Iowa Department of Public Heath | Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology | West Nile Virus Website

All data presented in this report are provisional and may change as additional reports are received

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# West Nile Virus (WNV)

WNV is endemic in Iowa and activity usually peaks in late summer and early fall. IDPH works in collaboration with Local Public Health (LPH) and other appropriate partners to investigate all reported cases.

In 2021, six human cases were identified. Thus far in 2022, no human cases have been detected and one mosquito sample has tested positive for WNV [Table 1].

Table 1. Human /Equine/ Mosquito Surveillance, 2022 Positive Samples

	Mosquitoes			
		Blood		Culex
County	Human	Donor	Horse	restuans
Black Hawk	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	1

## **Mosquito Surveillance**

IDPH in collaboration with Iowa State University (ISU) and local public environmental health partners conducts ecological surveillance in 14 counties across the state by monitoring mosquitoes and testing for WNV infected populations.

Table 2. 2022 mosquitoes tested for West Nile virus

Species	# of Samples Tested	WNV Negative	WNV Positive
Cx. pipiens	1	1	0
Cx. pipiens group	2	2	0
Cx. tarsalis	4	4	0
Cx. restuans	85	84	1
Cx. erraticus	1	1	0
Cx. species	3	3	0
Total	96	95	1

### **Denaue Fever**

Dengue is a disease caused by any one of four related viruses, which are passed by the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* mosquito. Infection with one of the four viruses does not protect against the others and consecutive infections put people at greater risk of developing dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF).

Dengue is not found in Iowa. Cases are in travelers and immigrants returning from parts of the world where dengue transmission occurs. One case of dengue has been reported in Iowa, thus far in 2022. In 2021, two cases of dengue were reported to IDPH.

# Malaria

Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal disease caused by a parasite that commonly infects *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Malaria is spread to humans by the bite of the infected female mosquito. Only *Anopheles* mosquitoes can transmit malaria and they must have been infected through a previous blood meal taken from an infected person.

Two cases of malaria have been reported in Iowa. Cases are in travelers and immigrants returning from parts of the world where malaria transmission occurs. In 2021, 17 cases of malaria were reported to IDPH.



### **Anaplasmosis**

Anaplasmosis is a disease caused by the bacterium *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. *A. phagocytophilum* is transmitted by the bite of an infected blacklegged tick (or deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*) in Iowa.

Two cases of anaplasmosis have been reported in Iowa. In 2021, 14 cases of anaplasmosis were reported to IDPH.

#### **Ehrlichiosis**

There are three species of bacteria responsible for ehrlichiosis in the United States: *Ehrlichia chaffeensis, Ehrlichia ewingii,* and *Ehrlichia muris eauclairensis*. *E.chaffeensis* and *E. ewingii* are transmitted by the bite of an infected lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*), which is found in Iowa. The majority of all reported cases of ehrlichiosis are due to infection by *E. chaffeensis*.

One case of ehrlichiosis has been reported in Iowa. In 2021, 11 cases of ehrlichiosis were reported to IDPH.

### **Babesiosis**

Babesiosis is caused by microscopic parasites that infect red blood cells. Most human cases in the United States are caused by the parasite *Babesia microti*. *Babesia microti* is spread by the blacklegged tick (or deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*). The parasite typically is spread by the young nymph stage of the tick. They are most common during the warm months of spring and summer in areas with woods, brush, or grass.

Two cases of babesiosis have been reported in Iowa. In 2021, five case of babesiosis were reported to IDPH.

### Lyme

Lyme disease is caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi* and in Iowa is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected tick, the blacklegged tick (or deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*). Ticks are most likely to spread the Lyme disease bacterium during their preadult stage (nymph). They are most common between May and July and found in tall grasses and brush of wooded areas.

As of June 24th, 27 confirmed and probable cases of Lyme disease have been reported in Iowa [Figure 1]. In 2021, 356 cases of Lyme disease were reported to IDPH.

Lyon Osceola Dickinson Emmet Winnebago Worth Mitchell Howard Winnebago Sioux O'Brien Clay Palo Alto Clay Palo Alto Cerro Gordo Floyd Chickasaw Fayette Clayton

Piymouth Cherokee Buena Vista Pocahontas Humboldt Wright Franklin Butler Bremer Fayette Clayton

Weodbury Ida Sac Calhoun Hamilton Hardin Grundy Black Hawk Buchanan Delaware Dubuque 4

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 $Figure\ 1.\ 2022\ Lyme\ disease\ case\ count\ and\ incidence\ rate\ by\ county\ of\ residence.$ 



Lyme Rate per 100,000 population