

People's Health

Outcomes • Planning • Evaluation



Know the Facts: West Nile Virus

DID YOU KNOW?

- West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne arbovirus occurring in Africa, Europe, west and central Asia, the Middle East, and most recently, North America.
- West Nile Virus was first detected in the United States in 1999. It quickly spread across the United States with the first case occurring in California in 2002.
- West Nile Virus is most frequently transmitted by infected mosquitoes and sometimes can be transmitted through breast milk, blood transfusions and organ transfusions. It cannot be transmitted by touching someone who is infected.
- Mosquitoes need water in order to complete their life cycle. Draining standing water is the most effective way to reduce mosquito populations.
- Most cases are asymptomatic, but some cases are severe and fatal.

WHERE WE WERE (BASELINE):

During 2003-05, there was 1 West Nile Virus infection per 100,000 population in Shasta County.

WHERE WE ARE:

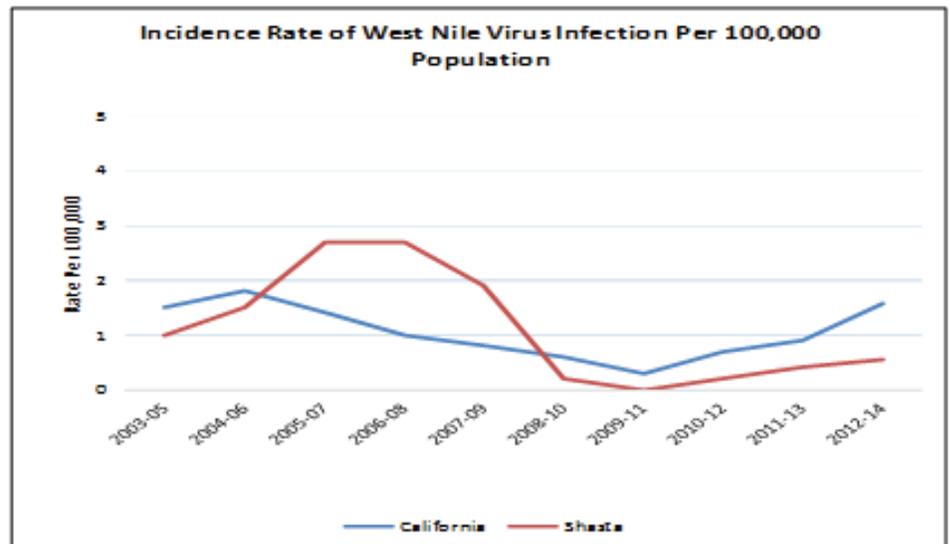
During 2011-13, there were 0.4 West Nile Virus infections per 100,000 population in Shasta County.

WHERE WE ARE AIMING:

Not established.

DEFINITION:

Reported number of West Nile Virus infections per 100,000 population in Shasta County.



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Find more health information at www.shastahhsa.net. Click on "Health and Safety," then "Current Health Concerns." Questions? Email shastahealthdata@co.shasta.ca.us

KEY POINTS:

- The first case of West Nile Virus infection in Shasta County occurred in 2003.
- California had a sharp rise in the number of cases during 2004 and 2005 (779 and 880 cases respectively) after the first 3 cases in 2003. The cases have been on the rise again during 2012-2014.
- The highest number in Shasta County was 9 infections during 2007.
- After the rate peaked in 2007, the trend has been downward for Shasta County and the incidence rate has been lower than California from 2008 onwards.

PRIMARY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:

- Reduce mosquito populations by draining standing water.
- Limit outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, and mosquito repellent to reduce mosquito bites.
- Shasta County Public Health and local mosquito control agencies conduct disease and dead bird surveillance to identify areas of high West Nile Virus transmission.

**From the Desk of
Andrew Deckert,
MD, MPH**
*Shasta County
Public Health Officer*



West Nile Virus is transmitted to the human body by mosquito bite. The infection is asymptomatic in most of the cases but about 20% of individuals develop fever, muscle pain, headache, weakness and fatigue. It can be severe and fatal, especially when it attacks the nervous system.

Preventive measures should be concentrated on reducing mosquitoes in the environment and avoiding places where mosquitoes are. Review the Primary Prevention Activities (at left) to help keep yourself safe from infection.

To your health!