

WEE Signs and Symptoms

Disease Symptoms appear 7 to 21 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Infants and children are more susceptible to acute encephalitis symptoms than adults. A WEE infection may result in:

- ◇ **No symptoms**
 - most cases are mild
- ◇ **Flu-like symptoms**
 - headache, fever (101—106 F), nausea and vomiting
 - lasts 5 to 10 days
- ◇ **Meningitis-like symptoms**
 - severe headache, stiff neck
 - lasts 3 to 10 days
- ◇ **Encephalitis**
 - inflammation of brain
 - 1% of cases
 - delirium, stupor, convulsion, coma
 - lasts 14 to 21 days

Effects of Encephalitis

Acute encephalitis can cause:

- mental retardation
- motor impairment
- 2.5 - 10 % of these cases result in death

Medical Treatment

At present no vaccine is available to protect humans from WEE infections. Once infected with the virus, symptoms are treated to minimize serious impacts that encephalitis can have. WEE infections can only be diagnosed by blood tests.

WEE and Horses

Horses also suffer ill effects from WEE. Permanent neurological damage and death are the most serious consequences. In 1930 a major encephalomyelitis outbreak occurred in horses in the San Joaquin Valley of California. As the virus was first found in horses, it was given the name Western Equine Encephalitis. By 1938, a vaccine had been developed to protect horses. In subsequent years, the disease has been detected

Protection from Mosquito Bites

- ◇ Reduce outdoor activities during peak feeding periods (1 to 2 hours after dark)
- ◇ Wear long pants and sleeves
- ◇ Apply insect repellent
- ◇ Check and repair door and window screens for tears or other openings

For more information about mosquitoes and the diseases they can transmit contact your local mosquito control district or health department.

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WESTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS



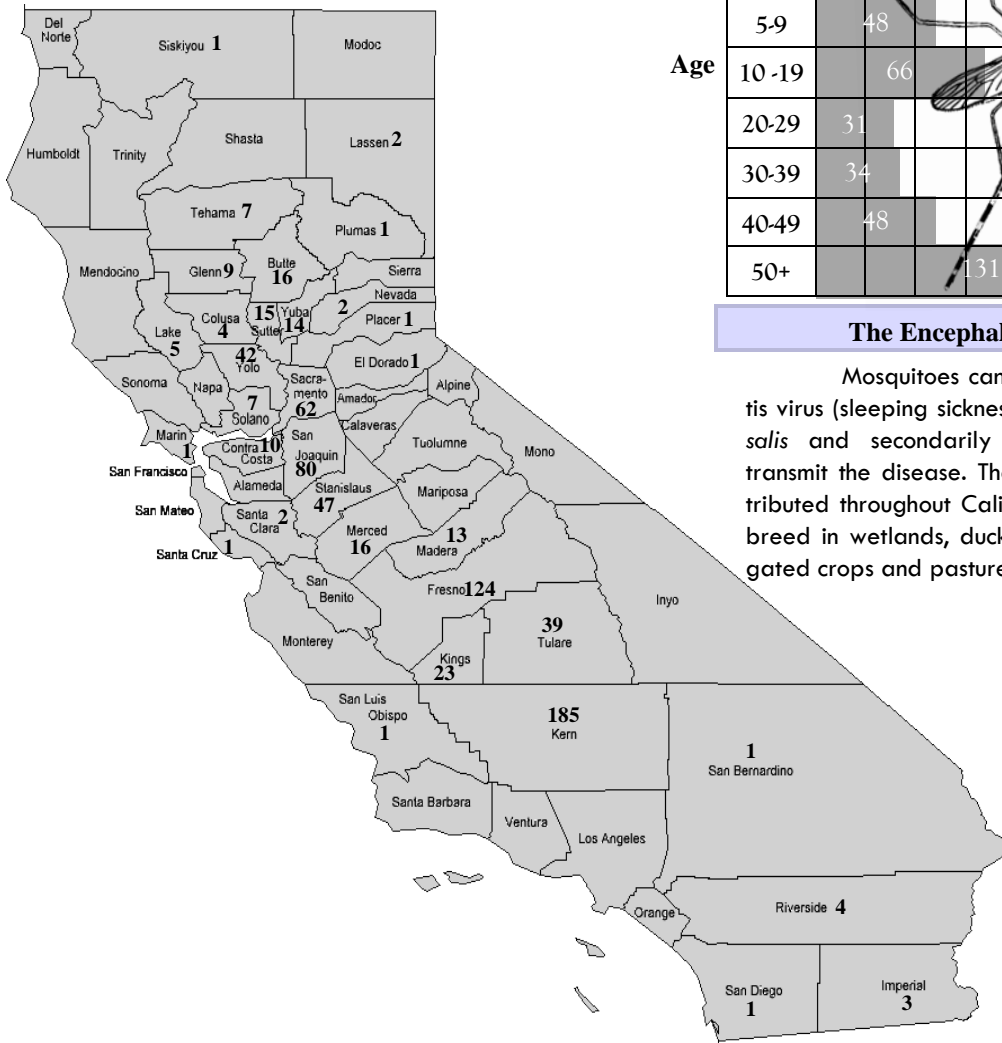
Sutter-Yuba Mosquito &
Vector Control District

General Information

Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) is a mosquito-borne virus. Humans become infected with WEE virus through the bite of a mosquito and can develop encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). Encephalitis is commonly called sleeping sickness.

WEE Cases 1945-2005

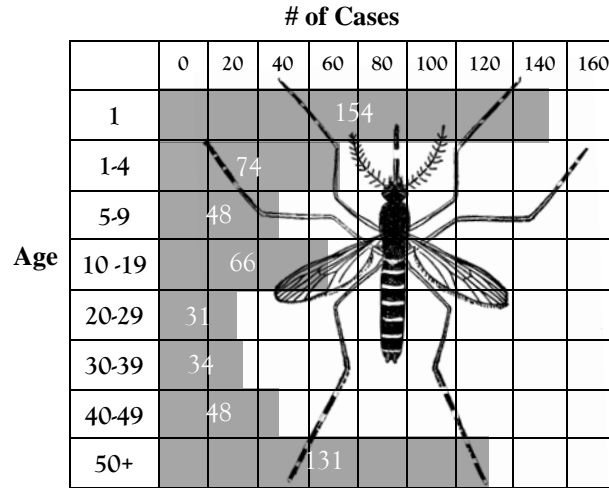
State of California by County



Age Groups

All age groups are susceptible to WEE. More cases occur among infants and elderly people than in any other group.

California WEE Cases by Age 1945 –2005



The Encephalitis Mosquito

Mosquitoes can transmit the encephalitis virus (sleeping sickness) to humans. *Culex tarsalis* and secondarily *Aedes melanimon* can transmit the disease. These mosquitoes are distributed throughout California. Immature stages breed in wetlands, duck clubs, rice fields, irrigated crops and pastureland.

When Cases Occur

Most WEE cases begin during the summer months of July and August.

January 0 Cases	February 0 Cases	March 0 Cases
April 0 Cases	May 1 Case	June 47 Cases
July 333 Cases	August 248 Cases	September 90 Cases
October 10 Cases	November 0 Cases	December 0 Cases

Transmission Cycle

Culex tarsalis, the encephalitis mosquito, is the primary vector of western equine virus in the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Imperial valleys of California. Encephalitis mosquitoes become infected while feeding on birds that harbor the virus. They can transmit the virus to other animals.

