

# West Nile Virus and Other Arboviral Diseases



Los Angeles County Epidemiology Final Report 2018  
February 1, 2019

In 2018, 47 West Nile virus (WNV) cases (Table 1) were documented by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH). The number of WNV cases was below the previous 5-year average (Figure 1). The San Fernando Valley region continued to account for the heaviest burden of cases. Most cases (66%) were residents of this region (Table 2). However, WNV activity was detected in several areas of LAC (See map below). The last onset in 2018 occurred 12/02/2018. LAC accounted for about a quarter of the state WNV burden and 2% of the national burden of clinical cases ([California](#) = 208, [USA](#) = 2,544). For information about past WNV seasons in LAC visit the [ACDC WNV webpage](#).

**Table 1. Characteristics of WNV Cases, LAC, 2018**

Number of Cases <sup>1</sup>	Asymptomatic Donor <sup>2</sup>	Clinical Presentation			Hospitalized	Deaths	Demographics	
		WNV Fever	Neuroinvasive Disease	Neuroinvasive Diagnosis			Gender M/F	Median Age (Range)
<b>2018</b>	47	3	35	24 = Encephalitis 8 = Meningitis 3 = AFP <sup>3</sup>	37	3	34/13	66 (15-89)
<b>2017</b>	268	15	204	110 = Encephalitis 79 = Meningitis 15 = AFP <sup>3</sup>	224	27	184/84	62 (7-96)

<sup>1</sup>Count confirmed by LAC DPH as of 01/22/2019. Excludes reports from Long Beach and Pasadena.

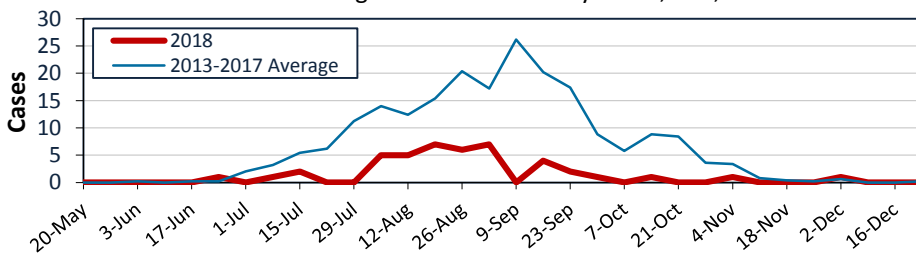
<sup>2</sup>Asymptomatic cases identified in blood or organ donors as part of routine screening.

<sup>3</sup>Acute Flaccid Paralysis

### Saint Louis Encephalitis Virus (SLEV) Re-Emerges

SLEV was confirmed in two residents of the San Fernando Valley area of LAC. These are the first human cases detected in the County since 1997 though the virus has been detected in local mosquitoes since 2016. Please visit our [SLEV webpage](#) for more information.

**Figure 1. WNV Cases by Week, LAC, 2018**



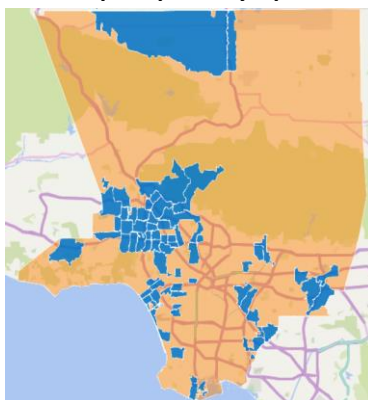
\*Asymptomatic blood and organ donors listed by date of donation.

**Table 2. Cities of Residence with Reported WNV Infections LAC, 2018\***

City	Year Total
Los Angeles	35
Arcadia	2
**Baldwin	
Hills/Crenshaw	1
Burbank	1
Culver City	1
Glendale	1
Manhattan Beach	1
Pomona	1
San Fernando	1
San Gabriel	1
Torrance	1
West Covina	1

\*Excluding Long Beach and Pasadena  
\*\*Unincorporated Area

### 2018 WNV positive human cases, dead birds, sentinel flocks, and mosquito pools by zip code



### Zika is Still a Risk for Travelers

Only 10 cases of Zika were reported in 2018, of which 70% were pregnant women. All infants born to Zika-infected mothers have been healthy to date. Cases reported travel to Asia (45%), Mexico (33%), and Central and South America (20%). Though the number of cases in LAC has declined from a peak of 100 cases in 2016, Zika is still present at travel destinations. All symptomatic persons with possible Zika exposure through travel or sex should be tested. Routine testing of asymptomatic pregnant women with recent Zika exposure is no longer recommended (see [guidance](#)). Travelers returning from Zika risk areas are encouraged to wear insect repellent and take other mosquito bite precautions for 3 weeks after returning to prevent infection of local mosquitoes. For more information on Zika visit the [ACDC Zika webpage](#).

