



# Acute Flaccid Myelitis

## AFM Cases in U.S.

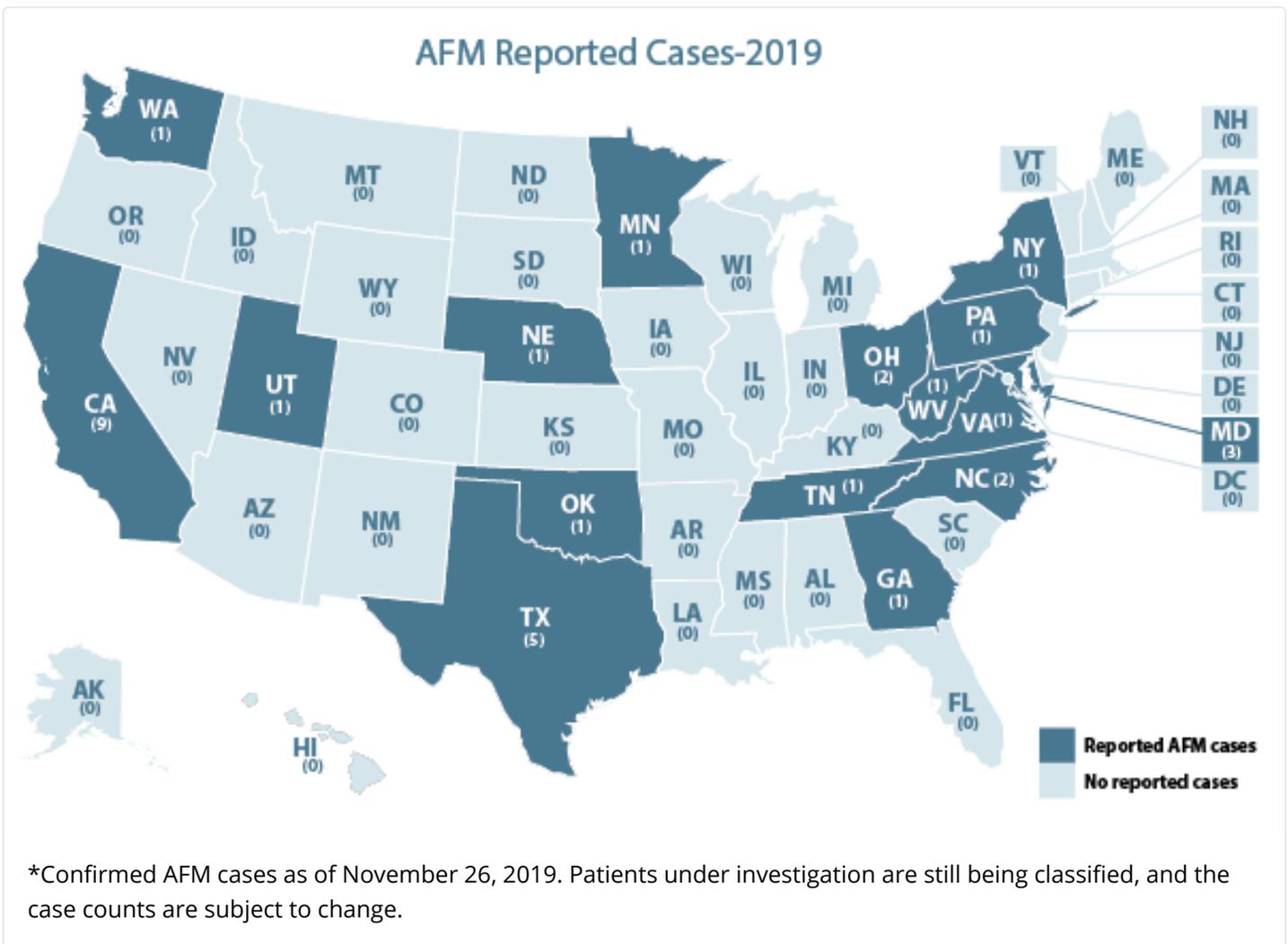
There are **32 confirmed cases so far in 2019** out of 115 reports of patients under investigation (PUIs).

