



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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West Nile Virus (WNV): Current Situation in the Americas

United States: As of 11 September, 37 states have reported human cases of WNV. The cumulative total is 3,307 cases and 64 deaths. This represents a 2.8-fold increase in the number of cases and a 1.5-fold increase in the number of deaths when compared to the same period in 2002. The states with the highest number of cases are Colorado (1,214), South Dakota (521), Nebraska (436), Wyoming (243), and Texas (190). Viral circulation activity has been detected in horses and birds in nine other states. *Sources:* [CDC West Nile Virus website](#) and [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#).

Canada: As of 11 September, the total cumulative number of confirmed cases is 24 and the total cumulative number of probable cases is 279, occurring in 5 states. The number of laboratory-confirmed cases has increased 7-fold when compared to the same period in 2002. As of September 11, no deaths have been reported. *Source:* [Health Canada, West Nile Virus Surveillance Information](#).

Mexico: For 2003, 35 WNV infections have been identified in wild birds; and 642, in horses. Viral circulation has been detected in 12 states (Tabasco, Quintana Roo, Nuevo León, Chiapas, Tamaulipas, Coahuilla, Yucatán, Veracruz, Chihuahua, San Luis of Potosí, Guerrero, and Federal District). Furthermore, 573 clinically suspect human cases have been studied and all results have been negative. *Source:* [National Center of Epidemiological Surveillance \(Mexico, Centro Nacional de Vigilancia Epidemiológica / CENAVE\) website](#).

Additional Note: Besides the United States, Canada, and Mexico, native circulation of WNV activity has been detected in El Salvador (in horses, 2003), the Dominican Republic and Jamaica (in birds, 2002–2003), and in Guadeloupe (horses and birds, 2002–2003).

PAHO, in collaboration with the CDC, is carrying out training workshops to diagnose and monitor WNV activity. These customized workshops are aimed at laboratory technicians, epidemiologists, veterinarians, and entomologists from Latin American countries. The next workshop, directed at the countries of the Southern Cone and the Andean Region, will be held in November 2003 in Argentina.

Sources

- *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 2003 9 (7): 860–863.
- *Science Now*, March 2003.
- Direction générale de la Santé, Point presse "Dossier d'actualité in sécurité sanitaire", 26 mai 2003