



EID Weekly Updates:

Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

Vol. 1, No. 14—9 October 2003

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Update on Yellow Fever in Latin America

Since 10 September 2003 to date, 25 new laboratory-confirmed cases have been reported to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The cumulative number of cases this year is 209, with 96 deaths. This is the highest number of cases reported in the Region since 1998.

The countries that have reported new cases are Peru (7), Colombia (3) and Venezuela (15). The outbreak on the Colombian-Venezuelan border is still active despite the mass vaccination efforts being carried out in affected areas.

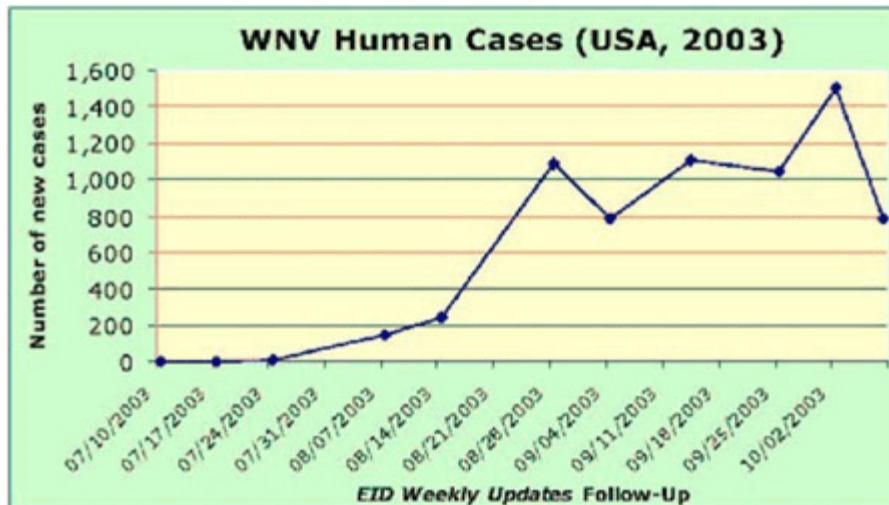
Source: Ministry of Health of the respective countries.

**Table 1: Jungle Yellow Fever,
Reported Cases and Deaths**
(by country, Region of the Americas,
as of
9 October 2003)

Country	Cases	Deaths
Bolivia	6	4
Brazil	62	23
Colombia	91	42
Peru	22	13
Venezuela	28	14
Total	209	96

Source: Reports to PAHO from the Ministry of Health of the respective countries.

Update on West Nile Virus (WNV) in the Americas



United States, 9 October 2003: Since the first human case of WNV was detected on 9 July 2003, 6,613 human cases and 139 deaths have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of

the United States (CDC). The number of new cases reported for this week is 792, though most cases occurred during August and September (see graph to the left). Even though cases are continuously being reported, cooler weather has decreased the mosquito population. This year, 42 of the 50 states have reported human cases. The District of Columbia reported its first four human cases this week. Three states have detected viral activity in animals or mosquitoes, though no human cases have been detected to date. The most affected state continues to be Colorado, with 2,090 human cases and 38 deaths. For more information, see the [CDC West Nile Virus page](#).

Source: Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases: West Nile Virus, Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), USA.

Canada: Up to 7 September, 276 human cases were confirmed (236 in Alberta, 19 in Saskatchewan and 14 in Manitoba), with 9 deaths. There are currently 860 cases under study. Five provinces have reported probable cases of native origin: Québec, Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba; up to 8 October, these same five provinces detected viral activity in horses and birds. For more information, see the Health Canada West Nile Virus Surveillance Information page: [English](#) | [français](#).

Source: West Nile Virus Surveillance Information, Health Canada.

Mexico: Up to 2 October, 480 persons were serologically tested in 20 states. Four people have shown positive results, 3 in Chihuahua and one in Sonora. Out of 20 states, 15 have detected equine WNV activity. The states with the highest equine WNV infection rates are Chiapas (61%), Quintana Roo (59%), and Jalisco (57%). Eight states have carried out testing for the detection of WNV in birds, five of which have detected viral activity. Tabasco is the state with the highest WNV infection rate (9%). For more information, see the [WNV page](#) of the Program of Action for Vector-Borne Disease Prevention and Control, Secretary of Health, Mexico.

Source: Programa de Acción para la Prevención y Control de las Enfermedades Transmitidas por Vector, Secretaría de Salud, México (Action Program for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases, Secretary of Health, Mexico).

Additional note: Besides the United States, Canada, and Mexico, there has been native circulation of WNV in

- *El Salvador* (horses, 2003),
- the *Dominican Republic* and *Jamaica* (birds, 2002–2003), and
- *Guadeloupe* (horses and birds, 2002–2003).