

March 1, 2013

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Summary Report for the 2012 West Nile Virus (WNV) Season

WNV -- Orange County 2012: A total of 48 human WNV infections were reported in 2012. This is the third worst WNV season in Orange County behind 2008 and 2004. This season was also the longest season, with illness onsets for cases ranging from July to December.

- Clinical presentation and outcomes:** Of the 48 reported WNV infections, 26 were WN Neuroinvasive disease (WNND), 16 were West Nile Fever, and 6 were asymptomatic blood donors. Twenty-six (62%) of cases were hospitalized, with a median length of stay of 8 days (range: 1 to 41 days). There were 11 patients admitted to the intensive care unit and 6 patients were discharged to a skilled nursing facility or rehabilitation center for further care. There was one fatality this year. *Note: West Nile Fever is usually a self-limited illness and is underrecognized and underreported. The majority (80%) of WNV infections are asymptomatic.

- Seasonality:** This season, dates of symptom onset for Orange County WNV cases ranged from July 17 to December 9, 2012 (see timeline below), with the majority of cases presenting with illness in September. In past seasons, human WNV cases have had symptoms onsets from mid-June to late October. However, positive birds and/or mosquitoes have been detected throughout the year. WNV is endemic in Orange County and human cases are expected every year.
- Geographic distribution:** This season, WNV infections resided throughout Orange County (map above). However, the largest concentration of infections was in Northern Orange County, which is consistent with previous years.

Human West Nile Virus Infections* by City of Residence
 Orange County, CA 2012



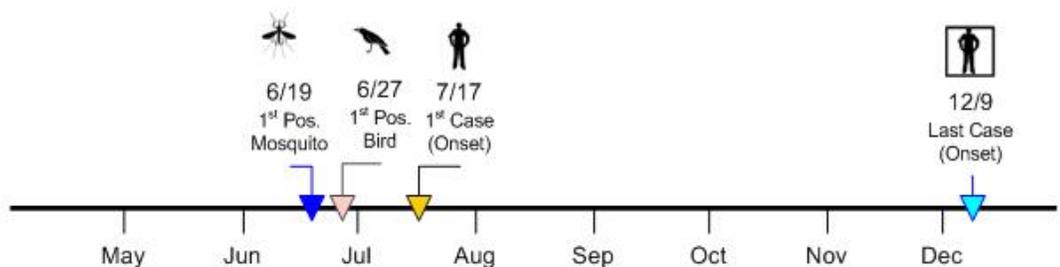
*Note: Infections are mapped by city of residence and may not indicate location of exposure

WNV in Orange County -- All Years: WNV cases have been reported in Orange County each year since it was first detected in 2004. Since this time there have been a total of 240 human cases, including eight deaths in Orange County. The number of human infections has ranged from 1 in 2010 to 79 in 2008. Sixty-six percent of cases have been male. Average age of WNF cases was 51 years (range: <18 to 80) and the average age of WNND cases was 55 years (range <18 to 90). Of the symptomatic cases 149 (67%) were diagnosed with WNND.

WNV – CA & U.S.:

- For State update:
www.westnile.ca.gov/
- For CDC update:
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm

West Nile Virus Timeline – Orange County, 2012



For comments or suggestions on this newsletter, please contact Sandra Okubo, MPH, or Dr. Michele Cheung at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.