LYME DISEASE SURVEILLANCE IN CANADA

Annual Edition 2020

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?

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

Children aged 5-9 years

Adults aged 65-79 years

in areas with blacklegged ticks

FACTS

REPORTED IN 2020

1,617 human cases of Lyme disease

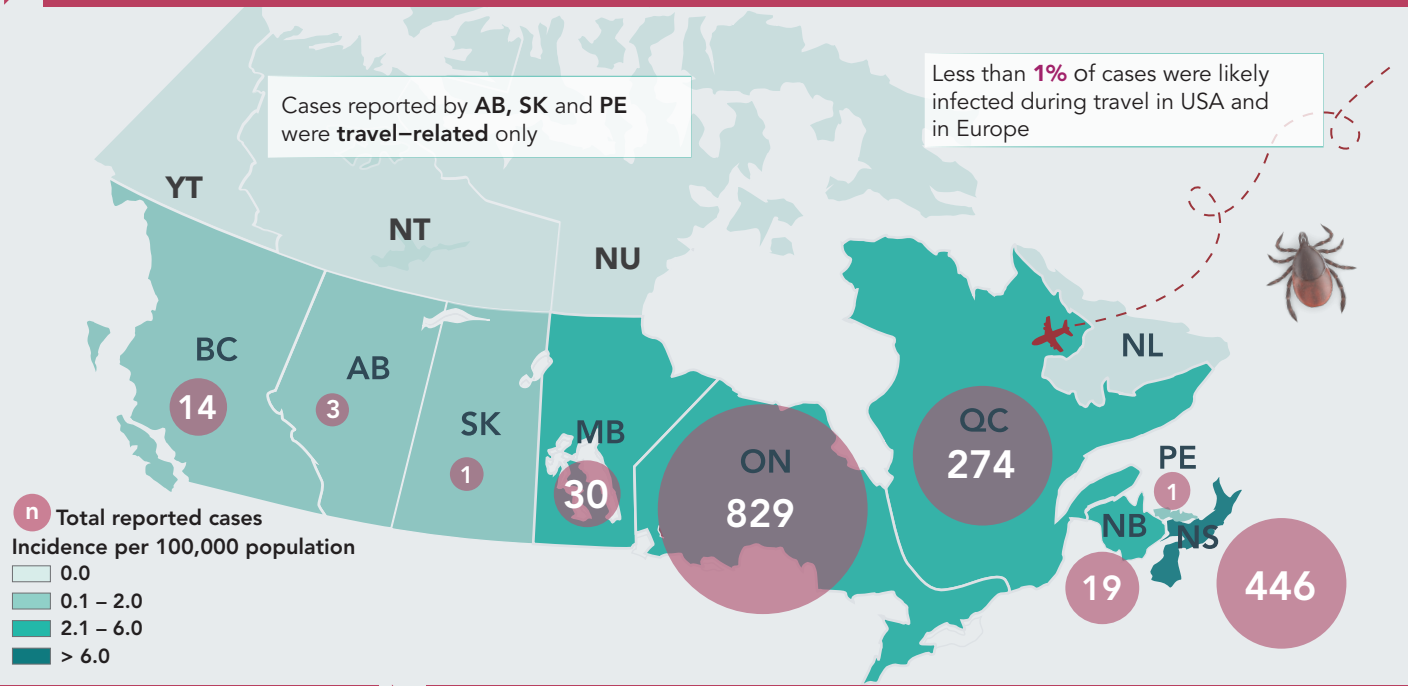
74% Confirmed cases

26% Probable cases

56% cases

44% cases

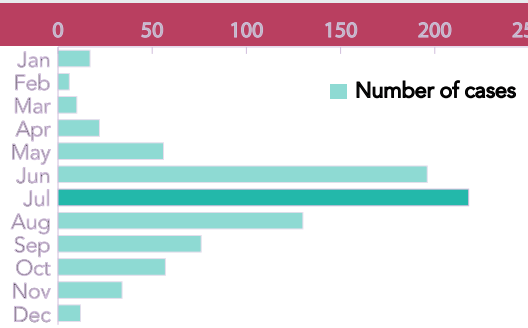
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED CASES



SEASONALITY

26% OF CASES REPORTED AN ILLNESS ONSET IN **JULY**

92% 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

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

Canada

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