No deaths were reported during the acute illness of patients with confirmed AFM who had limb weakness onset in 2018; however, there were two reports of patients confirmed with AFM in 2018 who died months after limb weakness onset. We have also learned of deaths in cases confirmed in previous years.

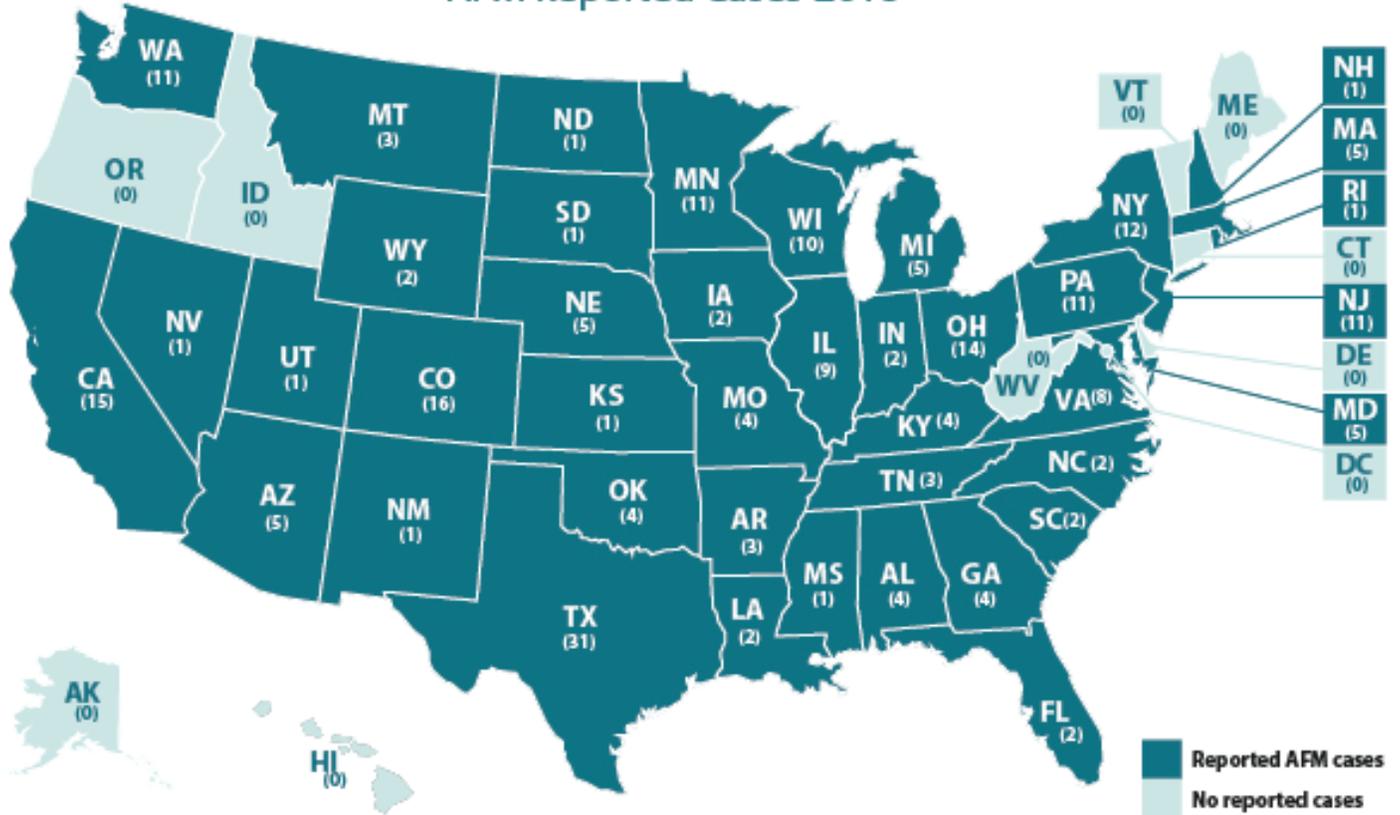
## 2018 Cases

- There have been 237 confirmed cases of AFM in 41 states in 2018.
  - Note: These 237 confirmed cases are among the total of 386 reports that CDC received of PUIs. CDC, state, and local health departments are still investigating some of the PUIs.

