



West Nile virus (WNV) is a disease that affects birds and humans and is spread to people primarily by the bite of infected mosquitoes

Quick Facts



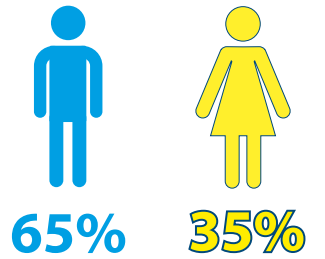
Most cases occurred in August and September (85%)

**57**  
YEARS

The average age at time of illness is 57 years

**26**

cases of WNV were reported in Durham Region between 2010 and 2018



65% 35%  
There were more male cases than female cases



Cases in Durham Region have steadily increased between 2014 and 2018

Risk Factors

**86%**

of cases reported



a mosquito bite or exposure to mosquitoes

**76%**

of cases reported



camping, hiking, working or other outdoor activities

**71%**

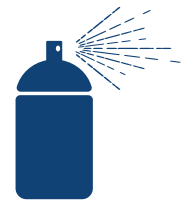
of cases reported



not always wearing long sleeves, long pants and covered shoes when exposed to mosquitoes

**71%**

of cases reported



not always using insect repellent

WNV infected mosquitoes are most active from dusk to dawn and breed in standing water

Symptoms

**71%**

of cases reported



fever

**67%**

of cases reported



headache

**50%**

of cases reported



general unwell feeling

**46%**

of cases reported



fatigue/sleepiness

Treatment



There is currently no treatment or vaccine to prevent WNV. In most mild cases, symptoms go away on their own.

For severe cases, some individuals may need to be hospitalized to treat their symptoms. About 1 in 150 people who are infected with WNV develop a more severe illness.



Sources:

- Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS), 2010-2018
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD)