LYME DISEASE SURVEILLANCE IN CANADA

Annual Edition 2018

WHAT IS THE RISK?

- **Lyme disease** is the most frequently reported **vector-borne disease** in Canada
- The **greatest risk** of acquiring Lyme disease occurs in regions where populations of ticks carrying the bacteria, *Borellia burgdorferi*, have become established

WHO'S AT GREATER RISK?

Children aged 5-14 years

Adults aged 60-74 years

People with **occupational and recreational** exposures

in areas with blacklegged ticks

HOW TO MANAGE

Most cases of Lyme disease can be effectively treated with 2 to 4 weeks of **antibotics** if diagnosed early

FACTS

REPORTED IN 2018

1487 human cases of Lyme disease

71% Confirmed cases

29 % Probable cases

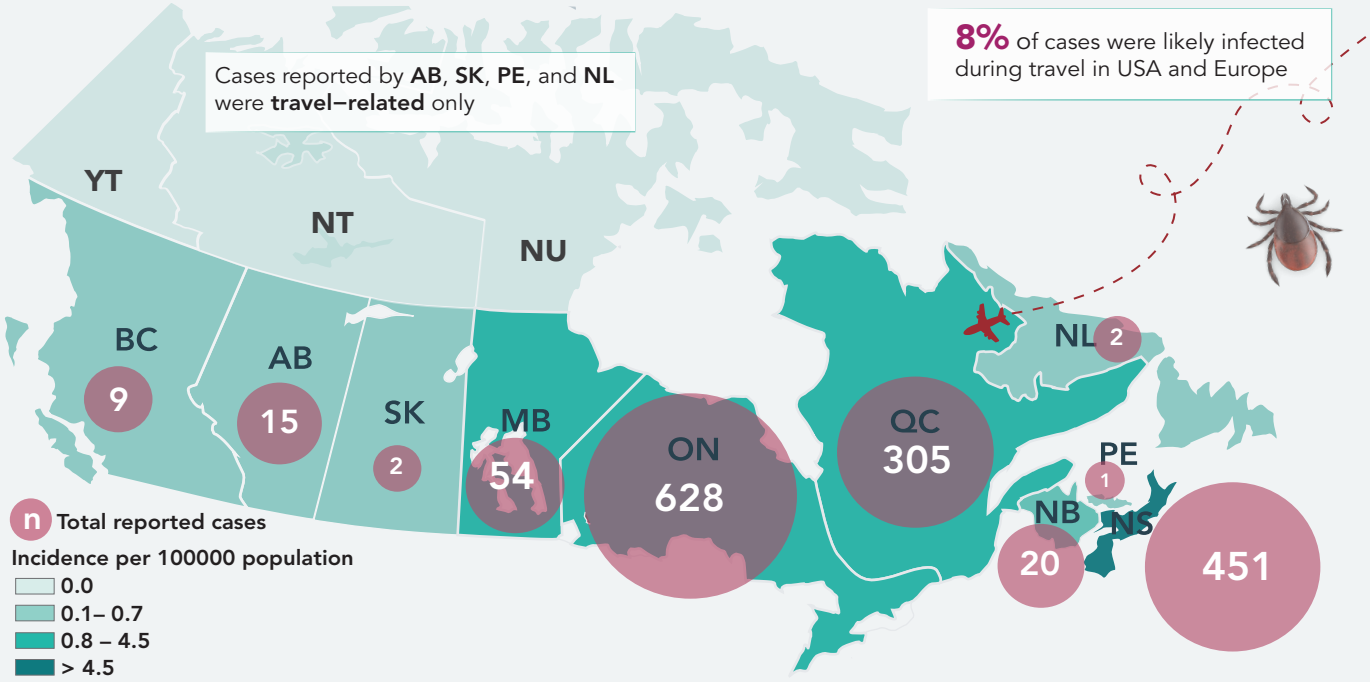
58% cases

42% cases

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED CASES

Cases reported by **AB**, **SK**, **PE**, and **NL** were **travel–related** only

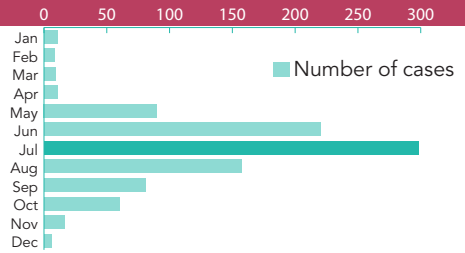
8% of cases were likely infected during travel in USA and Europe



SEASONALITY

31% OF CASES REPORTED AN ILLNESS ONSET IN **JULY**

95% OF THE CASES OCCURRED FROM MAY THROUGH NOVEMBER



PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

TIPS TO AVOID TICK BITES:

PROTECTING YOURSELF WHEN DOING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- cover exposed skin
- use insect repellent

REDUCING RISK

- do a full body check for ticks after each outdoor activities
- remove ticks using clean, fine-point tweezers

Public Health Agency of Canada | Agence de la santé publique du Canada

Canada

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