## Annual AFM Cases by State

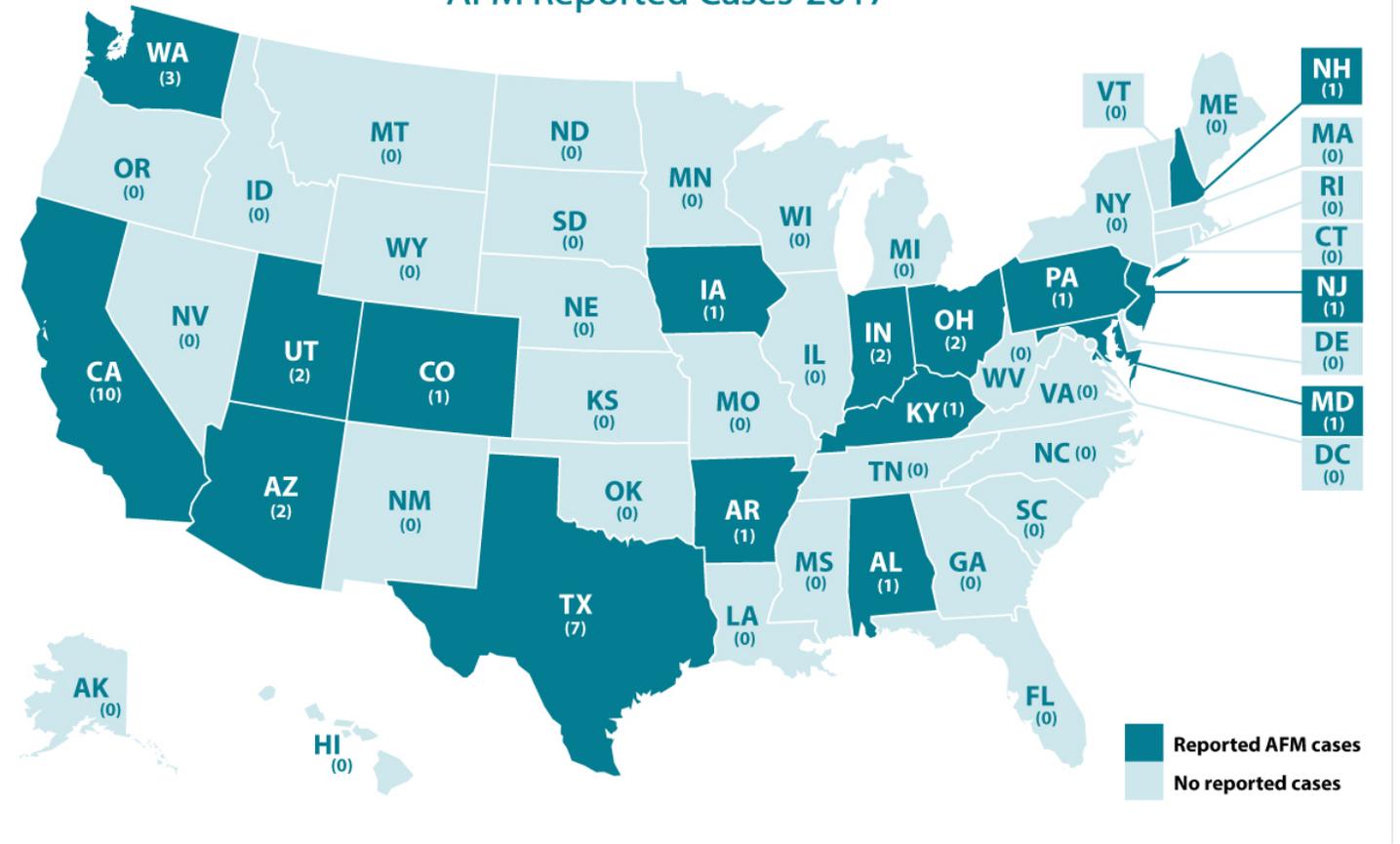


## AFM Reported Cases-2018

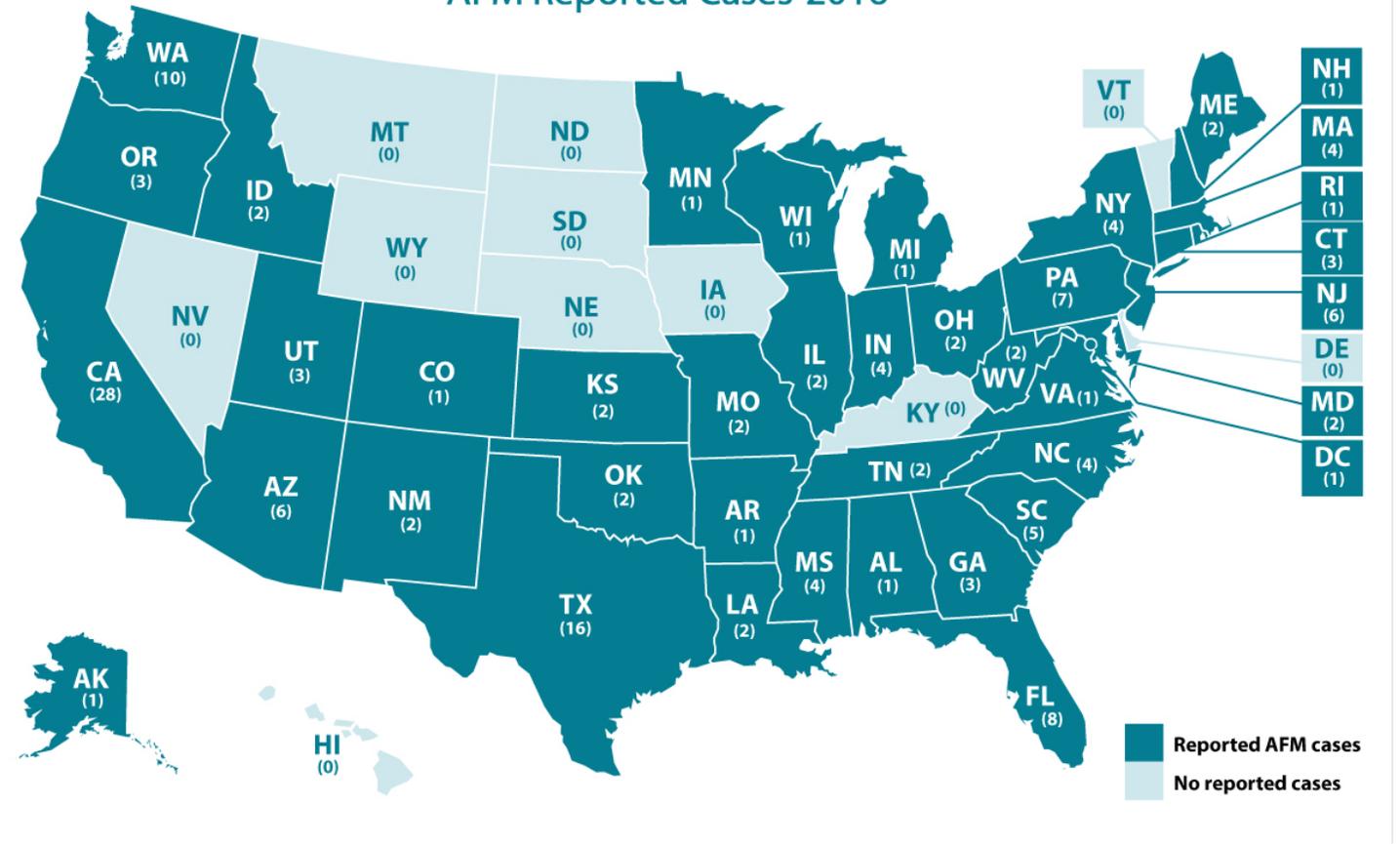


\*Confirmed AFM cases as of November 26, 2019. Patients under investigation are still being classified, and the case counts are subject to change. One of the confirmed cases is a foreign resident (based on the country of usual residence) and therefore not included in the state map.

