

West Nile Virus



Presented by:

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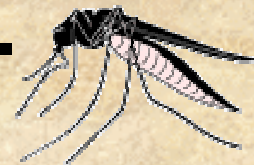
April 14, 2003

West Nile Virus Update

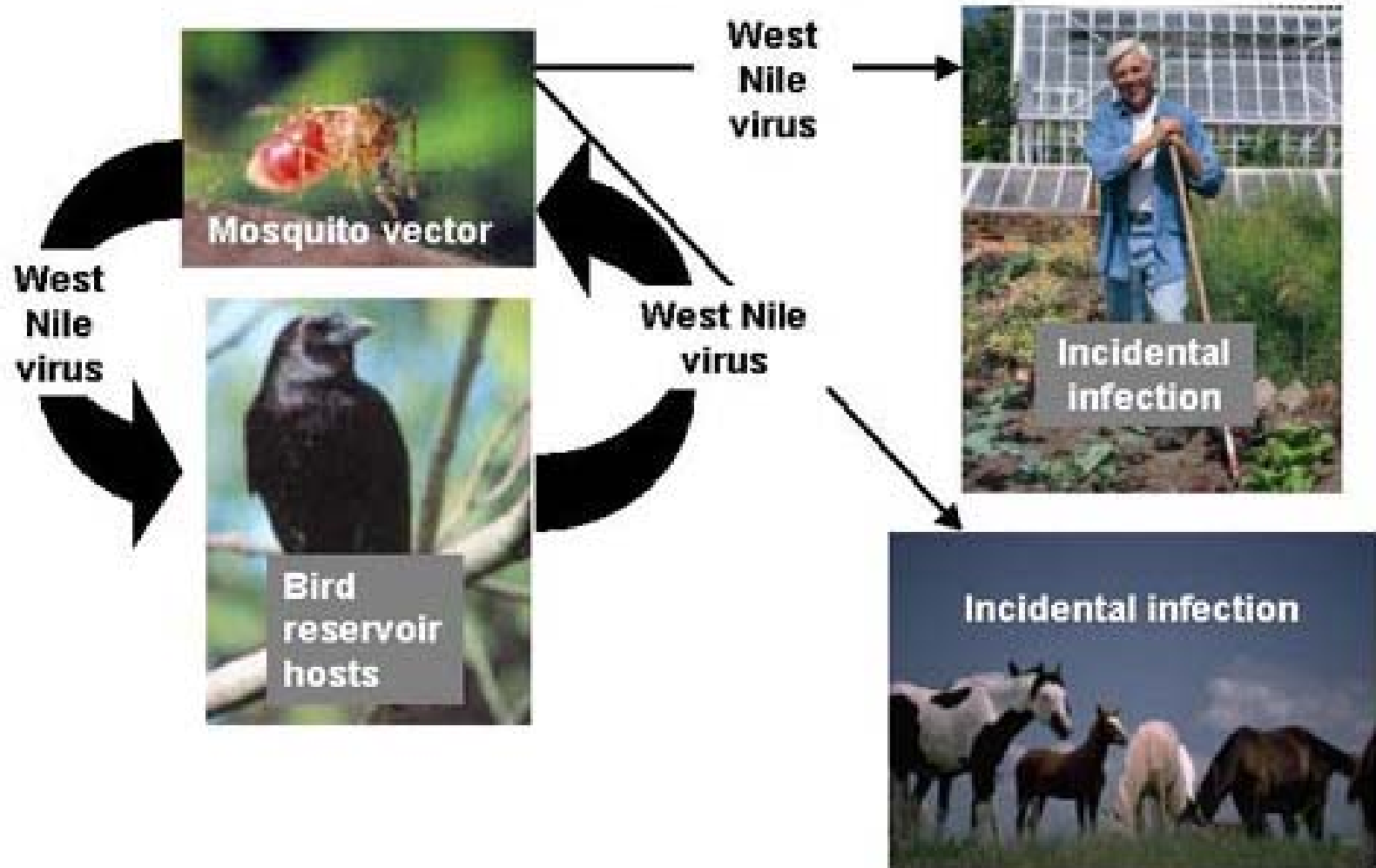
- **What is West Nile Virus?**
- **Where is it found?**
- **What is being done by government agencies?**
- **What can individuals do to help themselves?**

What is West Nile Virus (WNV)?

- It is a virus that can cause West Nile Fever and a range of illnesses from flu-like symptoms to encephalitis and meningitis.
- WNV is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito.



