LYME DISEASE SURVEILLANCE IN CANADA

Annual Edition 2019

WHAT IS LYME DISEASE?

- **Lyme disease** is a bacterial infection transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected tick
- Early **clinical manifestations** can present as flu-like symptoms including joint pain and/or bull's eye rash. If untreated, individuals may experience cardiac and neurologic manifestations and arthritis

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, ***Borrelia burgdorferi***, have become established

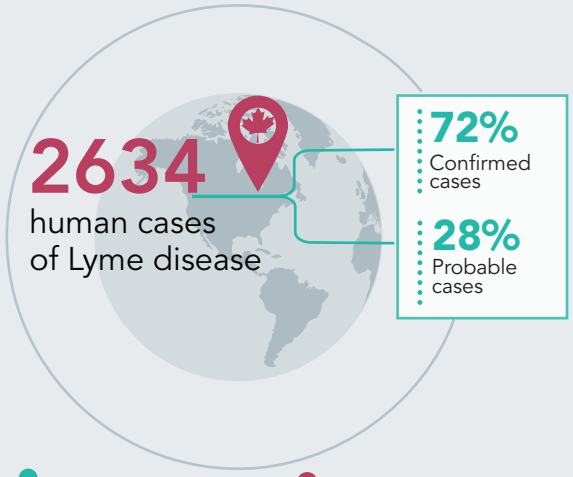
WHO'S AT GREATER RISK?

Children aged 5-14 years

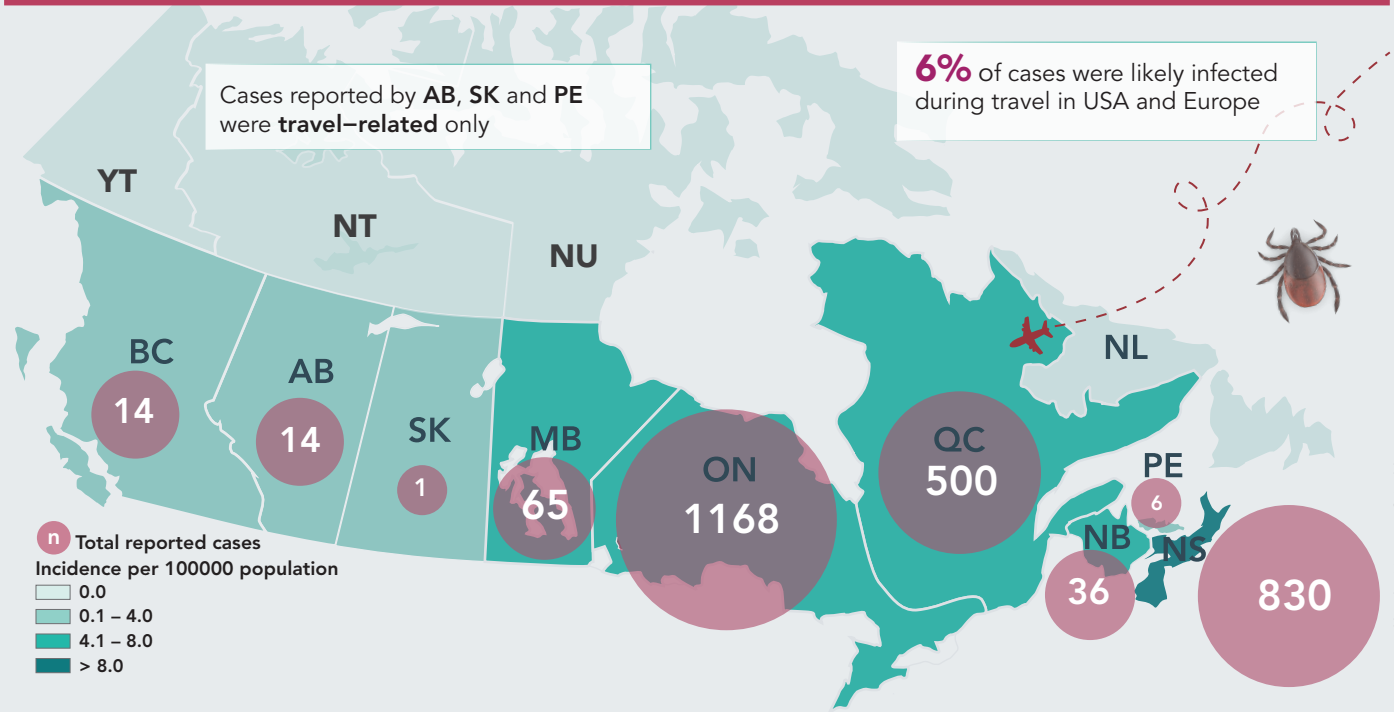
Adults aged 55-79 years

FACTS

REPORTED IN 2019



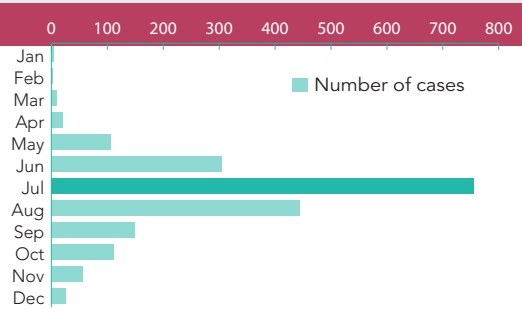
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED CASES



SEASONALITY

38% OF CASES REPORTED AN ILLNESS ONSET IN **JULY**

97% 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

© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Health, 2023
Cat.: HP37-44E-PDF | ISBN: 2817-237X | Pub.: 230228

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

Canada