# LABORATORY SURVEILLANCE OF WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY IN THE HOUSTON METROPOLITAN AREA, 2002-2009



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### **WEST NILE VIRUS**

Family: Flaviviridae

Genus: Flavivirus

Group: Japanese encephalitis

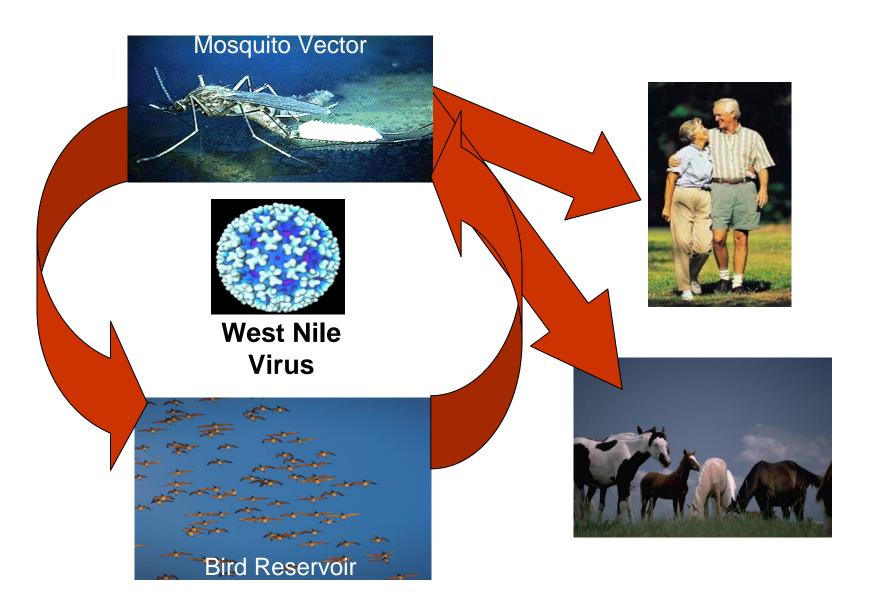
Related viruses: Japanese encephalitis

St. Louis encephalitis

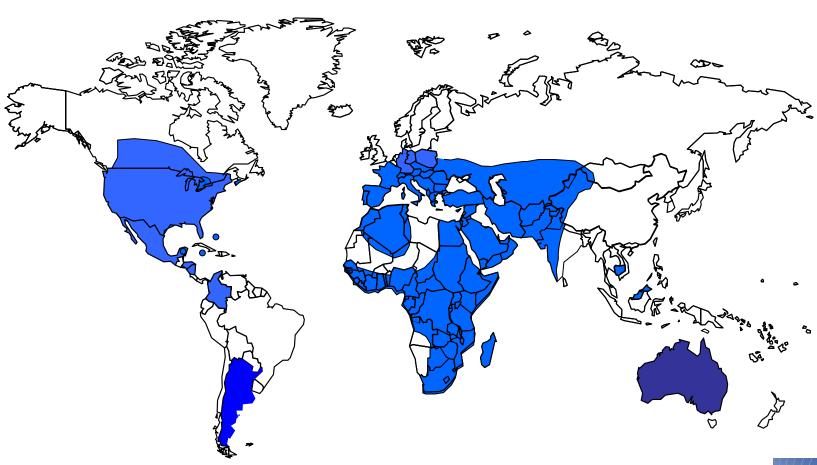
Murray Valley encephalitis

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### **West Nile Virus**



# **Geographic Distribution of WNV**



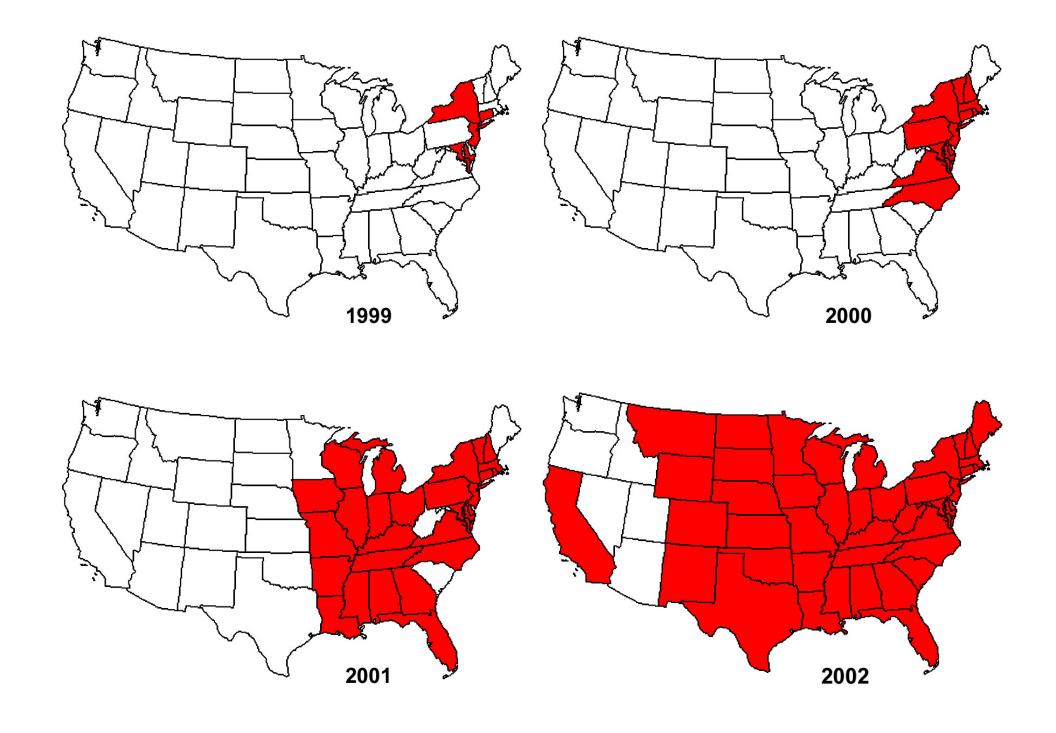


# West Nile Outbreaks and Epidemics

- First isolated in 1937 in Uganda.
- First recorded epidemics in Israel in 1950's.
- Israel 1951-1954, 1957
- France 1962
- South Africa 1974
- Romania 1996
- Italy 1997, 2008
- Russia 1999
