

West Nile Virus in Durham Region

2012-2021



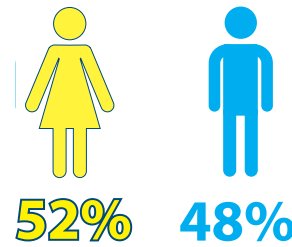
West Nile virus (WNV) is a disease that affects birds and humans and is spread to people primarily by the bite of infected mosquitoes



Most cases occurred between July and September (77%)

39

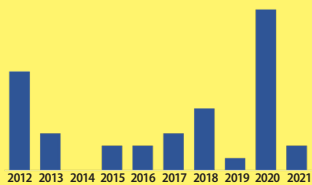
cases of WNV were reported in Durham Region between 2012 and 2021



52% 48%
Cases are evenly split between males and females



The average age at time of illness is 51 years



The number of cases reported in 2020 (13) was the highest number ever reported in a single year. Interpret 2020 and 2021 data with caution due to changes in the availability of health care and health seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

72%

of cases reported



headache

67%

of cases reported



fever

50%

of cases reported



general unwell feeling

44%

of cases reported



muscle or joint pain

42%

of cases reported



fatigue/sleepiness

77%

of cases reported



a mosquito bite or exposure to mosquitoes

74%

of cases reported



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

68%

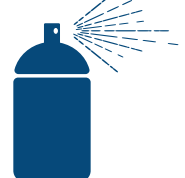
of cases reported



camping, hiking, working or other outdoor activities

68%

of cases reported



not always using insect repellent

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



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

Some individuals may need to be hospitalized to treat their symptoms. Fewer than one per cent of people will develop a more severe illness.



For more details on treatment, see: [Treatment of West Nile virus, Government of Canada](#)

- Data Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, 2017-2021.
- To see Durham compared to Ontario and other public health units go to [Infectious Disease Trends in Ontario](#).