



# 2020 Summary of West Nile Virus Equine Cases in the United States

January 1 – December 31, 2020

This report is a descriptive summary of U.S. equine West Nile virus (WNV) cases reported to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2020. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) branch collaborates with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and State veterinary and public health officials to facilitate communication about arbovirus disease cases in horses and confirm equine cases in each State. CDC collects arbovirus case information using its ArboNET reporting system, an electronic surveillance and reporting system for tracking and reporting arboviral activity in humans and animals. During the transmission season, VS disseminates the equine case information to State animal health officials for confirmation and posts the number of confirmed cases to the USDA WNV information web site (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/equine>). This site also provides specific case definitions. In this document, ‘reported cases’ of WNV may include presumptive positive and confirmed positive cases.

In 2020, **71** equine cases of WNV were reported from **19** States. Figure 1 shows the annual number of equine WNV cases reported in the United States from 2007 through 2020. Figure 2 shows the number of equine WNV cases in each State in 2020, and Table 1 provides the number of cases per county or parish in those States in 2020.

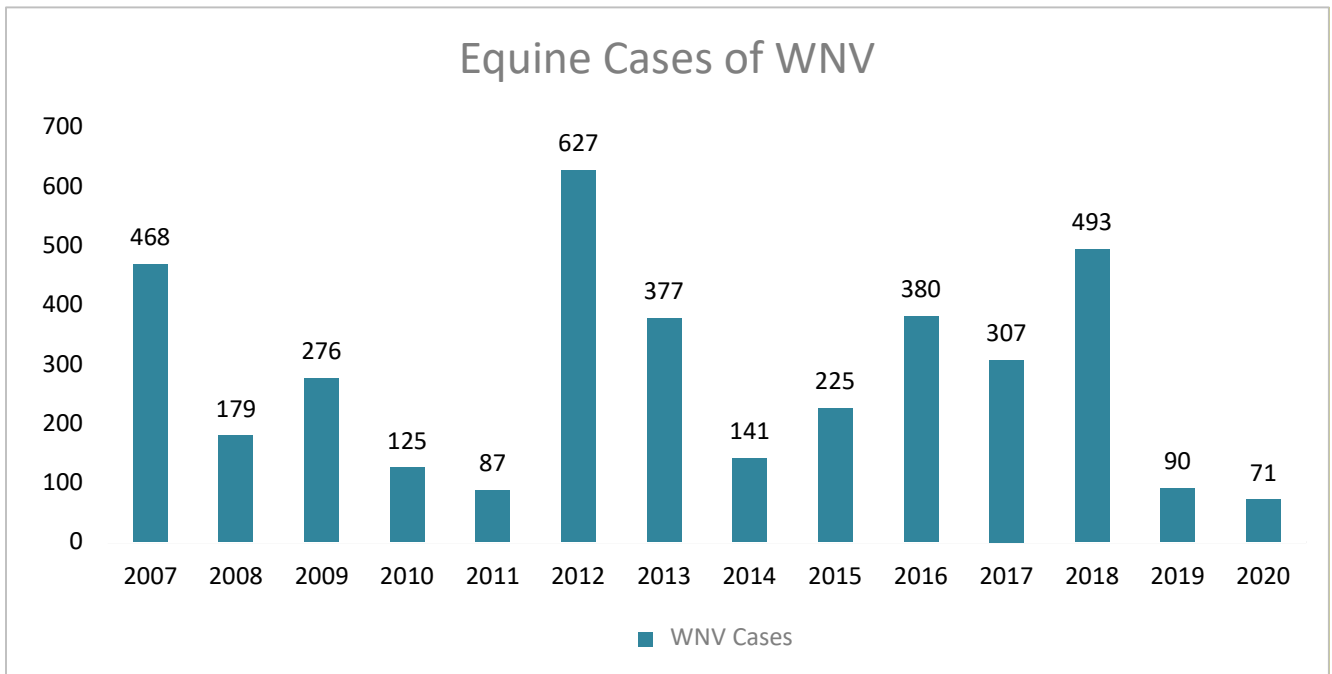


Figure 1. Reported U.S. equine cases of West Nile virus, 2007-2020

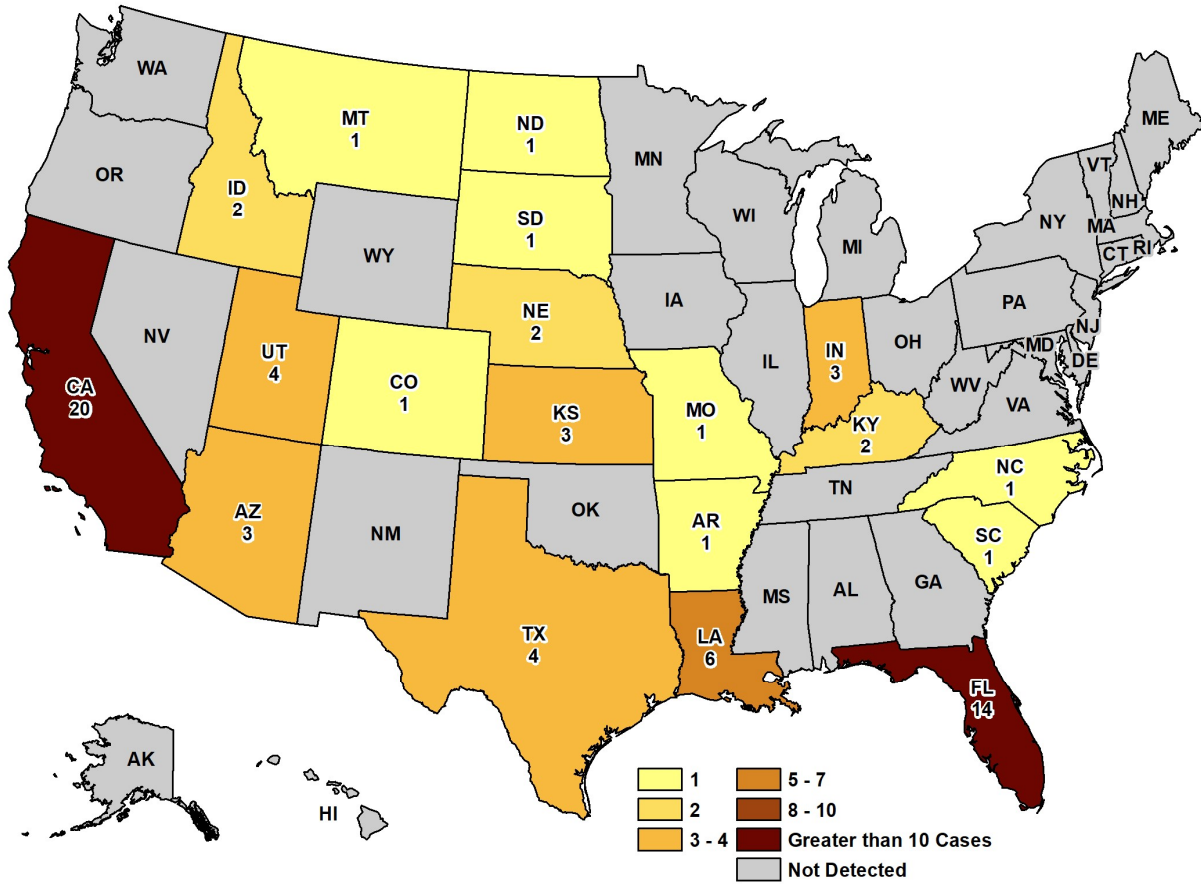


Figure 2. Distribution of reported equine WNV cases in 2020 (71 total cases)

Table 1. Number of reported equine WNV cases by State and county, 2020

State	County	West Nile Virus Reported Cases
Arizona	Maricopa County	1
	Pinal County	1
	Yavapai County	1
<b>Total cases for Arizona</b>		<b>3</b>
Arkansas	Newton County	1
<b>Total cases for Arkansas</b>		<b>1</b>
California	Amador County	2
	Butte County	1
	Glenn County	1
	Kings County	1
	Merced County	1
	Modoc County	1

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State	County	West Nile Virus Reported Cases
	Nevada County	1
	Riverside County	2
	Sacramento County	1
	San Bernardino County	1
	San Joaquin County	4
	Solano County	1
	Stanislaus County	3
<b>Total cases for California</b>		<b>20</b>
Colorado	Jefferson County	1
<b>Total cases for Colorado</b>		<b>1</b>
Florida	Broward County	1
