

# Tick-borne Disease Surveillance in Florida, 2000

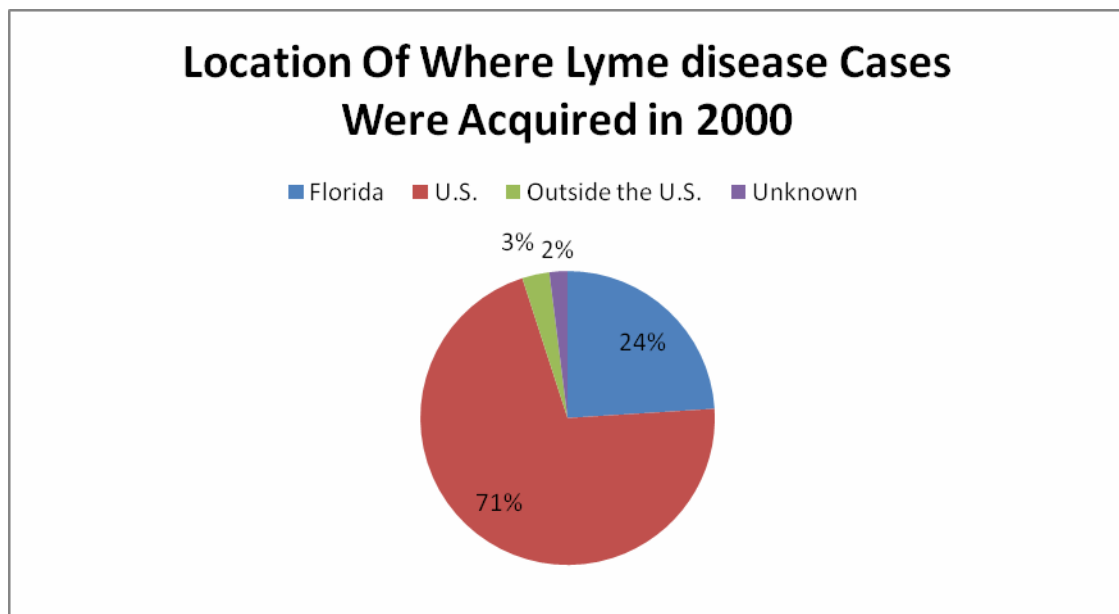
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## Lyme disease

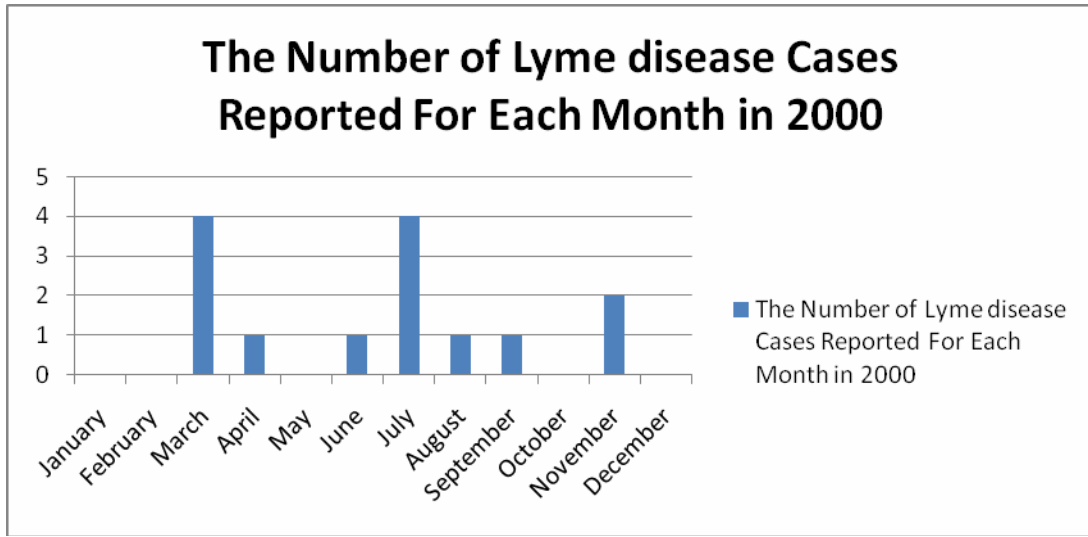
In 2000, fifty-eight cases of Lyme disease were reported in Florida. As Figure 1 shows, 14 (24 %) cases were acquired in Florida, 41 (71%) were acquired in the United States but not in Florida, 2 (3%) of the cases were acquired outside the United States, and for one case (2%) the location where the disease was acquired is unknown.

