

# Tick-borne Disease Surveillance in Florida, 1997

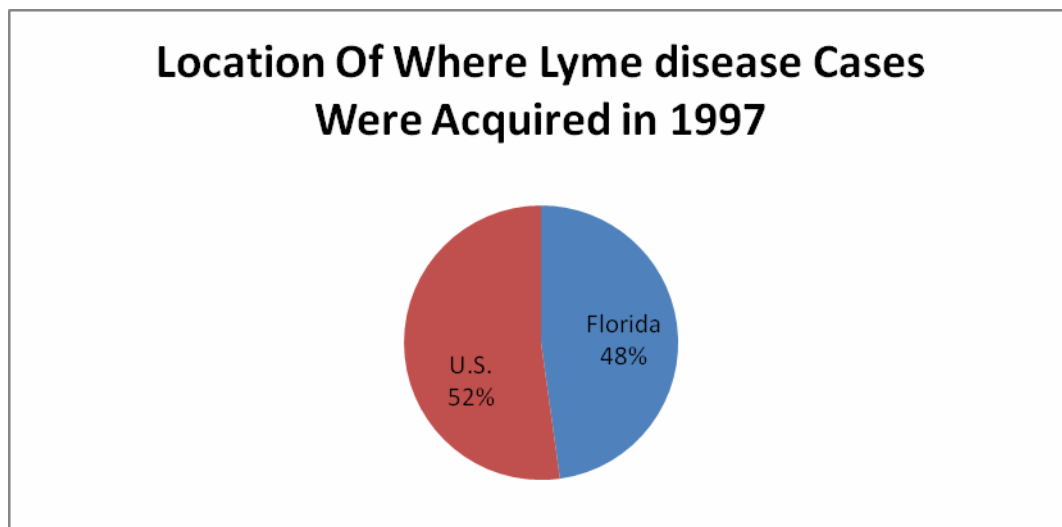
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## Lyme disease

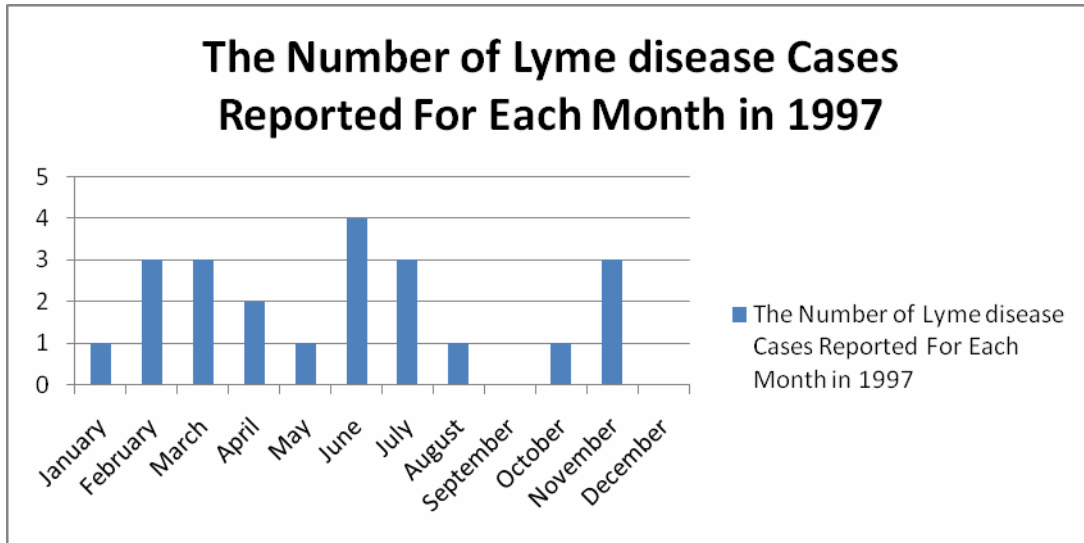
In 1997, forty-six cases of Lyme disease were reported in Florida. As Figure 1 shows, 22 (47.8%) of the cases were acquired in Florida, and 24 (52.2%) were acquired in the United States but not in Florida.

Figure 1



Among the individuals reported as having acquired Lyme disease in Florida (22 cases), 11 (50%) were female and 11 (50%) were male. The average age was 37.4 years old (range 5-86 years). Twenty-one of the cases were white non-Hispanic and the remaining case was black and non-Hispanic. Twelve cases (54.5%) resided in the panhandle region\* of Florida, 5 (22.7%) resided in the northern region, 3 (13.7%) resided in the central region, and 2 (9.1%) resided in the southern region. All the cases met the case definition for confirmed Lyme disease. Of the cases, 4 (18.2%) were acquired in June, 3 (13.7%) occurred in each of the following months: February, March, July, and November, 2 (9.1%) occurred in each April and October, and 1 (4.5%) occurred in each of the following months: January, May, and August (Figure 2).