	Collier County	1
	Hendry County	1
	Hillsborough County	1
	Holmes County	1
	Lake County	1
	Lee County	3
	Manatee County	1
	Okaloosa County	1
	Okeechobee County	1
	Palm Beach County	2
<b>Total cases for Florida</b>		<b>14</b>
Idaho	Canyon County	1
	Gooding County	1
<b>Total cases for Idaho</b>		<b>2</b>
Indiana	Delaware County	1
	Lagrange County	1
	La Porte County	1
<b>Total cases for Indiana</b>		<b>3</b>
Kansas	Douglas County	1
	Johnson County	1
	Sedgwick County	1
<b>Total cases for Kansas</b>		<b>3</b>
Kentucky	Madison County	1
	Washington County	1
<b>Total cases for Kentucky</b>		<b>2</b>
Louisiana	St. Tammany Parish	3

State	County	West Nile Virus Reported Cases
	Tangipahoa Parish	1
	Vermilion Parish	1
	Winn Parish	1
<b>Total cases for Louisiana</b>		<b>6</b>
Missouri	Vernon County	1
<b>Total cases for Missouri</b>		<b>1</b>
Montana	Rosebud County	1
<b>Total cases for Montana</b>		<b>1</b>
Nebraska	Holt County	1
	Wayne County	1
<b>Total cases for Nebraska</b>		<b>2</b>
North Carolina	Camden County	1
<b>Total for North Carolina</b>		<b>1</b>
North Dakota	Mountrail County	1
<b>Total cases for North Dakota</b>		<b>1</b>
South Carolina	Charleston County	1
<b>Total cases for South Carolina</b>		<b>1</b>
South Dakota	Pennington County	1
<b>Total cases for South Dakota</b>		<b>1</b>
Texas	Erath County	1
	Hardeman County	1
	Jones County	1
	Taylor County	1
<b>Total cases for Texas</b>		<b>4</b>
Utah	Utah County	2
	Weber County	2
<b>Total cases for Utah</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Total Reported West Nile Virus Equine Cases for the United States</b>		<b>71</b>

WNV can be a deadly disease in equids, with mortality occurring in roughly 33 percent of all infected animals. Furthermore, up to 40 percent of affected equids may still exhibit neurological signs as long as 6 months after diagnosis.<sup>1</sup> This susceptibility to the virus makes equids a recognized WNV sentinel species for the human population. The main public health purpose of confirming and reporting equine WNV cases is to inform human surveillance efforts. Because equine commercial vaccines are available and convey good protection against WNV infection, reported cases of WNV in equids tend to be in unvaccinated or under-vaccinated animals.

1. "Core Vaccination Guidelines: West Nile Virus." *American Association of Equine Practitioners*, <https://aaep.org/guidelines/vaccination-guidelines/core-vaccination-guidelines/west-nile-virus>. Accessed 9 April 2021.