



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

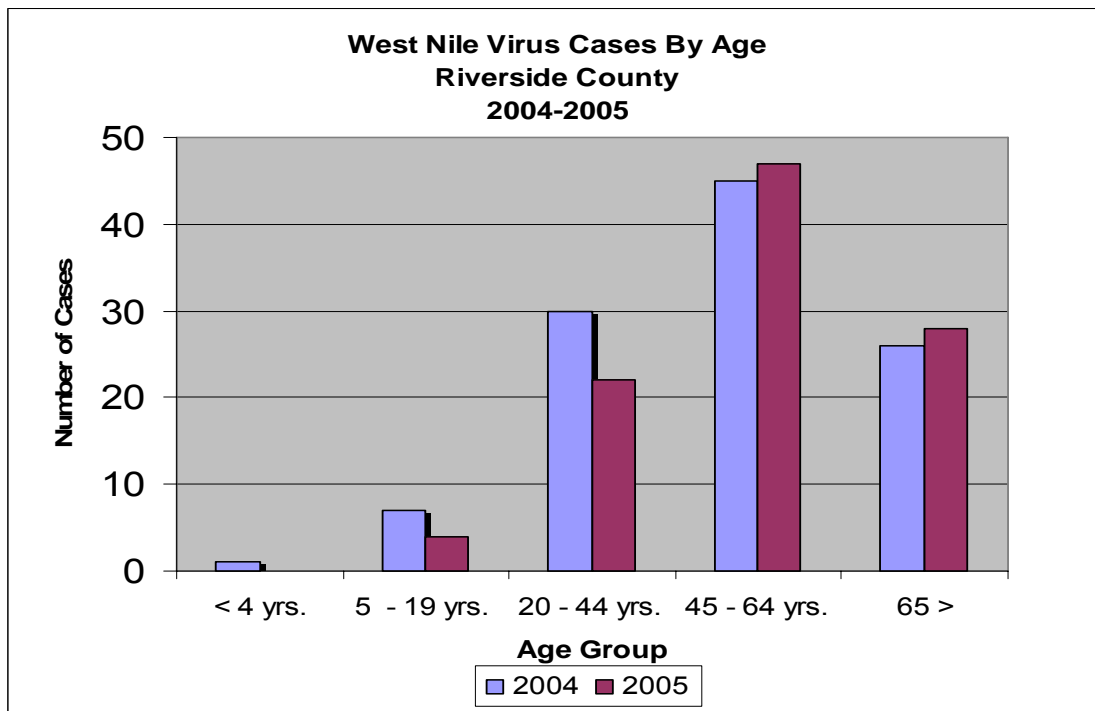
COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY ■ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ■
DISEASE CONTROL BRANCH

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WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY FOR 2005

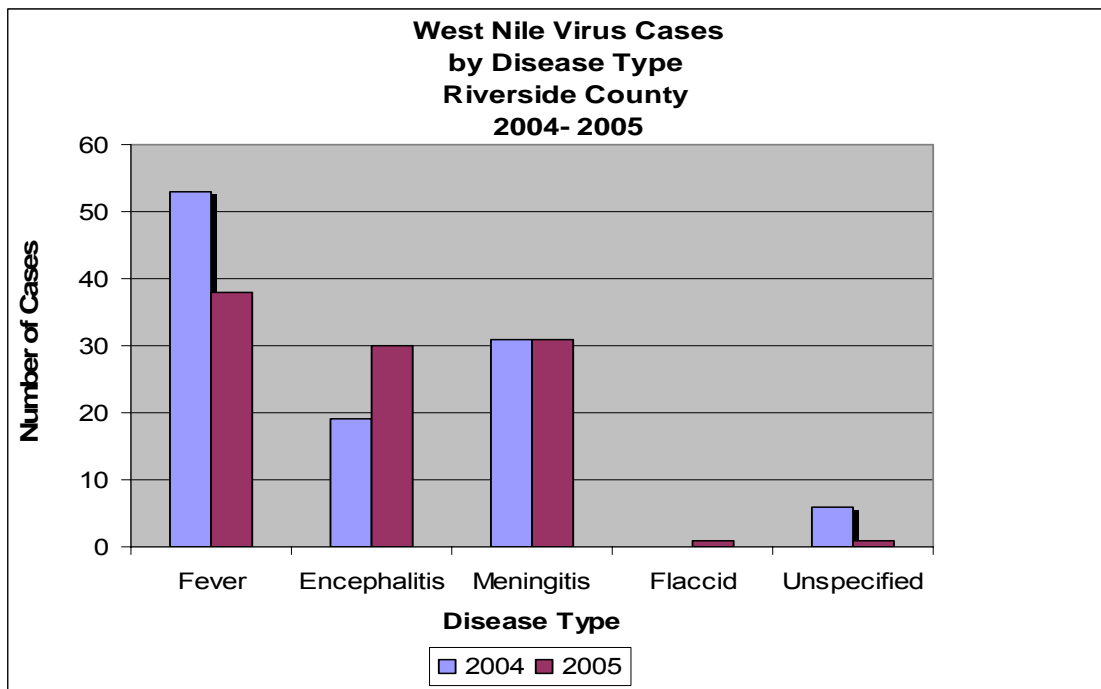
One hundred and three human West Nile Virus cases were reported in Riverside County in 2005. This is a slight decrease compared to the one hundred and nine cases which were reported in 2004. A limited number of positive asymptomatic blood donors were reported with seven cases in 2004, and one case in 2005. Positive blood donors who become symptomatic are counted as cases.

A review of cases by age indicates that the highest number of cases occurred in the 45-64 age group, followed by 65 years and older. Seventy-one percent (71%) of the cases were male.



The geographic distribution of human West Nile Virus (WNV) cases reflects the highest number of cases (29%) in the Moreno Valley and Perris areas. Twenty-five percent of the cases occurred in the Hemet and San Jacinto area and surrounding communities; 5 cases were reported from the Coachella Valley, which is similar to 2004. A significant decrease in the number of cases was seen in 2005 in the communities of Riverside and Corona.

An increased number of individuals with neuroinvasive disease were reported in 2005 compared to 2004, with 55% and 43% respectively. Five cases of encephalitis were fatal. These individuals were 70 years of age or older and had underlying health problems.



Even though the 2005 West Nile Virus (WNV) season has come to a close, it is important for clinicians to still be alert for patients presenting with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis or prolonged fever. Although the case rate (5.56) in 2005 for Riverside County did not decrease as dramatically as other Southern California Counties, it was lower than the 2004 case rate of 7.2 per 100,000. It will be important to maintain surveillance for West Nile Virus activity in 2006.

Please continue to report encephalitis and meningitis cases to Disease Control at (951) 358-5107 or fax to (951) 358-5102. Reporting by clinicians, hospitals and laboratories has greatly enhanced surveillance efforts by Public Health as we monitor the course of West Nile Virus infection.