

Lyme Disease

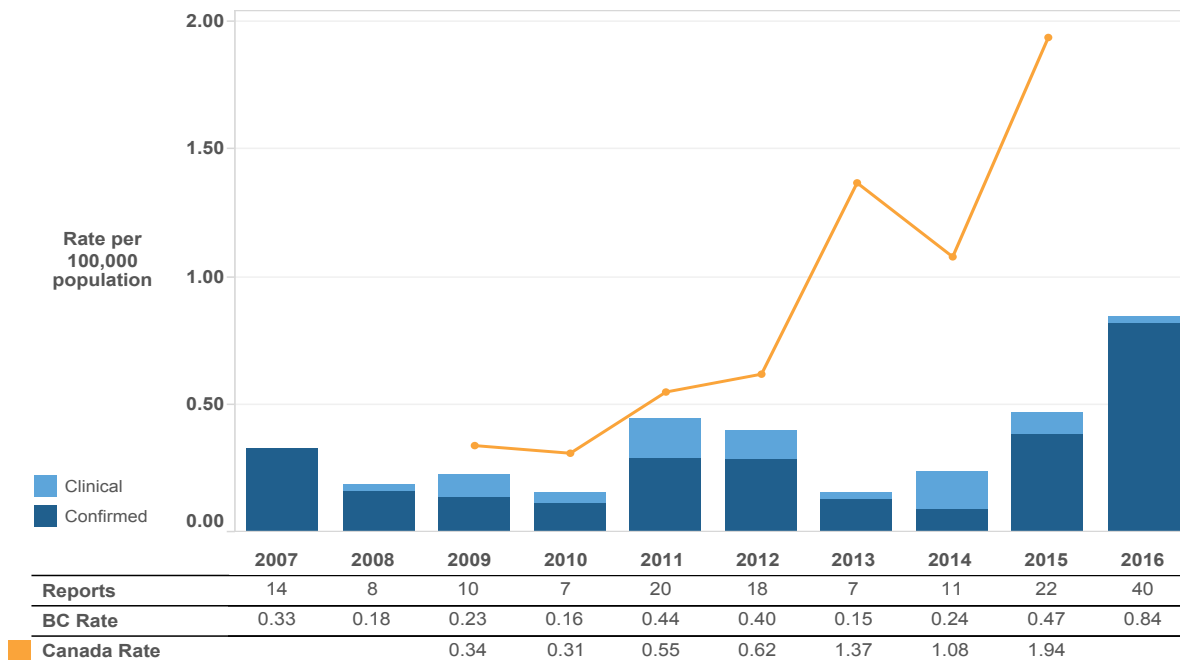
There was an increase in the reported incidence of Lyme disease in 2016 with 40 cases reported. This increase is a result of 1) new diagnostic tests implemented at the BC Centre for Disease Control Public Health Laboratory (BCCDC PHL) and the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) that are more sensitive at detecting various Lyme disease strains and 2) a higher testing volume likely due to greater awareness about Lyme.

Thirty-nine of the reported cases were lab-confirmed and one was clinically-diagnosed. Twenty-seven cases (67.5%) were infected by a European strain of the Lyme bacterium. This is higher than in previous years and is likely due to the new diagnostic tests. These people were very likely infected outside BC.

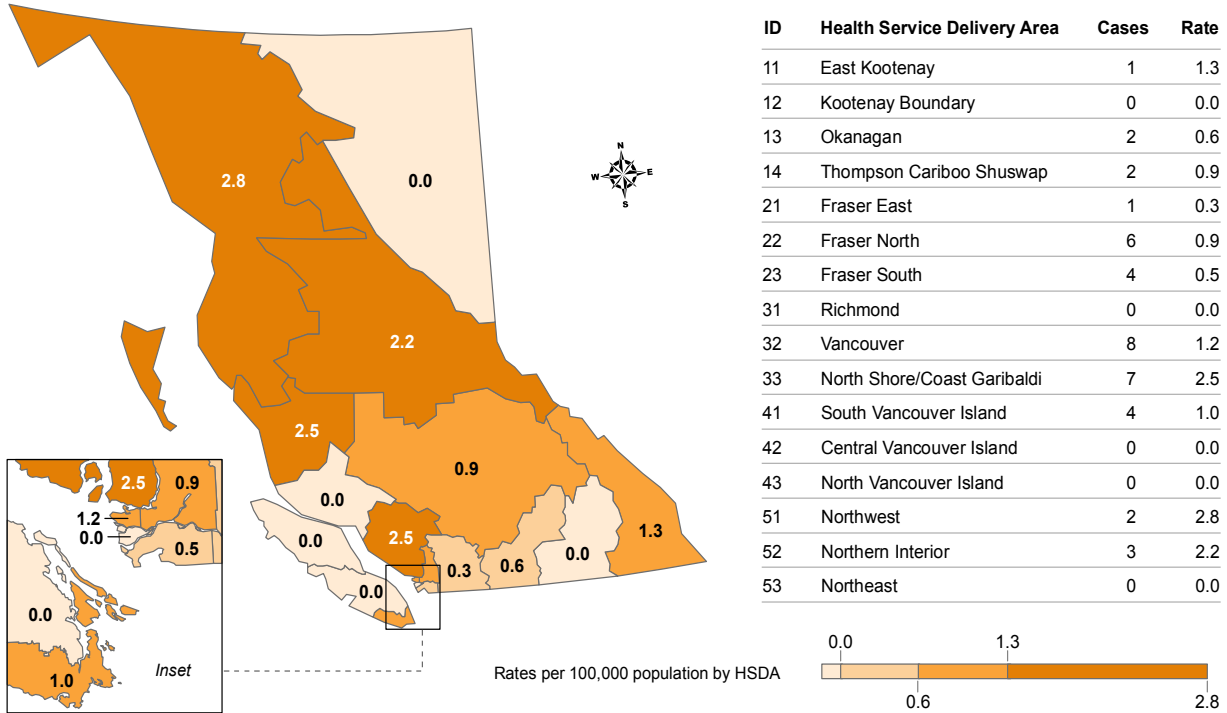
Most cases were reported in the summer and fall months, consistent with tick season. Incidence was highest among adults between the ages of 25-29. The highest incidence was reported from Northwest HSDA and North Shore/Coast Garibaldi but the highest number of cases was reported in Vancouver. Lyme disease risk areas are found throughout southern BC: http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Statistics%20and%20Research/Statistics%20and%20Reports/Epid/Vector-borne/Lyme_Disease_Risk_Areas_Map_BC_June_2013.pdf



31.1 Lyme Disease Rates by Year, 2007-2016



31.2 Lyme Disease Rates by HSDA, 2016



31.3 Lyme Disease Rates by Age Group and Sex, 2016