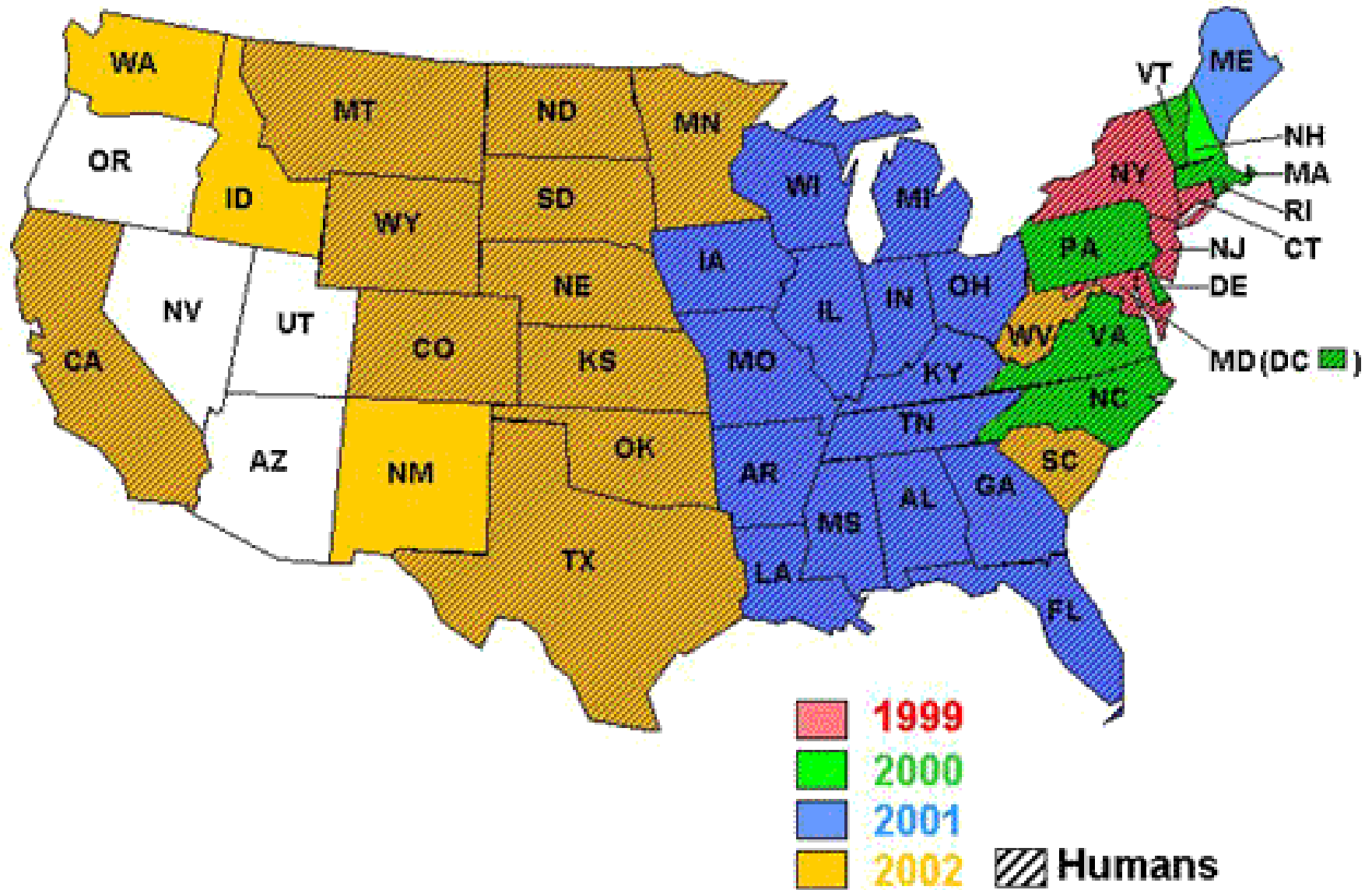
West Nile Virus Transmission Cycle



Where is it found?

- **1937 - Identified in West Nile district of Uganda**
- **Until 1999 - Found only in Eastern Hemisphere**
- **September 1999 - identified in New York State**
- **Since 1999 - spreading westward across North America**

West Nile Virus in the United States, 1999 - 2002



What is the risk of infection by WNV?

- **Most people infected with WNV will not exhibit any symptoms.**
- **~ 20% of those infected will develop mild flu-like symptoms lasting a week or less.**
 - **Fever, headache, body aches, rash on trunk of body, swollen lymph glands**
- **Even in WNV areas, <<1% of mosquitoes are infected.**
- **Of people bitten and infected by WNV-carrying mosquitoes, <1% will get severely ill, including meningitis or encephalitis.**

How to tell if a mosquito bite is serious

- **Fraser Health Authority identified the following symptoms:**
 - **Fever**
 - **Muscle weakness**
 - **Stiff neck**
 - **Confusion**
 - **Severe headache**
 - **Sudden sensitivity to light**
 - **Extreme swelling or infection at the site of the mosquito bite**

What is being done by government agencies?

BC Centre for Disease Control

www.bccdc.org

- **Lead agency for information to:**
 - **Health care providers**
 - **Public**
 - **Overall response plan**

What is being done by government agencies?

Fraser Health Authority

www.fraserhealth.ca

- **Local health issues**
- **Public information**
- **Monitoring and testing for dead
crows**
- **Coordination with municipalities**

What is being done by government agencies?

The Corporation of Delta

www.corp.delta.bc.ca

- **Mosquito Control Program**
- **Coordinate activities with FHA**
- **Public information**

What can individuals do to help themselves?

- **Eliminate standing water around the home:**

- flower pots
- plastic containers
- old tires
- shallow pools



What can individuals do to help themselves?

- **Change water in bird baths**
- **Don't block up frontage ditches**
- **Screens on windows**
- **Use insect repellent**
- **Wear long-sleeved shirts and full-length pants outdoors, when mosquitoes most active (dusk to dawn)**