

# WEST NILE IN MONTANA

## WHAT IS WEST NILE?

West Nile Fever is an illness caused by West Nile virus (WNV)



do not develop symptoms



develop symptoms including fever, headache, body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash



develop severe neurologic disease

## HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED?



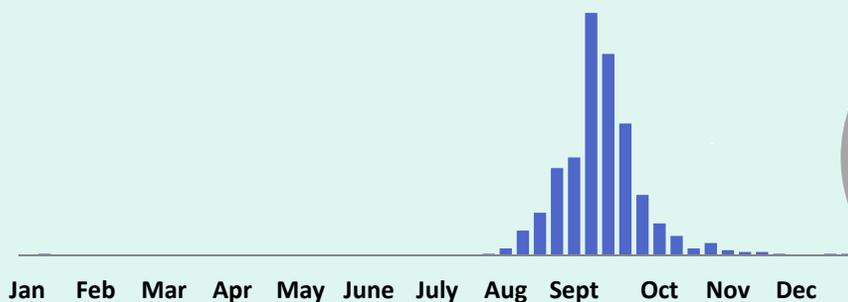
transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito



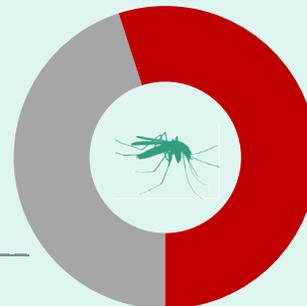
Infects birds, horses, and humans

Since WNV was first reported in Montana in 2002: **555** cases **11** deaths

## WHEN IS IT COMMON?



## WHO IS AT RISK?



Anyone who lives in an area where WNV is present can be infected.

The most common age group is 40-59 years

## HOW DO I PREVENT IT?

Follow the 4 D's of WNV prevention in order to reduce the likelihood of disease transmission while sharing space in environments with mosquitoes.



**Dusk / Dawn:** Mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus usually bite at dusk and dawn. Avoid outdoor activity at dusk and dawn if possible. If you must be outside, be sure to protect yourself from bites.



**Dress:** Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants to reduce the amount of exposed skin.



**DEET:** Cover exposed skin with a repellent containing the chemical DEET, which is the most effective against mosquito bites.



**Drain:** Empty any containers holding standing water, because they can be excellent breeding grounds for virus-carrying mosquitoes.