



# West Nile Virus and Other Arboviral Diseases: 2017

## Los Angeles County Epidemiology Final Report

### May 1st, 2018



**West Nile Virus (WNV):** In 2017, Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) documented 268 WNV cases including 27 fatalities. LAC accounted for slightly more than half of the state burden and 13% of the national burden of clinical cases in 2017 (California = 509, USA = 2,002). This year's 27 deaths is the highest count of fatalities documented since WNV emerged in LAC in 2003. Previously, the highest count was in 2015 when there were 24 deaths. This year also contributed the 3rd highest number of cases documented and longest recorded season with the last onset date occurring December 24, 2017. Most cases occurred in residents of the Pomona, Glendale, Hollywood-Wilshire, and Central health districts. For information about past WNV seasons in LAC visit the [ACDC WNV webpage](#).

**Table 1. Characteristics of WNV Cases: LAC, 2016-2017**

Year	Number of Infections <sup>1</sup>	Asymptomatic Donor	Clinical Presentation			Hospitalized	Deaths	Demographics	
			WNV Fever	Neuroinvasive Disease	Neuroinvasive Diagnosis			Gender M/F	Median Age (Range)
2017	268	15	49	204	110 = Encephalitis 79 = Meningitis 15 = AFP <sup>2</sup>	224	27	184/84	62 (7-96)
2016	153	10	35	108	53 = Encephalitis 48 = Meningitis 5 = AFP <sup>2</sup> 2 = Other <sup>3</sup>	131	6	99/54	63.0 (17-92)

<sup>1</sup>Count confirmed by LAC DPH as of 05/01/18. Excludes reports from Long Beach and Pasadena.

<sup>2</sup>Acute Flaccid Paralysis

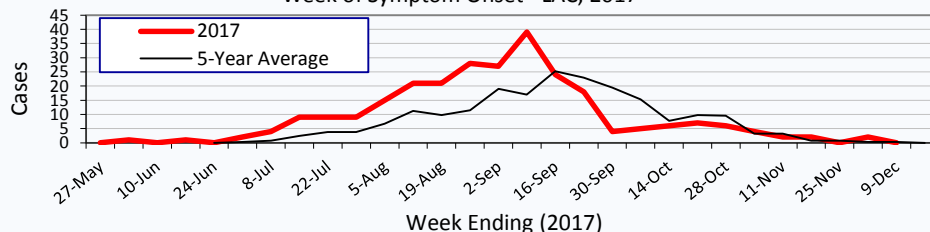
<sup>3</sup>West Nile Myelitis or Peripheral Neurologic Dysfunction

**Table 2. Top Cities of Residence with Reported WNV Infections LAC, 2017\***

City	Year Total
Los Angeles	123
Glendale	24
Burbank	7
Whittier	7
Arcadia	5
La Puente	5
Lancaster	5
San Gabriel	5
Torrance	5
Lakewood	4

\* 52 cities with reported infections, excluding Long Beach and Pasadena

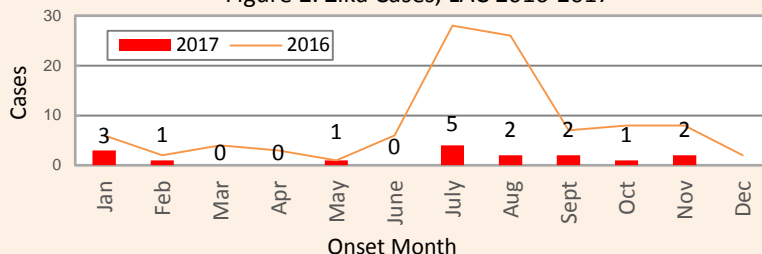
**Figure 1. WNV Cases by Week of Symptom Onset\* LAC, 2017**



\*Asymptomatic blood and organ donors listed by date of donation.

**Zika:** Since 2015, LAC DPH has identified 123 total cases of Zika virus infection. Only 17 cases have been reported in 2017 compared to 101 in 2016 (Figure 2). One case was acquired through sexual transmission in which the partner traveled to Mexico. All other cases in 2017 acquired their infection while traveling outside the US (Table 3). Since 2015, 28 pregnant women with Zika infection have been identified in LAC, all of whom acquired their infection during travel to Mexico or Latin America. For more information on Zika visit the [ACDC Zika webpage](#).

**Figure 2. Zika Cases, LAC 2016-2017**



**Table 3. Zika Cases by Region of Exposure - LAC, 2017\***

Mexico	Guatemala
El Salvador	Costa Rica
Thailand	Philippines

\*This does not represent all areas with Zika risk. Routinely visit the [CDC Traveler's Health](#) webpage to view a world map.

### Zika is Still a Risk

Although the number of cases has substantially declined, Zika is still affecting Mexico, Central America, and other [areas](#). All symptomatic persons with possible Zika exposure through travel or sex should be tested. CDPH released [new testing guidance for pregnant women and infants on January 10, 2018](#) and no longer recommends routine testing of asymptomatic pregnant women with recent Zika exposure. There is currently no local transmission in LAC, but the mosquito that spreads Zika is found in many parts of LAC. These mosquitoes are not yet infected with Zika and we want to keep it that way! Travelers returning from Zika risk areas should be encouraged to wear insect repellent and take other mosquito bite precautions for 3 weeks after returning to prevent infecting local mosquitoes.