

Zoonotic diseases are diseases that can be spread between animals and humans. Zoonotic diseases can be caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi through coming into contact with infected animals, being bitten by ticks or mosquitoes, or eating or drinking something unsafe (e.g. unpasteurized milk, undercooked meat, or unwashed fruits and vegetables that have been contaminated).*

Table 1 shows the number of cases of select zoonotic viral diseases reported in Sacramento County for the five year period 2012-2016. In 2016, a total of 25 West Nile Virus (WNV) infections were reported, a 13.8% decrease from 2012 but a two-and-a-half-fold increase from the 2013-2015 three-year average. Of the 25 WNV infections, 22 (88.0%) were neuroinvasive cases compared to 19 (65.5%) in 2012. Zika Virus infections became reportable in 2016, with seven travel-associated cases reported.

Table 2 shows the number of cases of select zoonotic bacterial diseases reported in Sacramento County during the same time period. Twelve bacterial zoonotic diseases were reported in 2016 compared to four in 2012, a three-fold increase. Most notably, the highest number of Lyme disease cases was reported in 2016, with nine cases compared to three cases in 2012, which is also a three-fold increase. One anaplasmosis case was also reported in 2016.

Table 3 shows the number of cases of select zoonotic parasitic diseases reported in Sacramento County during the same time period. Only cases of malaria were reported, with eight cases reported in 2016 compared to five cases in 2012, which is a 60% increase.

Note: Data is provisional. Counts may be influenced by surveillance artifacts (e.g. changes in case definitions, implementation/expansion of electronic laboratory reporting, and increased awareness) and outbreaks.

Table 1. Select Zoonotic Viral Diseases, Sacramento County, 2012-2016

Disease	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Chikungunya ¹	0	0	0	1	0
Dengue ³	4	2	3	6	6
Hantavirus infections ¹	0	0	0	0	0
Rabies, human ¹	0	0	0	0	0
West Nile Virus Infection ²	29	13	12	5	25
<i>Neuroinvasive Disease</i>	19	8	11	3	22
<i>Non-Neuroinvasive Disease</i>	10	5	1	2	3
Yellow Fever ²	0	0	0	0	0
Zika Virus Infection ²					7
Total	33	15	15	12	38

Note: Zika Virus infections became reportable in 2016. All Chikungunya, Dengue, and Zika Virus cases were all associated with travel outside of the country.

Table 2. Select Zoonotic Bacterial Diseases, Sacramento County, 2012-2016

Disease	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Anaplasmosis/Ehrlichiosis ²	0	0	0	0	1
Brucellosis, human ²	1	0	0	0	2
Leptospirosis ¹	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Disease ³	3	0	3	5	9
Plague, human ³	0	0	0	0	0
Relapsing Fever ¹	0	0	1	0	0
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever ¹	0	0	0	0	0
Tularemia, human ²	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	0	4	5	12

Table 3. Select Zoonotic Parasitic Diseases, Sacramento County, 2012-2016

Disease	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Babesiosis ²	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria ⁴	5	2	7	6	8
Total	5	2	7	6	8

¹Includes confirmed cases

³Includes confirmed, probable, and suspect cases

²Includes confirmed and probable cases

⁴Includes confirmed and suspect cases

Protect yourself and your family from zoonotic diseases by performing good hand hygiene, handling food safely, prevent getting bitten by mosquitoes and ticks, and being aware of zoonotic diseases both at home and when traveling.*

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013). One Health: Zoonotic Diseases. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/zoonotic-diseases.html>