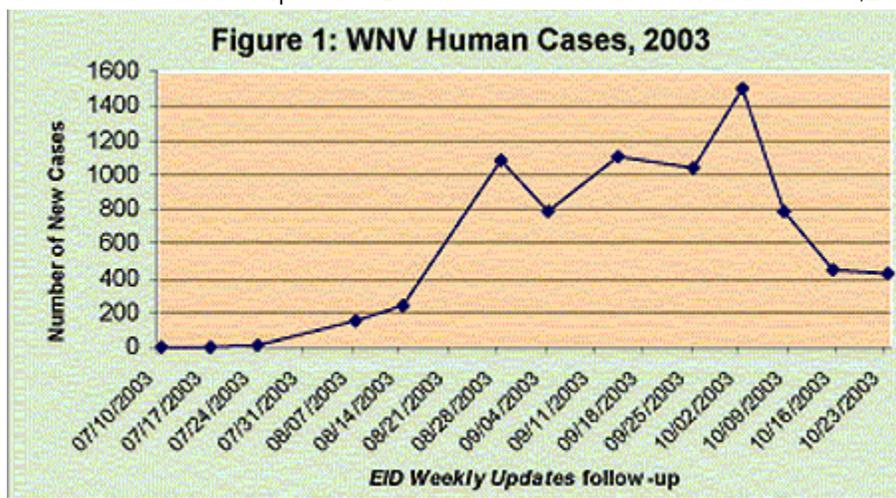


Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Update on West Nile Virus (WNV)

United States: This week, 429 new cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection from 26 states were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States (CDC) (see Figure 1). For 2003, a total of 7,386 human cases of WNV infection and 155 deaths have been reported. Detailed information is available for 7,269 cases, of which



4,771 (66%) were reported as West Nile Fever (a mild illness), and 2,110 (29%) as West Nile Meningitis or Encephalitis (a serious disease). The states with the greatest number of cases have been Colorado (2,170), Nebraska (1,359), and South Dakota (955).

In 42 states as well as in the District of Columbia and New York City, 10,453 birds have been found dead with WNV infection. In 38 states, WNV infection has been detected in 3,270 horses. In 38 states, the District of Columbia, and New York City, a total of 6,667 positive mosquito pools have been found.

For more information, see the CDC website at:

- [West Nile Virus Activity—United States, October 16-22, 2003](#). *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, US Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- [West Nile Virus, 2003 Human Cases as of October 22, 2003, 3am MDT \(Statistics, Surveillance, and Control\)](#). US Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases.

Sources: CDC Website (above references).

Canada: Up to 22 October 2003, 378 cases and 10 deaths from WNV infection have been confirmed in seven provinces. Two of the provinces have reported probable imported cases. Of these, 258 correspond to the province of Alberta, 85 to Ontario, 38 to Saskatchewan, and 16 to Manitoba. Of these cases, 832 are still under study; with 693 of them from Saskatchewan and 121 from Manitoba.

No new suspected or confirmed cases have occurred in horses since the last update on 16 October. The total figure remains at 445. On birds, 11,223 serological tests have been carried out, with 1,619 confirmed WNV infections; this implies the appearance of 11 new cases that were confirmed this week. Regarding mosquito pools infected with WNV, 534 have been identified, which implies the appearance of 36 new positive mosquito pools. The affected provinces are the same as for previous weeks.

In total, these figures—together with the reduction of the number of new human cases and the absence of new equine cases—indicate a continuous reduction in the outbreak coincidental with falling temperatures.

For more information, see the Health Canada West Nile Virus Surveillance Information page: [English](#) | [français](#).

Source: West Nile Virus Surveillance Information, Health Canada (above references).