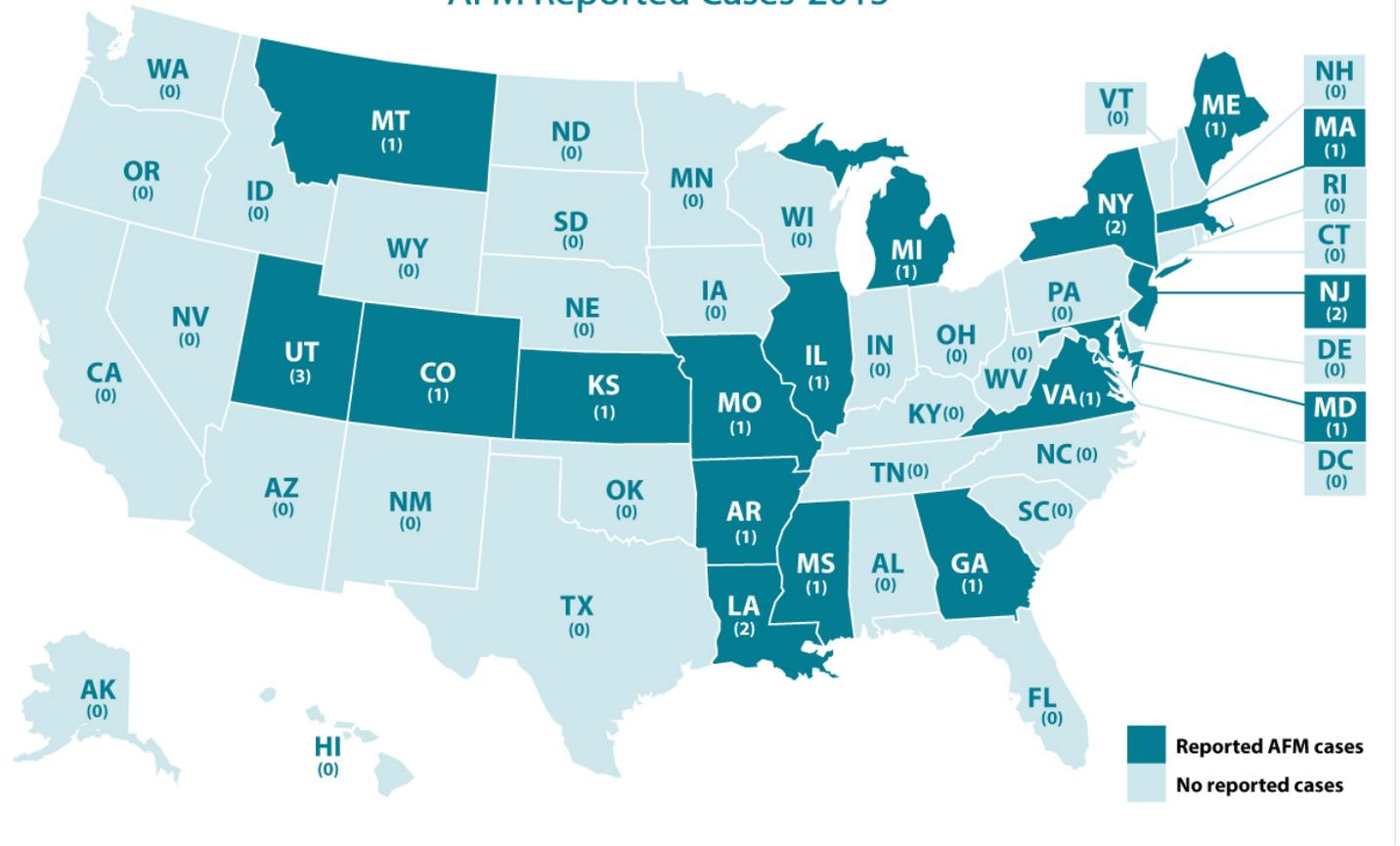
### AFM Reported Cases-2017



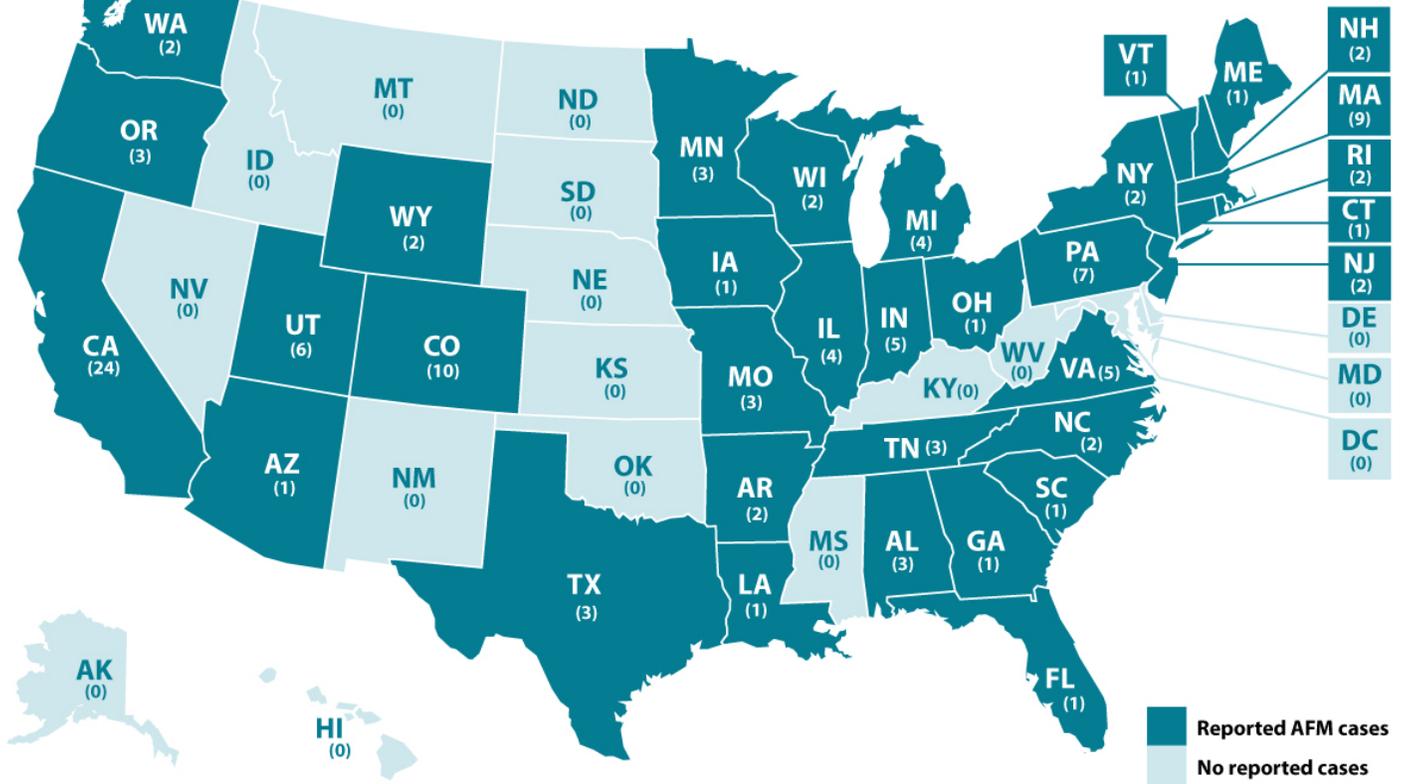
### AFM Reported Cases-2016



### AFM Reported Cases-2015



### AFM Reported Cases-2014



\*2014 case counts include only pediatric patients younger than 22 years of age.

We defer to the states to release additional information on cases as they choose.

# Cases by Year<sup>^</sup>

There have been **601 confirmed cases** since CDC began tracking AFM in August of 2014.

CDC has been thoroughly investigating the AFM cases that have occurred since 2014, when we first noted a large number of cases being reported. We have seen increases in AFM cases, mostly in young children, every two years since 2014.

