

Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania

ASAPH W25

West Nile Virus and Mosquitoes

September 26, 2025

1 Overview

These studies were conducted for the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania via web and telephone by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted among a nationally representative probability sample drawn from SSRS's Opinion panel. Data were weighted to represent the target U.S. adult population. Summaries of the sample size, field dates, and estimated design effects (Deff) of the particular waves can be found in the table below.

ASAPH panelists are quarantined from other survey panel membership to avoid being affected by the content of other surveys. Data used in Wave 11, however, contains 19 respondents who self-reported membership in other opinion panels. Diagnostics revealed no significant differences in the responses of these 19 panelists and the results presented in this report are unaffected by their exclusion.

Wave	n	MOE	Deff	Fielded	Closed	Survey	RR	N
A-1	1941	2.9	1.76	2021-03-30	2021-04-19	ASAPH 1	56%	3480
B-2	1719	3.2	1.83	2021-06-09	2021-06-22	ASAPH 2	89%	1941
C-3	1669	3.2	1.83	2021-08-16	2021-09-05	ASAPH 3	86%	1940
D-4	1672	3.3	1.86	2021-11-03	2021-11-09	ASAPH 4	86%	1940
E-5	1656	3.3	1.86	2022-01-11	2022-01-17	ASAPH 5	85%	1937
F-6	1638	3.3	1.87	2022-03-29	2022-04-04	ASAPH 6	85%	1932
G-7	1580	3.2	1.82	2022-07-12	2022-07-18	ASAPH 7	82%	1928
H-8	1584	3.4	1.86	2022-08-02	2022-08-08	CIVICS 1	83%	1907
I-9	1621	3.3	1.87	2022-08-16	2022-08-23	ASAPH 8	85%	1907
J-10	1646	3.2	1.80	2022-10-11	2022-10-18	ASAPH 9	86%	1905
K-11	1641	3.2	1.77	2023-01-10	2023-01-16	ASAPH 10	82%	2029
L-12	1638	3.2	1.75	2023-02-22	2023-02-28	ASK 2023	81%	2025
M-13	1622	3.2	1.76	2023-03-23	2023-03-29	BINGE	80%	2024
N-14	1586	3.3	1.83	2023-05-31	2023-06-06	ASAPH 11	79%	1997
O-15	1482	3.5	1.88	2023-08-09	2023-08-15	ASAPH 12	75%	1979
P-16	1559	3.4	1.91	2023-10-05	2023-10-12	ASAPH 13	79%	1976
Q-17	1538	3.3	1.73	2023-11-14	2023-11-20	CLIMATE	78%	1975
R-18	1555	3.4	1.89	2024-02-06	2024-02-12	ASK 2024	79%	1963
S-19	1522	3.5	1.89	2024-04-18	2024-04-25	ASAPH 19	78%	1962
T-20	1496	3.6	1.96	2024-07-11	2024-07-18	ASAPH 20	76%	1961
U-21	1744	3.5	2.26	2024-09-13	2024-09-30	ASAPH 21	67%	2616
V-22	1771	3.3	2.02	2024-11-14	2024-11-24	ASAPH 22	68%	2589
W-23	1716	3.4	2.02	2025-01-30	2025-02-10	ASAPH 23	67%	2578
X-24	1653	3.4	2.04	2025-04-15	2025-04-28	ASAPH 24	64%	2568
Y-25	1699	3.5	2.13	2025-08-05	2025-08-18	ASAPH 25	67%	2550

2 Topline

The remaining portion of this document provides the topline results reported in the release. All figures are rounded to the nearest whole number and may not add to 100%. Combined subcategories may not add to totals in topline and text due to rounding. A lowercase e stands in for values that round to 0, but are not exactly 0. Aggregated NET categories are highlighted in grey. Superscript letters indicate statistically significant differences with the corresponding wave.

WNILEWORRY.

WNILEWORRY. How worried, if at all, are you about you or someone in your family contracting dengue fever or West Nile in the next 3 months?

Wave	N	NET Unworried	Not at all worried	Not too worried	NET Worried	Somewhat worried	Very worried	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	85	44	41	15	12	3	e	0
(U) 09/30/24	1744	85	42	43	15	10	5	0	0

ZG03C.

ZG03C. As far as you know, how do scientists think someone can get dengue fever or West Nile? Being bitten by a mosquito that is carrying the infection [TRUE]

Wave	N	NET Unlikely	Not at all likely	Not too likely	NET Likely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	11	4	7	75	23	52	14	e
(U) 09/30/24	1744	8	3	5	74	26	49	17	0

ZG03F.

ZG03F. As far as you know, how do scientists think someone can get dengue fever or West Nile? Being sneezed or coughed on by someone who has dengue fever or West Nile [FALSE]

Wave	N	NET Unlikely	Not at all likely	Not too likely	NET Likely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	43 ^u	20	22 ^u	19 ^u	14	5 ^u	39	e
(U) 09/30/24	1744	34 ^y	18	16 ^y	26 ^y	17	9 ^y	39	0

WNILE2_1.

WNILE2_1. Which of the following are symptoms of West Nile? – Firm, round, painless sores [FALSE]

Wave	N	Selected	NOT selected	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	12	40	48	0
(U) 09/30/24	1744	11	36	53	e

WNILE2_2.

WNILE2_2. Which of the following are symptoms of West Nile? – Fever [TRUE]

Wave	N	Selected	NOT selected	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	45	7	48	0
(U) 09/30/24	1744	42	5	53	e

WNILE2_3.

