

Zoonotic diseases are spread between animals and humans. They can be caused by bacteria, viruses, and parasites through contact with infected animals, tick or mosquito bites, or eating or drinking something unsafe (e.g. unpasteurized milk, undercooked meat, or unwashed fruits and vegetables that have been contaminated). This report provides statistics on zoonotic diseases reported in Sacramento County for the years 2017 through 2021.

In Sacramento County, the total number of cases reported to have viral-related zoonotic diseases in 2021 decreased by 43.8% compared to the three-year average between 2017 and 2019 [Table 1]. In 2021, the number of dengue virus cases decreased by 50.0% and West Nile virus cases decreased by 25.0% compared to three-year average.

Bacterial-related zoonotic disease cases decreased by 37.5% in 2021 compared to the three year-average [Table 2]. There were no cases of Lyme disease reported in 2021 compared to an average of three cases between 2017 and 2019. Q fever cases doubled in 2021 with four cases compared to the three-year average of two cases.

Parasitic-related zoonotic disease cases decreased by 46.2% in 2021 compared to the three-year average [Table 3]. Malaria accounted for all parasitic-related zoonotic disease cases in 2021 with seven cases, a 41.7% decrease compared to the three-year average.

Data Source: California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE)

Notes: Data are provisional. Counts may be influenced by surveillance artifacts and outbreaks. Cases may be lower in 2020 and 2021 due to measures implemented to control COVID-19. Cases are classified according to the most recent case definitions as published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. Case definitions were updated for the following diseases in the year indicated: Lyme disease (2017) and tularemia (2017).

Table 1. Number of Cases with Viral Zoonotic Diseases, Sacramento County, 2017-2021

| Disease | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Chikungunya ² | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dengue ² | 6 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 3 |
| Hantavirus Infections ¹ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rabies, human ¹ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Nile virus ² | 7 | 14 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| <i>Neuroinvasive</i> | 2 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| <i>Non-Neuroinvasive</i> | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Yellow Fever ² | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Zika Virus Infection ² | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 15 | 18 | 16 | 8 | 9 |

Table 2. Number of Cases with Bacterial Zoonotic Diseases, Sacramento County, 2017-2021

| Disease | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Anaplasmosis/Ehrlichiosis ² | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Brucellosis, human ² | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Leptospirosis ² | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Lyme Disease ² | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| Q Fever ² | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Plague, human ² | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Relapsing Fever ² | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever ² | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tularemia, human ² | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 7 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 5 |

Table 3. Number of Cases with Parasitic Zoonotic Diseases, Sacramento County, 2017-2021

| Disease | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Babesiosis ² | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Malaria ² | 12 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 7 |
| Total | 12 | 14 | 12 | 7 | 7 |

¹Includes confirmed cases

²Includes confirmed and probable cases