

## "West Nile Fever" - Staying in Real Time

West Nile fever [WNF] is once again making headlines in the United States. The GIDEON notes on WNF are updated on a weekly basis, just as all notes on outbreaks of major public health interest: 'Bird flu' in Asia and Europe; those Polio outbreaks in Indonesia, Yemen and Nigeria; pockets of Anthrax in the former Soviet Union. This screen shot shows a portion of the WNF note for United States, as of October 2, 2005.

**West Nile fever: Global distribution**

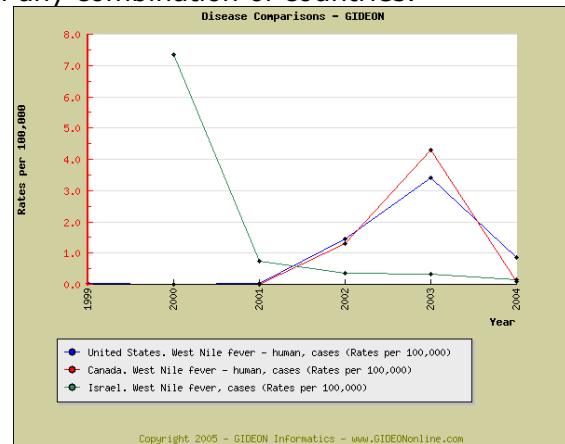
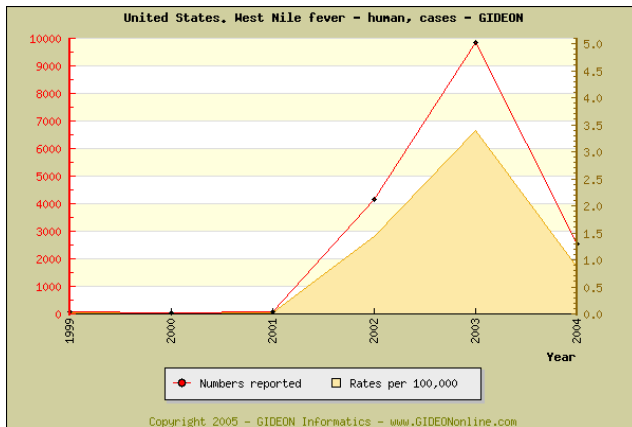
Legend:   
 Not Endemic (White)   
 Sporadic (Yellow)   
 Endemic (Green)

Click to view country-specific notes.

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How extensive is West Nile fever in the world today? The relevant GIDEON map is automatically updated as new numbers are released.

Users can instantly construct graphs to follow the incidence of WNF ... and all other diseases ... in a given country; or compare disease rates in any combination of countries.



Additional options allow you to review the clinical features of WNF ... access a list of all other viruses which are transmitted by birds and mosquitoes in the United States

West Nile Fever

West Nile fever in humans usually is a minor influenza-like illness, characterized by an abrupt onset of moderate to high fever lasting 3 to 5 days. The fever is occasionally biphasic, and may be accompanied by rigors. Additional findings include frontal headache, sore throat, backache, myalgia, arthralgia, fatigue, conjunctivitis and retrobulbar pain. A maculopapular or roseolar rash appears in approximately 50% of cases, spreading from the trunk to the extremities and head. Lymphadenopathy, anorexia, nausea, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and respiratory symptoms are also encountered. Occasionally (ca.15% of cases), acute aseptic meningitis or encephalitis occurs, associated with neck stiffness, vomiting, confusion, disturbed consciousness, somnolence, tremor of extremities, abnormal reflexes, convulsions, pareses, and coma. Such patients may then develop anterior myelitis and acute flaccid paralysis, reminiscent of poliomyelitis. Hepatosplenomegaly, hepatitis, pancreatitis, and myocarditis also occur. Prolonged convalescence (up to one year) may follow recovery from encephalitis, and myalgia, confusion and lightheadedness may persist beyond this period. Laboratory findings consist of a slightly increased sedimentation rate and mild leukocytosis. Cerebrospinal fluid in patients with central nervous system involvement is clear, with moderate pleocytosis and elevated protein. A distinctive CSF plasmacytosis may be present. The virus can be recovered from the blood for up to 30 days in immunocompetent febrile patients, and as late as 22 to 28 days after infection in immunocompromised patients. Peak viremia occurs 4 to 8 days postinfection. Recovery is complete (less rapid in adults than in children, often accompanied by long-term myalgia and weakness), and permanent sequelae have not been reported. Most fatal cases occur in patients older than 50 years. Mayra virus, a related flavivirus, has been associated with febrile illness and neurological findings.

Bunyaviridae infections - misc.

As a group, these diseases are characterized by acute febrile illness occurring in persons exposed to wild or forest environments. Additional features may include headache, myalgia, arthralgia, rash or aseptic meningitis.

Typical signs and symptoms of Bunyaviridae infections - misc.

- The patient is an adult
- Over the age of 60 years
- The patient is a child
- Less than two years old
- Severe (hospitalized, hemorrhagic fever, fatal, etc)
- Fatal infection
- Compromised host
- AIDS
- Alcoholism
- Cytotoxic or corticosteroid
- Diabetes mellitus
- Leukemia or lymphoma
- Neutropenia - all causes
- Immune globulin or Plasma cell disease
- Transplant recipient
- GI and intraabdominal - disease or dysfunction
- Gonorrhea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Pulmonary, thoracic, chest wall or cardiac
- Chest pain
- Endocarditis (established or suspected)
- Dermatological - skin and soft tissue
- Diffuse or multifocal rash