

Dengue fever

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection. It is caused by a *Flavivirus* (the same genus as West Nile and yellow fever viruses); there are four serotypes identified as DENV 1–4. The disease is limited primarily to the tropics and sub-tropics although occasionally, imported cases occur.

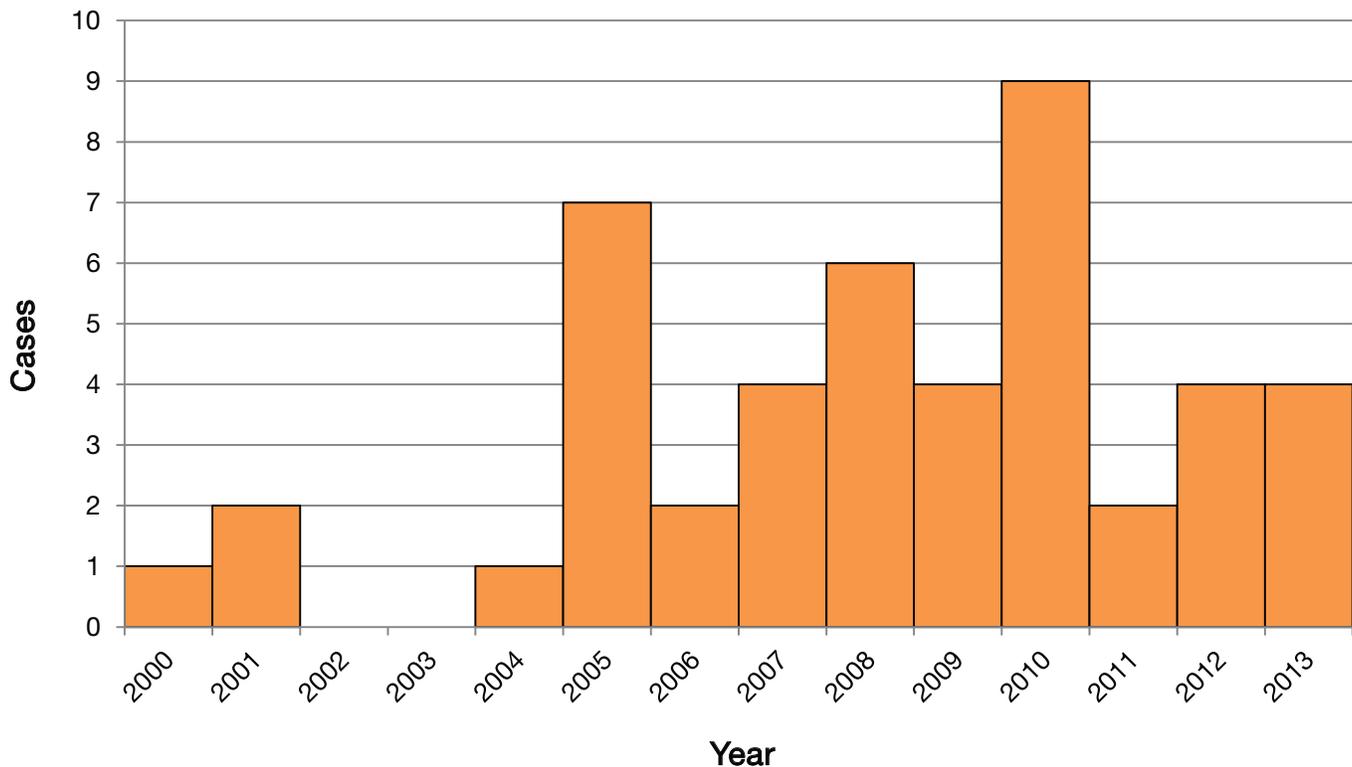
Symptom severity ranges from subclinical, asymptomatic infections (the norm) to high fever, headache, muscle aches, and rash. A subset of patients may develop hemorrhagic

fever, with bleeding and shock. Treatment for dengue is supportive. There is, alas, no vaccine as yet that protects against dengue fever.

We don't have evidence of transmission here in Oregon. The typical vectors, *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti*, are not native to Oregon, although there have been some reports of the former getting a foothold in California.

Four cases in Oregon residents were reported in 2013. All had a history of recent travel, two to Central America and two to Asia.

Dengue infection by year: Oregon, 2000–2013



Prevention

Primary prevention measures are geared to avoiding mosquito bites when visiting areas where dengue is circulating:

- Use mosquito repellent.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, shoes and socks when out and about.
- Avoid outdoor activities at dawn, dusk, and early evening, when more mosquitoes are out.
- Check screens on doors and windows where you're staying to make sure they're intact.
- Sleep under a treated mosquito net when nighttime exposure to mosquitoes could occur.
- Additionally, persons acutely ill with dengue should avoid exposure to domestic mosquitoes. (We don't want to find out the hard way that local species can harbor and transmit the virus, after all.)