

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) Colorado Surveillance Report 12/31/2014

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a disease caused by Sin Nombre Virus (SNV) that was discovered in 1993 after an outbreak of an unexplained pulmonary illness occurred in the southwestern United States, in an area shared by Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah known as "The Four Corners". Sin Nombre Virus is one of several hantaviruses circulating in the US.

The deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) is the main host but tests also show that several other types of rodents are infected, although in lesser numbers. To date, no cases of HPS have been reported in the United States in which the virus was transmitted person-to-person.

Hantavirus begins one to six weeks (average 2 weeks) after exposure to infected rodents or their excreta (urine, droppings, or saliva). Although not all patients will give a history of rodent exposure, reports of increases in mouse populations around their residence or exposure to mice infested buildings are common among Hantavirus patients. Patients experience fever, chills and severe pain in the legs and back, persisting for 1 to 7 days before progression to the cardiopulmonary phase. Approximately 50% of patients also experience nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

The number of confirmed cases of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) in Colorado during the 2014 season was six from the following six counties: Adams (1), Costilla (1), Eagle (1), Garfield (1), Mesa (1), and Rio Grande (1). Of these, 3 (50%) were fatal. Since 1993, 89 cases of Hantavirus have been identified in Colorado (image 1). Of these, 33 (37%) have been fatal (image 2).

Image 1

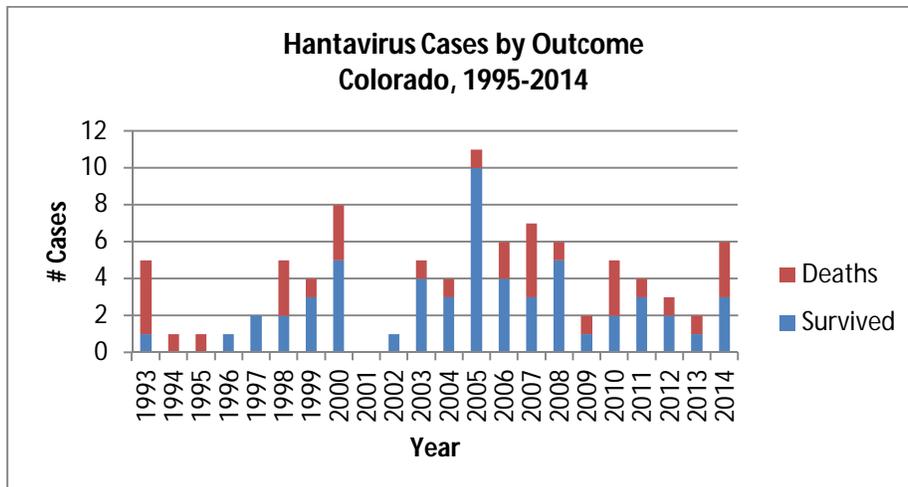
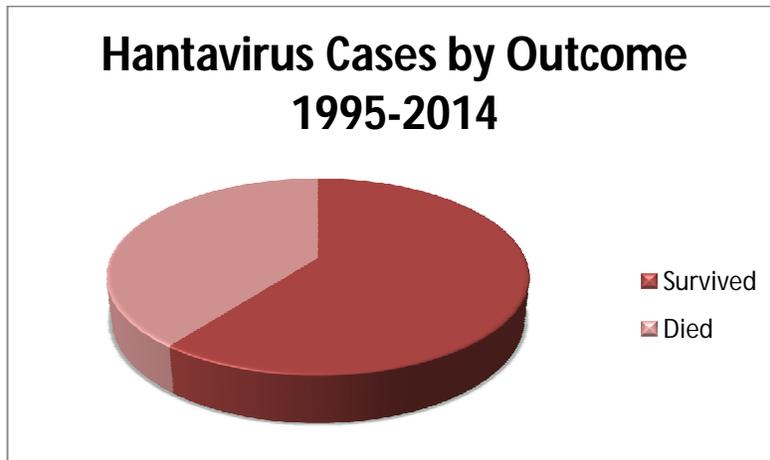


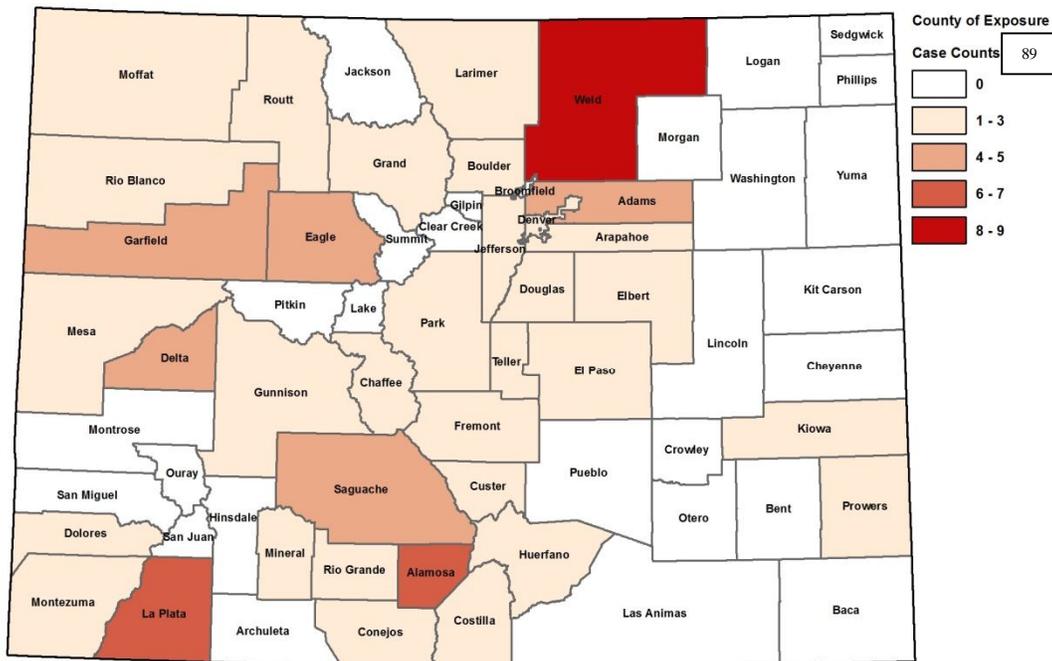
Image 2



Since the deer mouse often lives near people in rural and semi-rural areas—in barns and outbuildings, woodpiles, and inside people's homes—it is no surprise that nearly all rural areas of Colorado have reported human cases (image 3).

Image 3

Hantavirus Cases by Exposure County*, 1993-2014



*8 cases with unknown exposure county, and 3 cases with out of state exposure

Rodent control in and around the home remains the primary strategy for preventing hantavirus infection. All cases of Hantavirus infection are reported to the CDPHE.

For consultation on suspected cases of HPS, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) can be contacted at **303-692-2700** (regular business hours) or **303-370-9395** (after hours, weekends and holidays). The Virology Laboratory at can be reached at **303-692-3485**.

Additional information on Hantavirus and Colorado surveillance data is available at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/hantavirus>
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also maintains a comprehensive educational website at <http://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/>