

West Nile Virus in Durham Region



2021-2025

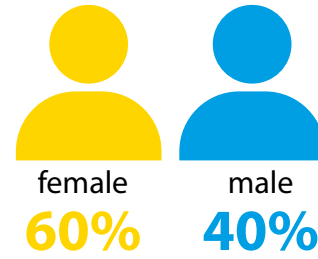
West Nile virus (WNV) is a disease that affects birds and humans and is spread to people primarily by the bite of infected mosquitoes. Mosquitoes that carry WNV are found throughout Durham Region, are most active from dusk to dawn, and breed in standing water. Mosquito activity increases when temperatures rise above 10°C.



Most cases occurred between July and September (87%)

15

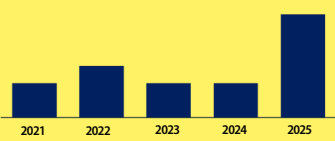
cases of WNV were reported in Durham Region between 2021 and 2025



There were more female cases than male cases. Data are based on reported sex and may not reflect gender identity.



The average age at time of illness is 64 years



The number of reported WNV cases varies from year to year, remaining relatively stable in the past five years with a slight increase in 2025 (6 cases). Interpret 2021 data with caution due to changes in health care access and health-seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

80%

of cases reported



fever

60%

of cases reported



fatigue or sleepiness

53%

of cases reported



muscle weakness

53%

of cases reported



nausea or vomiting

47%

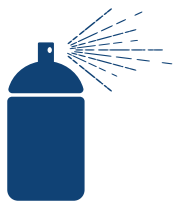
of cases reported



confusion or forgetfulness

60%

of cases reported



not always using insect repellent

53%

of cases reported



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

47%

of cases reported



a mosquito bite or exposure to mosquitoes

40%

of cases reported



camping, hiking, working or other outdoor activities



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.



- Data Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, 2021-2025.
- To see Durham compared to Ontario and other public health units go to [Infectious Disease Trends in Ontario](#).

