



## Integrated surveillance of West Nile and Usutu virus

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National data

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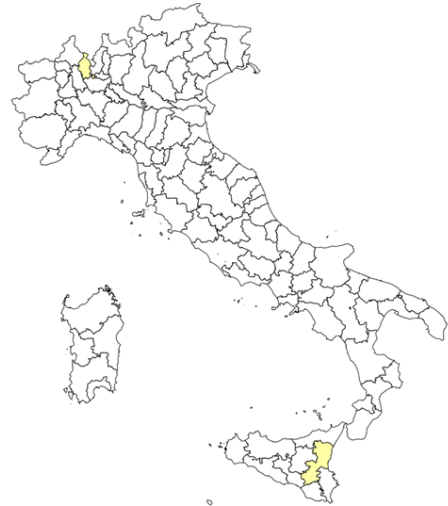
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# In Evidence

This report summarizes the results of West Nile virus and the Usutu virus surveillance activities in Italy, updated to **24-5-2023**

- Early start of the season of West Nile virus circulation. In two provinces, **Catania** (04/05/2023) and **Varese** (08/05/2023), WNV was detected in mosquito pools and in birds of the target species.
- Since May 2023, no confirmed cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection have been reported in Italy.
- Surveillance in mosquitoes, resident birds, wild birds, poultry and horses confirmed the circulation of WNV **Lineage 2** in **Lombardia** region and **Lineage 1** in **Sicilia** region..

**Figure 1.** Provinces where WNV has been detected in vectors, animals and humans (blood donor, fever and neuroinvasive cases)



- Provinces with demonstrated West Nile virus circulation in humans and in animals/vectors
- Provinces with demonstrated West Nile virus circulation in animal/vectors
- Provinces with demonstrated West Nile Virus circulation in humans\*

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## **Human**

Since May 2023, no confirmed cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection have been reported in Italy.

**3**

## Horses

No WND outbreaks have been confirmed in equids.



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**Resident birds of target species**

WNV circulation has been confirmed in Lombardia region in 1 bird belong to target species. the Molecular analysis classified the viral strain within **Lineage 2**.

The target species for the surveillance are :

- **Magpie (*Pica pica*)**
- **Carrion crow (*Corvus corone cornix*)**
- **Eurasian jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)**



Region	Province	Carrion Crow	Magpie	Jay
Lombardia	Varese	1	0	0
Total		1		

**Table 1** West Nile virus detection in target birds-  
**2023**

**Figure 1** Geographical distribution West Nile virus  
detection in mosquitoes - **2023**

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## **Wild birds**

No WND outbreaks have been confirmed in wild birds.



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**Entomological surveillance**

WNV genome has been reported in **1 mosquito pool** collected in **Sicilia** region. The circulating strains belong to **Lineage 1**.



Region	Province	n.pool
Sicilia	Catania	1
Total		1

**Table 2** West Nile virus detection in mosquitoes- **2023**

**Figure 2** Geographical distribution West Nile virus detection in mosquitoes - **2023**

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## Poultry surveillance

- No WND outbreaks have been confirmed in poultry flocks.





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## **USUTU virus surveillance**

No USUV outbreaks have been confirmed in birds and mosquitoes.

**9**

## **National Plan for Prevention, Surveillance and Response to Arbovirus 2020-2025**

West Nile (WNV) and Usutu (USUV) viruses surveillance activities since 2020 are included in the National Plan for Prevention, Surveillance and Response to Arbovirus 2020-2025.

The Plan integrates in a unique document the surveillance measures to be implemented at the national level for autochthonous and imported arboviruses, promoting a multidisciplinary approach in the management of surveillance and control activities.

More details about the integrated surveillance plan are available on the complete document «National Plan for Prevention, Surveillance and Response to Arbovirus 2020-2025.»

National Human surveillance activities are coordinated by the National Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ISS) and the Ministry of Health is responsible to provide surveillance data to the European Commission and to ECDC. Moreover regions can implement normative-programmatic documents for the epidemiological and laboratory surveillance on their territory according to National legislation and guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health .

Veterinary surveillance activities are coordinated by the National Reference Center for the exotic diseases of animals (CESME) which harmonize the diagnostic procedures within the network of IIZZSS national laboratories and confirms suspected specimens. CESME is also in charge for the veterinary surveillance data management, collection and communication to the Ministry of Health according to the data flow reported in the Plan.

## Useful links

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- Web page of [National Institute of Health](#)
- Web page of [Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale"](#) (CESME)
- Directions of the [National Italian Blood Center](#)
- Directions of the [National Italian Transplant Center](#)
- Web page of the [Italian Ministry of Health](#)
- Web page of [ECDC](#)

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