



West Nile Virus and Other Arboviral Diseases: 2017 Los Angeles County Epidemiology Final Report January 26, 2018



West Nile Virus (WNV): In 2017, Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) documented 266 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 ¹	Asymptomatic Donor	Clinical Presentation				Hospitalized	Deaths	Demographics	
			WNV Fever	Neuroinvasive Disease	Neuroinvasive Diagnosis				Gender M/F	Median Age (Range)
2017	266	15	49	202	110 = Encephalitis 78 = Meningitis 14 = AFP ²	223	27	182/84	62 (7-96)	
2016	153	10	35	108	53 = Encephalitis 48 = Meningitis 5 = AFP ² 2 = Other ³	131	6	99/54	63 (17-92)	

¹Count confirmed by LAC DPH as of 01/26/18. Excludes reports from Long Beach and Pasadena.

²Acute Flaccid Paralysis

³West Nile Myelitis or Peripheral Neurologic Dysfunction

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

City	Year Total
Los Angeles	128
Glendale	24
Burbank	7
Whittier	7
La Puente	6
Arcadia	5
Lancaster	5
San Gabriel	5
Torrance	5
Lakewood	4

* 53 cities with reported infections, excluding Long Beach and Pasadena.

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

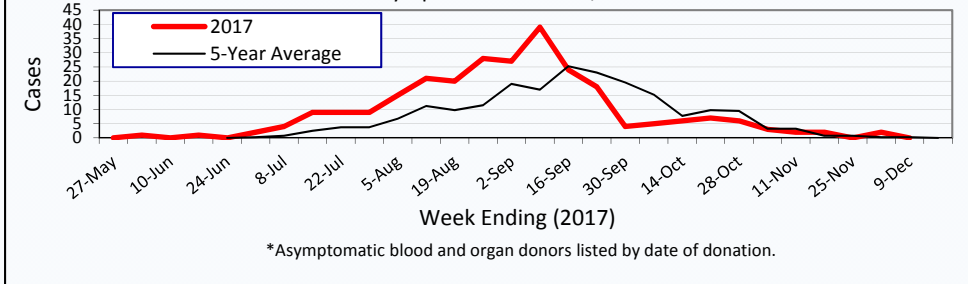


Figure 2. Zika Cases, LAC 2016-2017

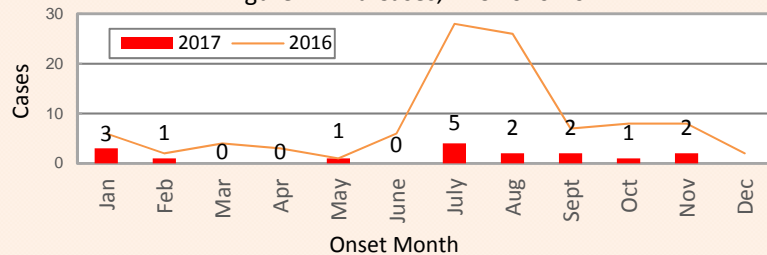


Table 3. Zika Cases by Region of Exposure - LAC, 2017*

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.