- France 2000
- Israel 2000-2003
- United States & Canada 1999-2009

### Introduction of WNV to the US

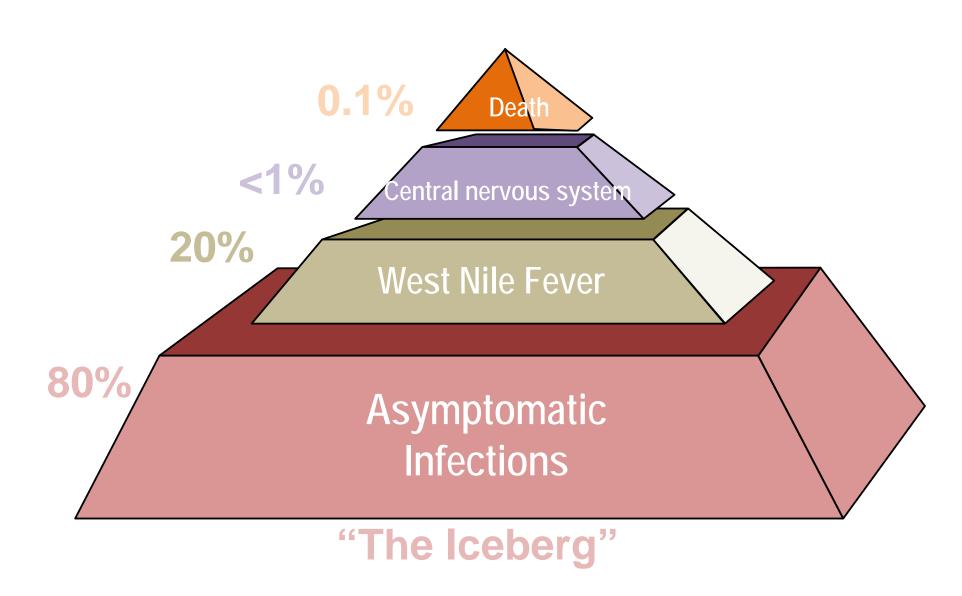
- 1999- WNV was first isolated in NYC
  - Originally believed to be an epidemic of SLE
  - Initial outbreak involved:
    - 62 humans cases with 7 deaths
    - 25 equine cases with 9 deaths
    - large number of birds were also infected
  - Virus isolated from New York, New Jersey,
     Connecticut and Maryland



# Clinical Manifestations of WNV Infection

- 80% of human infections are asymptomatic
- 20% of human infections are symptomatic
- ~1 in 150 human infections develop encephalitis
- Case: fatality ratio in human encephalitis cases is about 9-11%
- Risk of encephalitis increases with age, immunosuppression, and possibly underlying diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.