Figure 1



Among the individuals reported as having acquired Lyme disease in Florida (14 cases), 8 (57.1%) were female and 6 (42.9%) were male. The average age was 32.2 years old (range 3-61 years). Ten cases (71.4%) were white non-Hispanic, 3 (21.4%) were white Hispanic, and 1 (7.2%) the race was unknown but the ethnicity was Hispanic. All of the cases met the case definition for confirmed Lyme disease. The residential location of the individuals varied with 5 (35.7%) each residing in the central region\* and the northern region, 3 (21.4%) residing in the southern region, and 1 (7.2%) residing in the panhandle region of Florida. As Figure 2 shows, 4 (28.5%) cases had an onset of symptoms that occurred each in March and July, 2 (14.2%) occurred in November, and 1 (7.2%) occurred in each of the following months: April, June, August, and September.

Figure 2



Among the individuals that acquired Lyme disease in Florida (14 cases), 7 (50%) were diagnosed by a physician as having erythema migrans of at least 5 cm in diameter, 1 case did not have the lesion, in 1 case it was unknown if the individual possessed this symptom, and in 5 (35.7%) cases it was not specified. Four (28.5%) cases were described as having arthritis that is characterized by brief attacks of joint swelling, 4 (28.5%) did not possess these symptoms, 5 (35.7%) of the cases it was not specified if the individual had the symptoms, and in 1 case it was unknown. Of the cases, 1 was diagnosed with Bell's palsy or other cranial neuritis, 6 (43%) of the cases did not have these symptoms, 6 were not specified if the individual had these symptoms, and in 1 case it was unknown. Two individuals were diagnosed with radiculoneuropathy, 6 individuals did not possess these symptoms, for 5 (35.7%) cases it was not specified, and in 1 case it was unknown. Half of the individuals were not diagnosed with lymphocytic meningitis or encephalitis/encephalomyelitis, for 6 cases it was not specified if the symptoms were present, and in 1 case it was unknown. In eight of the cases there was no 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree atrioventricular block, in 5 (35.7%) of the cases it was not specified if there was a block and in 1 case it was unknown.

Symptom	Present	Not present	Unknown	Not specified
Erythema Migrans	7 (50%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)	5 (36%)
Arthritis	4 (28.5%)	4 (28.5%)	1 (7%)	5 (36%)
Bell's Palsy or other cranial neuritis	1 (7%)	6 (43%)	1 (7%)	6 (43%)
Radiculoneuropathy	2 (14%)	6 (43%)	1 (7%)	5 (36%)
Lymphocytic meningitis	0	7 (50%)	1 (7%)	6 (43%)
Encephalitis/encephalomyelitis	0	7 (50%)	1 (7%)	6 (43%)
2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> atrioventricular block	0	8 (57%)	1 (7%)	5 (36%)

## **Rocky Mountain spotted fever**

In 2000, there were twelve cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Four cases were acquired in Florida while 8 were acquired in the United States but not in Florida. Of the cases acquired in Florida a majority (75%), of the individuals were male and 1 (25%) was female. The average age was 41.75 years of age (range 33-46 years). All of the individuals were white non-Hispanic. All of the cases met the case definition for probable Rocky Mountain spotted fever. The following regions\* of Florida: panhandle, northern, southern, and central each reported one case of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Two cases occurred in April while one each occurred in May and June.

## **Human Ehrlichiosis**

In 2000, ten cases of Human Ehrlichiosis were reported in Florida with a majority (60%), acquired in Florida and 40% acquired in the United States but not in Florida. Of the six cases that were acquired in Florida, half were female and half were male. The average age was 48.3 years old (range 3-70 years). All of the individuals were white and non-Hispanic. Four cases (66.7%) resided in the northern region\* while 2 (33.3%) resided in the central region of Florida. Of the cases a large portion (83.3%), met the case definition for confirmed Human Ehrlichiosis and only 1(16.7%) met the case definition for probable Human Ehrlichiosis. Two cases (33.3%) each had onset of symptoms occur in December and May and 1 (16.7%) each occurred in March and June.

\*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.