WNILE2_3. Which of the following are symptoms of West Nile? – Muscle and joint pain [TRUE]

Wave	N	Selected	NOT selected	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	41	10	48	0
(U) 09/30/24	1744	37	10	53	e

WNILE2_4.

WNILE2_4. Which of the following are symptoms of West Nile? – Headache [TRUE]

Wave	N	Selected	NOT selected	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	38	14	48	0
(U) 09/30/24	1744	36	11	53	e

WNILE2_5.

WNILE2_5. Which of the following are symptoms of West Nile? – Nausea and vomiting [TRUE]

Wave	N	Selected	NOT selected	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	33	18	48	0
(U) 09/30/24	1744	29	18	53	e

WNILE2_6.

WNILE2_6. Which of the following are symptoms of West Nile? – Dizziness or lightheadedness [FALSE]

Wave	N	Selected	NOT selected	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	31	20	48	0
(U) 09/30/24	1744	28	19	53	e

WNILE2_7.

WNILE2_7. Which of the following are symptoms of West Nile? – Rash [TRUE]

Wave	N	Selected	NOT selected	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	23	29	48	0
(U) 09/30/24	1744	22	24	53	e

WNILE6.

WNILE6. Please indicate if you believe the statement below is true, false, or if you aren't sure. The best defense against dengue fever and West Nile is by preventing mosquito bites and controlling mosquitoes in and around your home. [TRUE]

Wave	N	NET False	Definitely false	Probably false	NET True	Probably true	Definitely true	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	3	1	2	81	33	48 ^u	16	e
(U) 09/30/24	1744	4	1	3	79	38	42 ^v	17	0

WNILE7.

WNILE7. Please indicate if you believe the statement below is true, false, or if you aren't sure. There is currently no antiviral treatment for dengue fever or West Nile. [TRUE]

Wave	N	NET False	Definitely false	Probably false	NET True	Probably true	Definitely true	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	17	3	14	22	17	5	61	0
(U) 09/30/24	1744	15	3	13	23	19	4	62	0

ZG41.

ZG41. At any time of the year, do you routinely take precautions to avoid getting mosquito bites, or not?

Wave	N	Yes	No	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	61	34	4	e
(U) 09/30/24	1744	59	37	4	0

ZG42A.

ZG42A. Do you routinely... wear long-sleeved shirts or other protective clothing outdoors—BASED ON THOSE WHO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Wave	N	Yes	No	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1101	57	41	1	e
(U) 09/30/24	1105	57	42	1	0

ZG42B.

ZG42B. Do you routinely... replace or repair window screens-- BASED ON THOSE WHO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Wave	N	Yes	No	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1101	59	39	2	e
(U) 09/30/24	1105	64	34	2	0

ZG42C.

ZG42C. Do you routinely... remove standing water-- BASED ON THOSE WHO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Wave	N	Yes	No	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1101	80	17	3	0
(U) 09/30/24	1105	80	16	3	0

ZG42D.

ZG42D. Do you routinely... use mosquito netting-- BASED ON THOSE WHO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Wave	N	Yes	No	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1101	13	86	1	0
(U) 09/30/24	1105	12	88	1	0

ZG42E.

ZG42E. Do you routinely... avoid activities or areas that would bring you in contact with mosquitoes-- BASED ON THOSE WHO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Wave	N	Yes	No	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1101	72	25	2	e
(U) 09/30/24	1105	70	29	1	0

ZG42F.

ZG42F. Do you routinely... wear insect repellent-- BASED ON THOSE WHO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Wave	N	Yes	No	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1101	68	31	1	0
(U) 09/30/24	1105	72	28	0	0

INSECT1.

INSECT1. As far as you know, which of the following statements comes closest to what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends for applying insect repellent?

Wave	N	Put on sunscreen first, let it dry, and then put on insect repellent (TRUE)	Put on insect repellent first, let it dry, and then put on sunscreen (FALSE)	It doesn't matter the order but use both if you are in an area with mosquitoes (FALSE)	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	33	5	15	47	e
(U) 09/30/24	1744	29	5	16	50	e

INSECT2.

INSECT2. Again, as far as you know, which of the following statements comes closest to what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends for applying insect repellent?

Wave	N	Put insect repellent on your body first and then put clothes on over areas protected by repellent (FALSE)	Do not put insect repellent under clothing (TRUE)	It doesn't matter the order but use insect repellent if you are in an area with mosquitoes (FALSE)	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	18	14	30	38	e
(U) 09/30/24	1744	19	13	29	39	e

INSECT3.

INSECT3. Again, as far as you know, which of the following statements comes closest to what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends for applying insect repellent to an infant?

Wave	N	Insect repellent SHOULD be used on babies younger than 2 months old (FALSE)	Insect repellent SHOULD NOT be used on babies younger than 2 months old (TRUE)	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	3	54	43	e
(U) 09/30/24	1744	3	52	45	e

INSECT4.

INSECT4. And again, as far as you know, which of the following statements comes closest to what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends for finding insect repellent? To find the best repellent:

Wave	N	Look for one that says it is EPA registered (TRUE)	Look for one with over 50% DEET (FALSE)	Look for one that says it is natural (FALSE)	Not sure	Refused
(Y) 08/18/25	1699	19	32	7	42	e
(U) 09/30/24	1744	21	9	6	43	e