### West Nile Clinical Manifestations



## How many people in the U.S. have been infected with WNV since its introduction in 1999?

#### Rate of neuroinvasive disease

CDC - 1:150

Busch et al. – 1:256

Total neuroinvasive cases - 11,837 (Aug. 1999 - Sept. 2009)

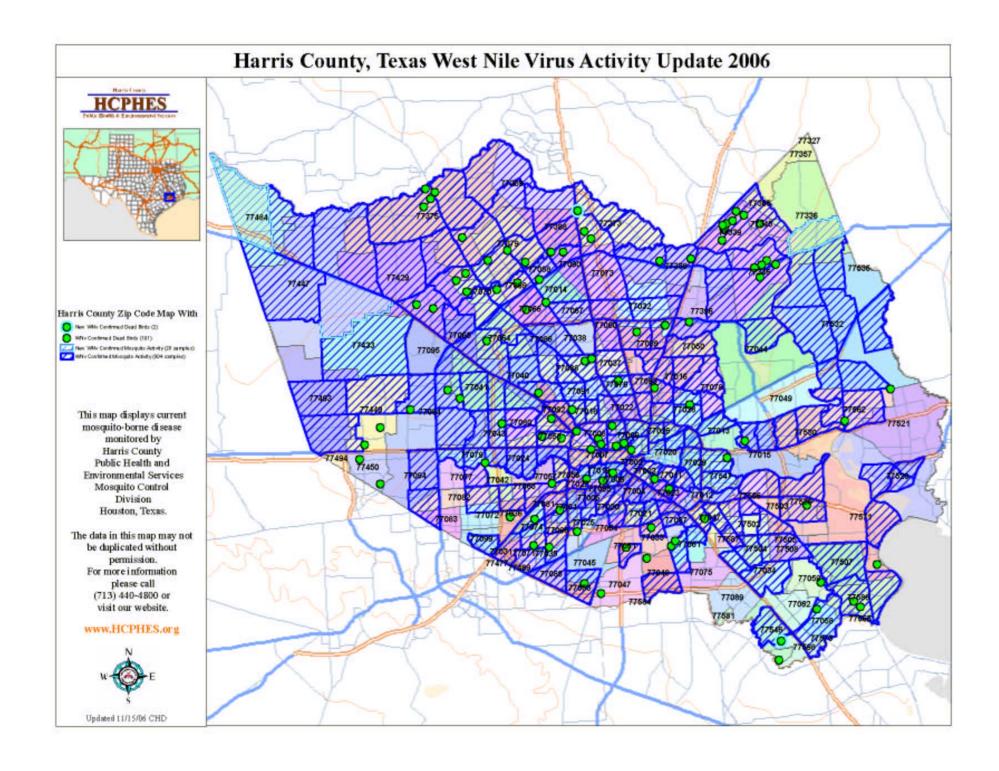
#### Total WNV infections in U.S.

(CDC)  $150 \times 11,837 = 1,775,550$ 

(Busch)  $256 \times 11,837 = 3,030,272$ 































## WNV Isolation Rates Among Dead Birds Collected in Harris County, TX 2003-2005

Common name	No. tested	Percent WNV- positive
Blue Jay	1,064	53.0%
American Crow	49	55.1%
Loggerhead Shrike	26	50.0%
House Sparrow	283	17.0%
Northern Mockingbird	235	6.8%
Northern Cardinal	95	4.2%
Common Grackle	183	2.7%
Mourning Dove	731	1.5%
White-Winged Dove	180	0.6%

## Monthly summary of WNV-positive mosquito pools and dead birds collected in Harris County, Texas, between 2002 and 2007.

