

**SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories  
 2013 Tensaw Virus Cases**

*Updated Thursday, August 28, 2014*

Tensaw virus was discovered in 1960 in *Anopheles crucians* mosquitoes near the Tensaw River in Bay Minette, Alabama. The virus is found in the southeastern United States from Texas to South Carolina.

The public health importance of Tensaw virus is unknown. Antibodies to Tensaw virus in mothers has been associated with birth defects in their infants, such as an improperly developed or an enlarged brain. However, it is not known if the antibodies to Tensaw virus in the mothers is coincidental to, or a cause of, the observed birth defects.

The virus has been isolated from domestic cats, hispid cotton rats, cotton mice, swamp-rabbits, and gray foxes. The primary mosquito vector is *Anopheles crucians*.

