WEST NILE VIRUS AND OTHER MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES SURVEILLANCE IN CANADA

ANNUAL EDITION | **2022**

WHAT'S THE RISK?

- **West Nile virus (WNV)** is the leading cause of domestically acquired **mosquito-borne diseases (MBD)** reported in Canada

WHO'S AT GREATER RISK?

- **Advanced age** and people with **underlying medical conditions** (e.g. diabetes, cancer, heart disease) are at increased risk of WNV neurological syndrome

HOW TO MANAGE?

- There is **no specific treatment or vaccine** for WNV
- Patients are treated for their symptoms

REPORTED IN 2022:

2 Travel-related human cases acquired outside of Canada or travel location not specified

WNV TRANSMISSION CYCLE

135 Positive dead wild birds

128 Positive mosquito pools

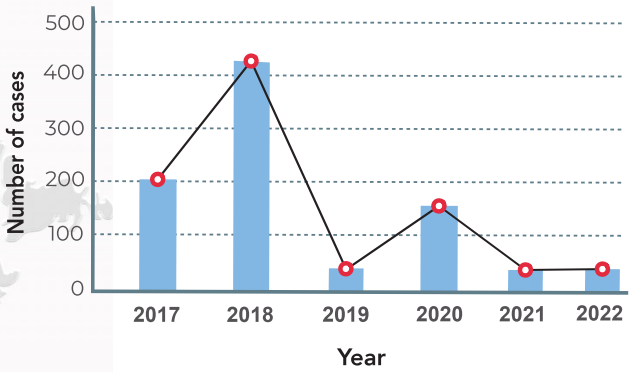
8 Positive horses

45 Human cases acquired within Canada

- **44** Clinical cases
  - **64%** Neurological syndrome
  - **25%** Non-neurological syndrome
  - **11%** Not specified
- **1** Asymptomatic case
- **5** Deaths

When compared to the average of the previous 5 years, a lower number of human cases was observed in 2022. **Recurring fluctuations in the number of WNV human infections from year to year are expected.**

Reported number of WNV human cases in Canada, 2017–2022



OTHER MBD

18 Human **California serogroup virus** infections were reported (**3** identified by the National Microbiology Laboratory and **15** reported by Québec)

1 Human case of **Eastern equine encephalitis** was reported

PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

Avoid becoming infected with WNV and other mosquito-borne diseases by:

Protecting yourself

- Cover exposed skin
- Use insect repellent with DEET or Icaridin

Reducing surrounding risk

- Eliminate standing water
- Maintain window and door screening

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