MONTH	POS. MOSQUITO POOLS	POS. DEAD BIRDS
JAN.	0	1
FEB.	2	3
MARCH	0	4
APRIL	0	3
MAY	30	7
JUNE	370	127
JULY	1054	344
AUG.	1067	440
SEPT.	287	235
OCT.	92	121
NOV.	13	20
DEC.	8	3
TOTAL	2961	1310

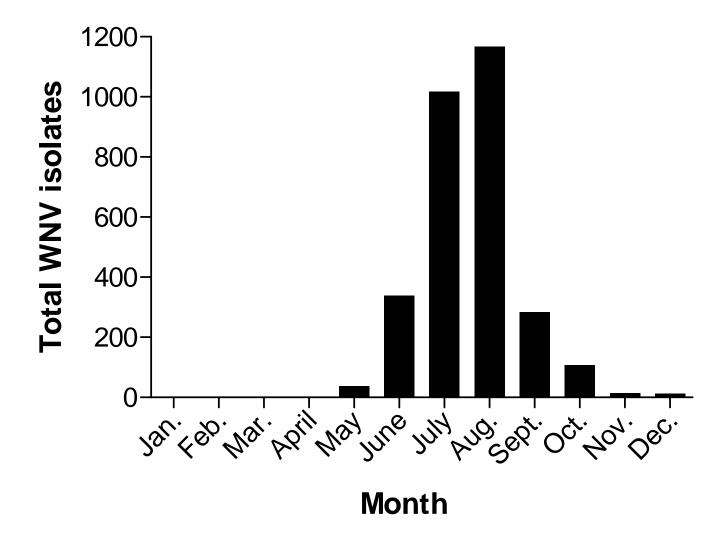


Figure 2. Frequency of West Nile virus isolates in Harris Co., TX by month (2002-2008).

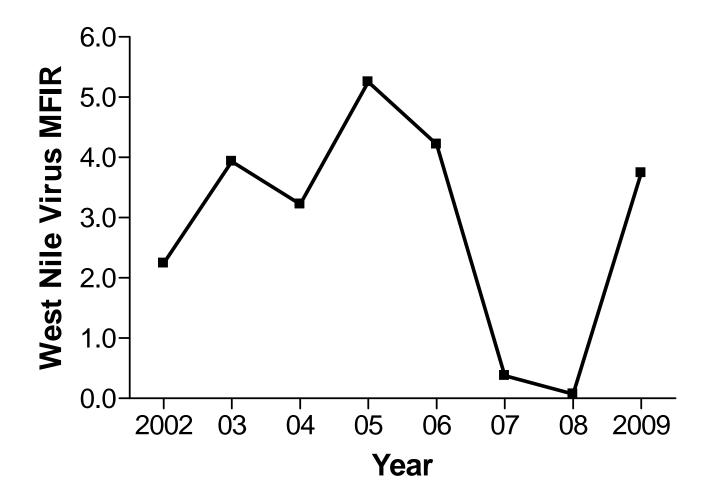
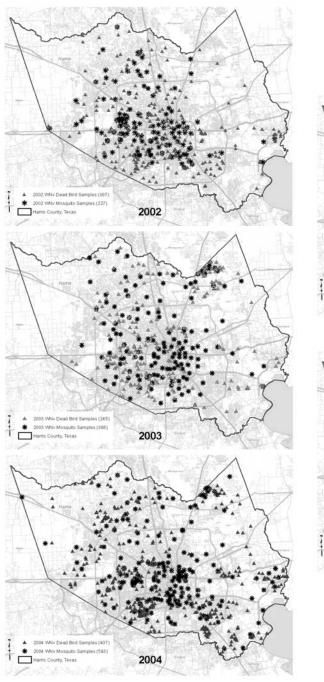
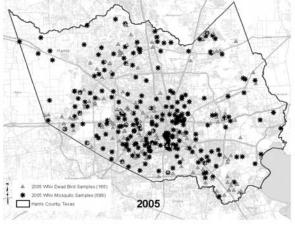
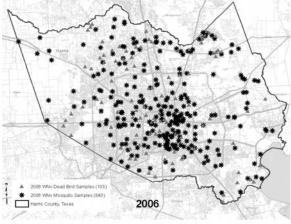


Figure 1. Annual West Nile virus minimum field infection rates (MFIR) among *Culex sp.* mosquitoes in Harris Co., TX during July and August from 2002 to 2009.







## Confirmed human cases of WNV infection in Houston 2002-2009

Year	Total cases
2002	105
2003	49
2004	46
2005	42
2006	66
2007	26
2008	2
2009 (Jan. – Sept.)	18