Figure 2

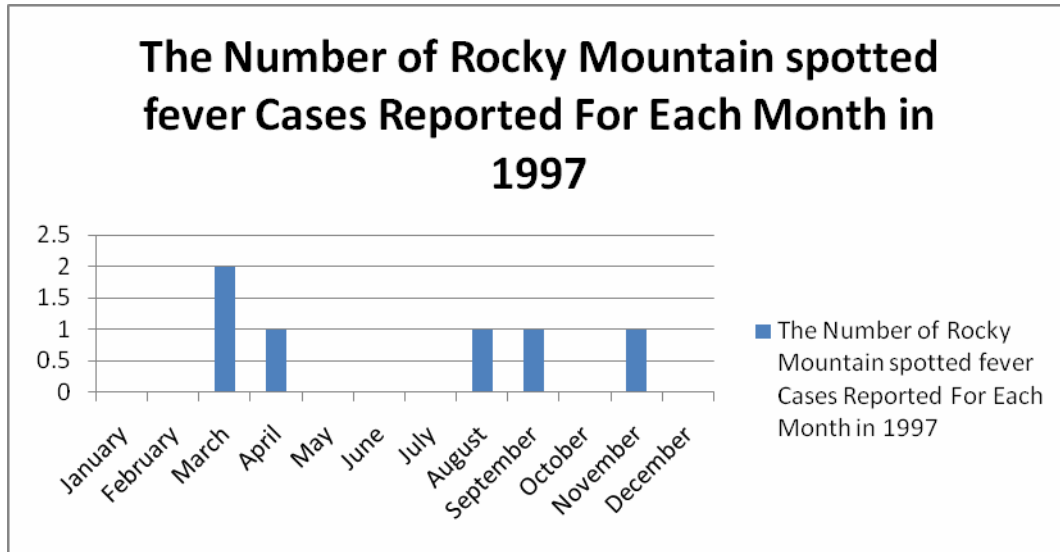


Among the individuals that acquired Lyme disease in Florida (22 cases), 10 (45.5%) were diagnosed by a physician as having erythema migrans of at least 5cm in diameter, 7 (31.8%) were not diagnosed, and in 5 (22.7%) it was unknown if erythema migrans lesions were present. Nine cases (40.9%) were described as having arthritis that is characterized by brief attacks of joint swelling. Of the cases, 19 (86.4%) were not diagnosed with Bell's palsy or other cranial neuritis, lymphocytic meningitis, or encephalitis/encephalomyelitis, one (4.5%) case was diagnosed with these, and in 2 cases (9.1%) it was unknown if the individuals experienced these symptoms. Twenty cases (91%) did not have radiculoneuropathy, and in two (9%) this was unknown. In nineteen (86.4%) of the cases there was no 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree atrioventricular block, and in 3 (13.6%) this was unknown.

### Rocky Mountain spotted fever

In 1997, seven cases of Rocky Mountain Fever were reported. Six cases (85.7%) were acquired in Florida and 1 (14.3%) was acquired in the United States but not in Florida. Four cases (66.7%) were male and 2 (33.3%) were female. The average age was 50.5 years of age (range 37-74 years). All of the individuals were white and non-Hispanic. Four cases (66.7%) met the case definition for confirmed Rocky Mountain spotted fever while 2 (33.3%) met the case definition for probable Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Most of the individuals (83.3%), resided in the northern region\* of Florida while 1 (16.7%) resided in the panhandle region. As Figure 3 shows, 2 (33.3%) of the cases experienced an onset of symptoms in March and 1 (16.6%) in each of the following months: April, August, September, and November.

Figure 3



### Human Ehrlichiosis

In 1997, five cases of Human Ehrlichiosis were reported in Florida with 4 (80%) being acquired in Florida and 1 (20%) being acquired in the United States but not in Florida. Of the four cases that were acquired in Florida, all of the individuals were white and non-Hispanic males. The average age was 50.5 years old (range 29-73 years). Half of all individuals resided in the northern region\* of Florida while a quarter of the individuals resided in the following: panhandle and central region of Florida. Two cases met the case definition for confirmed Human Ehrlichiosis and the other two met the case definition for probable Human Ehrlichiosis. One case each experienced symptom onset in May, June, July, and October.

\*For the purpose of this analysis, Florida counties were divided into regions as follows:

North- Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Lake, Levy, Madison, Marion, Nassau, Orange, Pasco, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia.

Central- Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Manatee, Okeechobee, Osceola, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, St. Lucie.

South- Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach.

Panhandle- Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, Washington.