

Date Issued: November 28, 2011

Overview:

Nine human cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in Iowa in 2011. In 2010, there were 9 human cases of West Nile Virus, and 2 deaths. In 2011, there has been 1 reported horse infected with West Nile virus. The horse resided in Washington County, Iowa and became ill on approximately August 15, 2011.

Sentinel Chicken / Mosquito Surveillance, 2011 Positive Samples

County	Human	Sentinel Chickens	Mosquito Pools	
			<i>Culex pipiens</i> Complex	<i>Culex tarsalis</i>
Black Hawk	0	0	0	0
Dubuque	0	0	0	0
Fremont	1	0	0	0
Polk	0	3	1	0
Pottawattamie	2	8	0	2
Scott	0	0	0	0
Story	0	0	0	0
Woodbury	0	3	2	0
Mills	2	0	0	0
Cerro Gordo	1	0	0	0
Harrison	3	0	0	0
Total	9	14	3	2

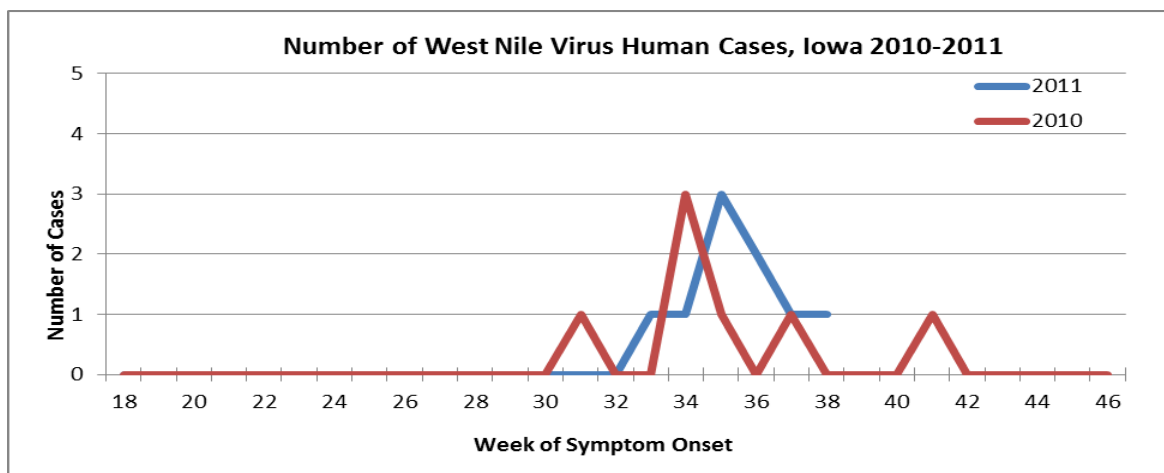


Figure 1. Number of West Nile Virus Human Cases, Iowa 2010-2011*

*Week of symptom onset not included for the two West Nile Virus-associated deaths in 2010

West Nile Virus is endemic in Iowa and activity usually peaks in late summer and early fall. Local partners collect mosquitoes and maintain sentinel chicken flocks across the state. Iowa State University Medical Entomology monitors the levels of *Culex pipiens* and *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes (the primary vectors of WNV) statewide and the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) tests the mosquitoes to determine whether they are infected with West Nile virus or other arboviruses. SHL also tests the blood drawn from sentinel chickens weekly to determine whether they have been infected with West Nile virus or other arboviruses.

For additional West Nile Virus information, visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/WNV.aspx.