

Fungal Diseases

Valley Fever (Coccidioidomycosis) Statistics

How common is Valley fever?

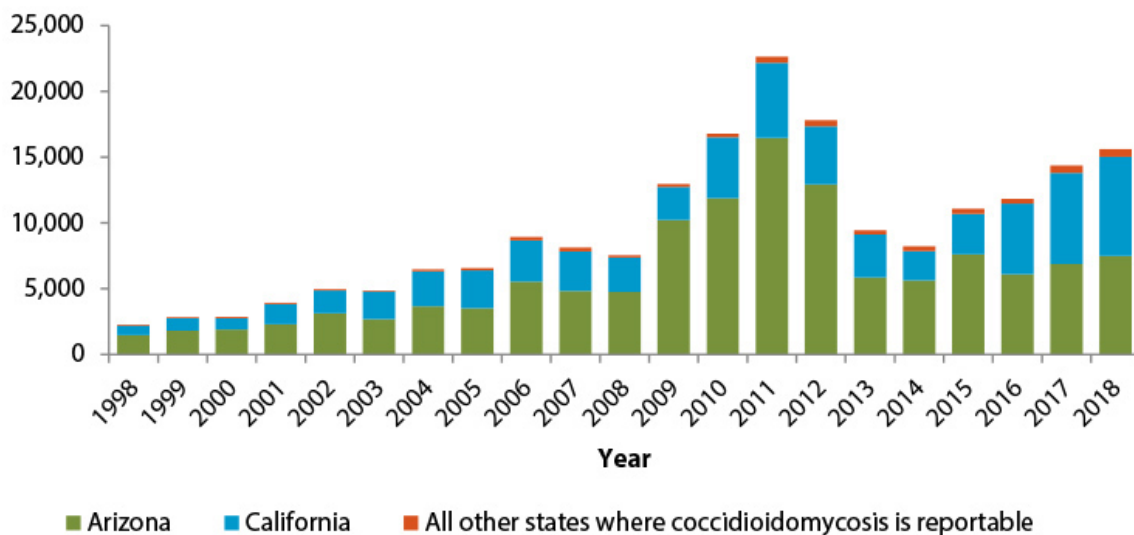
In 2018, there were 15,611 cases of Valley fever reported to CDC. Most of these cases were in people who live in Arizona or California. Rates of Valley fever are typically highest among people age 60 and older.

The number of Valley fever cases reported to CDC likely underestimates the true number of Valley fever cases. Tens of thousands more illnesses likely occur and may be misdiagnosed because many patients are not tested for Valley fever. In highly endemic areas such as the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas of Arizona, Valley fever causes an estimated 15% to nearly 30% of community-acquired pneumonias, but low testing rates suggest that Valley fever is probably under-recognized.^{1,2}

Public health surveillance for Valley fever

Valley fever is reportable in [certain states](#). State health departments collect information about cases of Valley fever and then send the information to CDC through the [National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System \(NNDSS\)](#). [Weekly and annual data are available on the NNDSS website](#). Check with your local, state, or territorial public health department for more information about disease reporting requirements and procedures in your area.

Number of reported Valley fever cases



Year	Arizona	California	Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah	Other states	Total
1998	1,474	719	72	6	2,271

1999	1,812	939	55	20	2,826
2000	1,917	840	67	41	2,865
2001	2,301	1,538	63	30	3,932
2002	3,133	1,727	63	32	4,955
2003	2,695	2,091	55	19	4,860
2004	3,667	2,641	110	44	6,462
2005	3,516	2,885	108	43	6,552
2006	5,535	3,131	140	118	8,924
2007	4,832	2,991	163	149	8,135
2008	4,768	2,597	99	69	7,533
2009	10,233	2,488	147	75	12,943
2010	11,883	4,622	159	129	16,793
2011	16,467	5,697	237	240	22,641
2012	12,920	4,431	211	240	17,802
2013	5,861	3,272	162	143	9,438
2014	5,624	2,243	156	209	8,232
2015	7,622	3,053	198	199	11,072
2016	6,101	5,358	151	219	11,829
2017	6,885	6,925	279	275	14,364
2018	7,478	7,546	276	311	15,611

The numbers reported here represent [finalized annual NNDSS data](#). Case counts reported by individual states might differ slightly from those reported here because of differences in the timing of reports or surveillance methods.^{3,4}

The reasons for the year-to-year changes in the number of reported Valley fever cases are not entirely known, but could be due to changes in:

- The number of susceptible people exposed to the fungus *Coccidioides* because of travel or relocation to endemic areas

- Environmental factors such as temperature and rainfall, which can affect the growth of the fungus and how much of it is circulating in the air
- The way cases are being detected and reported

More information about the increase in cases in [California during 2016](#) and [Arizona during 2017–2018](#) is published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

Number of deaths due to Valley fever

On average, there were approximately 200 coccidioidomycosis-associated deaths each year (deaths in which coccidioidomycosis was listed as a primary or contributing cause on a death certificate) in the United States during 1999–2016, according to National [Multiple Cause of Death data](#).

Valley fever outbreaks

Although most cases of Valley fever are not associated with outbreaks, Valley fever outbreaks linked to a common source do occasionally occur, particularly after events that disturb large amounts of soil. Past outbreaks have occurred in military trainees,^{6, 7} archeological workers,⁸⁻¹¹ solar farm workers,¹² and in people exposed to earthquakes¹³ and dust storms.¹⁴ If you live in an area with *Coccidioides* in the environment, contact your local or state health department for the most up-to-date information about outbreaks.

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