LYME DISEASE SURVEILLANCE IN CANADA | ANNUAL EDITION 2021

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. Vector-borne diseases are infectious diseases transmitted to humans from insects or animals.
- 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?

- Cases occurred in all age groups. Those at greatest risk were:

Children aged 5-14 years

Adults aged 55-79 years

3,147 reported human cases of Lyme disease in Canada

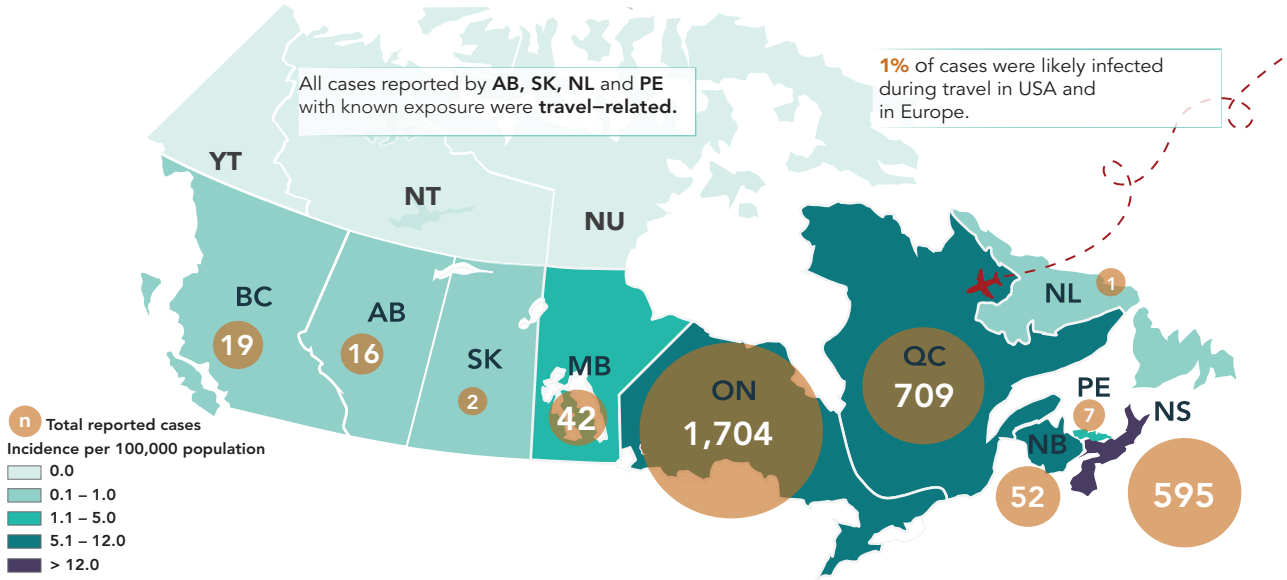
82% Confirmed cases

18% Probable cases

56% cases

44% cases

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED CASES



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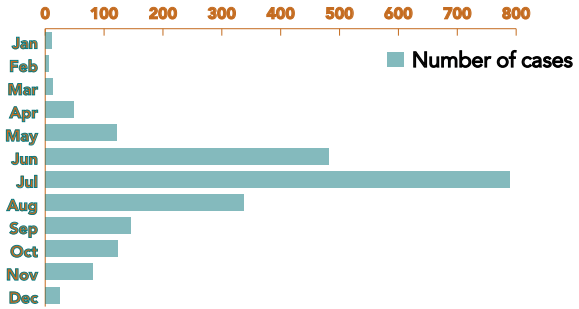
SEASONALITY

36% OF CASES REPORTED AN ILLNESS ONSET IN JULY

95% OF CASES REPORTED AN ILLNESS ONSET BETWEEN MAY AND NOVEMBER



TIPS TO AVOID TICK BITES

PROTECTING YOURSELF WHEN DOING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Cover exposed skin.

Use insect repellent with DEET or Icaridin.

REDUCING RISK

Do a full body check for ticks after each outdoor activity.

Remove ticks using clean, fine-point tweezers.

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

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