



Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

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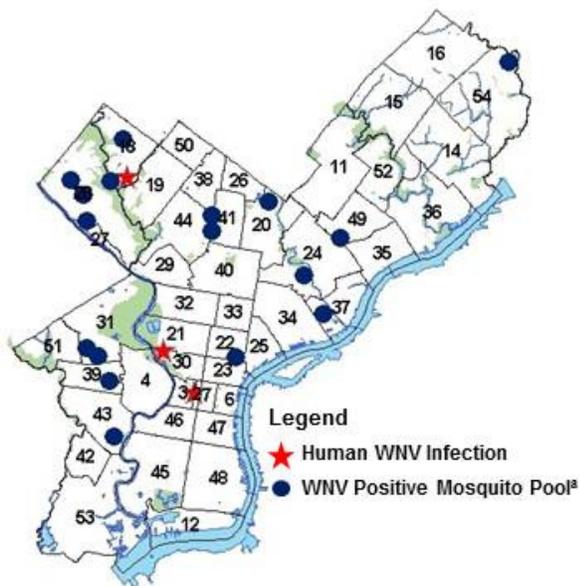
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West Nile Virus Activity in Philadelphia: 2013 Final Report

During the 2013 season, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) confirmed 3 symptomatic West Nile Virus (WNV) infections (1 neuroinvasive and 2 WNV fever cases) among city residents. The WNV cases ranged in age from 25 to 58 years, and none were fatal. The cumulative WNV mosquito pool positivity rate for the 2013 season was 3%, which was similar to the median historic annual rate from 2001 to 2012 (2.6%) and much lower than 2012 (17.5%), a peak season for WNV activity.

From May through October, PDPH in collaboration with the PA Department of Environmental Protection conducts mosquito management activities throughout Philadelphia, which entails surveillance and identification of mosquito pools, testing pools for WNV, and control activities (eliminating breeding sites, larviciding, ground spraying, etc). Targeted treatments to control adult mosquito populations are applied to areas with WNV positive pools as needed.

West Nile Virus Mosquito and Human Case Surveillance, Philadelphia PA, Cumulative 2013 Season Summary



^aTwo sites tested positive ≥ 2 times

WNV Testing and Reporting Requirements for Human Surveillance in Philadelphia:

- Collect CSF (from symptom onset–day 8) and serum (day 8–14) from patients with unexplained encephalitis or meningitis for WNV IgM testing.
- Report suspected and confirmed WNV infections (neuroinvasive or non-neuroinvasive illness) and encephalitis cases to PDPH by telephone at 215-685-6740 (or 215-686-4514 after hours). Reports also may be faxed to 215-238-6947.

	2013 Season (5/1/13–10/31/13)
Mosquito Pools Tested	712 ^a
WNV Positive Pools	21
Humans Tested ^b	47
Human WNV Cases	3
Neuroinvasive	1
Fever	2
Viremic Donor	0

^a712 mosquito pools at 306 different mosquito trapping sites

^bTesting among case reports received by PDPH only

State and National WNV Activity Reports

- [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Advise your patients to:

- Use repellent with DEET ($\geq 20\%$ to also prevent tick bites), Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus when outdoors, especially during peak mosquito hours (dusk and dawn).
- Regularly check and remove standing water outside their home (e.g., unused pools, tires).
- Keep well-fitted screens on windows and doors.
- Report mosquito problems and dead bird sightings to the PDPH Vector Control Program's Mosquito Complaint hotline at 215-685-9027 .