



STATE OF MOSQUITO CONTROL IN CALIFORNIA

California mosquito and vector control districts remain vigilant in protecting residents from mosquito-transmitted diseases. Despite this ongoing commitment to safeguarding public health, mosquito districts throughout the state face mounting challenges year after year.



Locally-Transmitted Dengue in California

In 2023, for the first time in California, there were cases of locally transmitted dengue. In 2024, there were 18 locally-acquired dengue infections reported in California and this number is expected to grow as more cases are reported. Dengue is transmitted by invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes which continue to spread throughout the state and are now in 24 counties. While there have been travel-associated cases of dengue in California, local transmission is now a new reality that mosquito districts have to contend with.



Invasive Mosquitoes Exacerbate Public Health Risks

Warming temperatures facilitate the spread of invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes which are difficult to control with traditional mosquito control methods. These mosquitoes pose a significant public health threat because of their ability to transmit several diseases like Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever. Malaria is also a public health threat because, for the first time since 2003, locally acquired cases of malaria were reported in 2023 in Florida, Texas, Maryland, and Arkansas.



Financial Constraints Squeezing Mosquito Districts

Surveillance and treatment for invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes are very expensive and labor-intensive, and mosquito and vector control districts throughout the state are saddled with skyrocketing costs. While mosquito and vector control districts maintain reserves, some districts with invasive *Aedes* activity spend a significant portion of their budget to control the spread of invasive mosquitoes and protect public health.



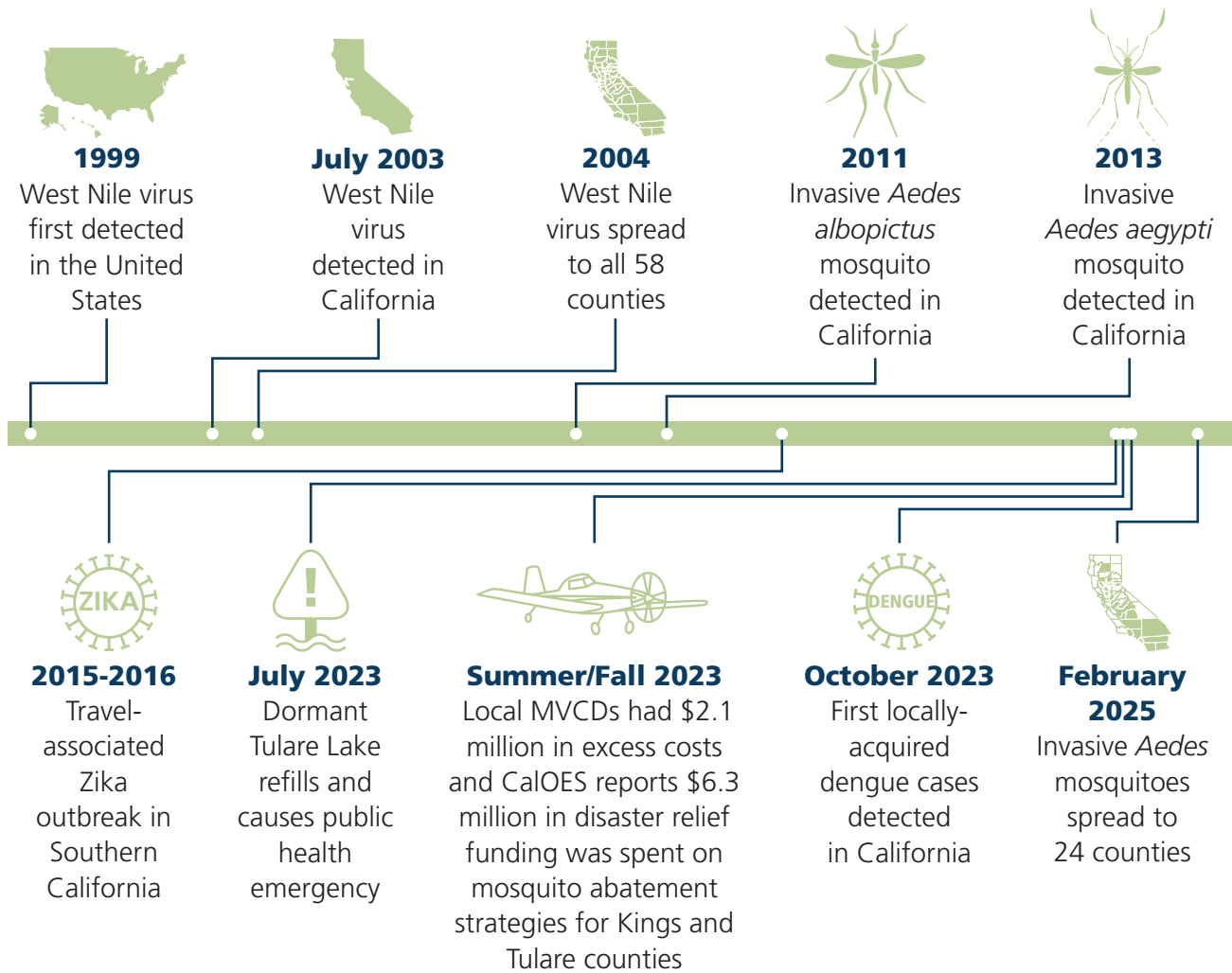
Continued West Nile Virus Threat

West Nile virus is endemic in California. Our state had very high West Nile virus activity in 2023 (402 human cases, 17 were fatal). Fortunately, there were fewer cases in 2024 with 127 human cases reported, 12 of which were fatal. There have been more than 8,000 human cases and nearly 400 deaths reported in California since 2003.



Timeline of Important Mosquito and Vector Control News

Over 100 years ago, in 1915, the state enacted legislation (the Mosquito Abatement Act) to combat mosquito threats in California. The threats continue to grow and California mosquito and vector control districts are on the front lines protecting public health.



What's Next for Mosquito Control in California?

Climate change is creating weather whiplash that facilitates the spread of invasive mosquitoes and intensifies the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases. Mosquito and vector control districts throughout the state are preparing for this new normal but anticipate that state funding and assistance will be needed to keep pace with increasing mosquito-related public health threats. We look forward to partnering with the state to ensure that we can respond to public health emergencies and keep residents throughout California protected.