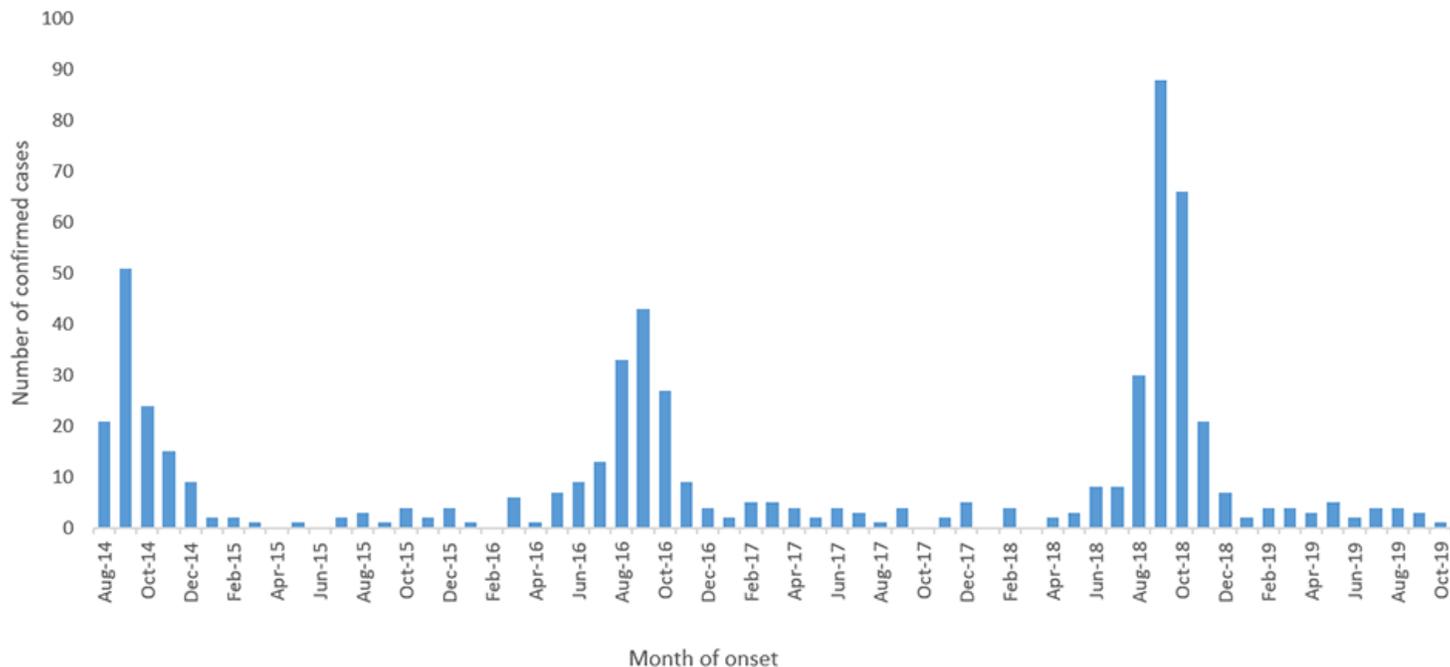
Year	Confirmed Cases	States with Confirmed Cases
2019	32	16
2018	237	41
2017	37	16
2016	153	39 (and DC)
2015	22	17
2014 (Aug-Dec)	120	34

<sup>^</sup> The case counts represent only those cases for which information has been sent to and confirmed by CDC. Case counts are preliminary and subject to change

# Cases by Month, 2014-2019

Most patients had onset of AFM between August and October, with increases in AFM cases every two years since 2014. At this same time of year, many viruses commonly circulate, including enteroviruses, and will be temporally associated with AFM.

## Confirmed AFM cases by CDC



^ Confirmed AFM cases by CDC from August 2014 through November 26, 2019, with onset of condition by October 31, 2019. Case counts are subject to change.

\* The data shown from August 2014 to July 2015 are based on the AFM investigation case definition: onset of acute limb weakness on or after August 1, 2014, and a magnetic resonance image (MRI) showing a spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter in a patient age  $\leq 21$  years.

† The data shown from August 2015 to present are based on the AFM case definition adopted by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE): acute onset of focal limb weakness and an MRI showing spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter and spanning one or more spinal segments, regardless of age.

For more information, visit the [Case Definitions](#) page.

It is currently difficult to interpret trends of the AFM data. Collecting information about PUIs for AFM is relatively new. There may initially be more variability in the AFM data from year to year, making it difficult to interpret or compare case counts between years.



Case Definitions



AFM Investigation

Page last reviewed: December 3, 2019

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Division of Viral Diseases](#)