

Lyme Disease

In 2017, the reported number of Lyme disease cases decreased to 17. The fluctuation in case reports from year to year may be due to small numbers or to changes in the case definition.

All of the reported cases were lab-confirmed. Nine cases (52.9%) were caused by the European strains of the Lyme bacterium. This means it was likely these people were infected outside of BC. Four additional cases likely acquired their illness within North America, but outside of BC.

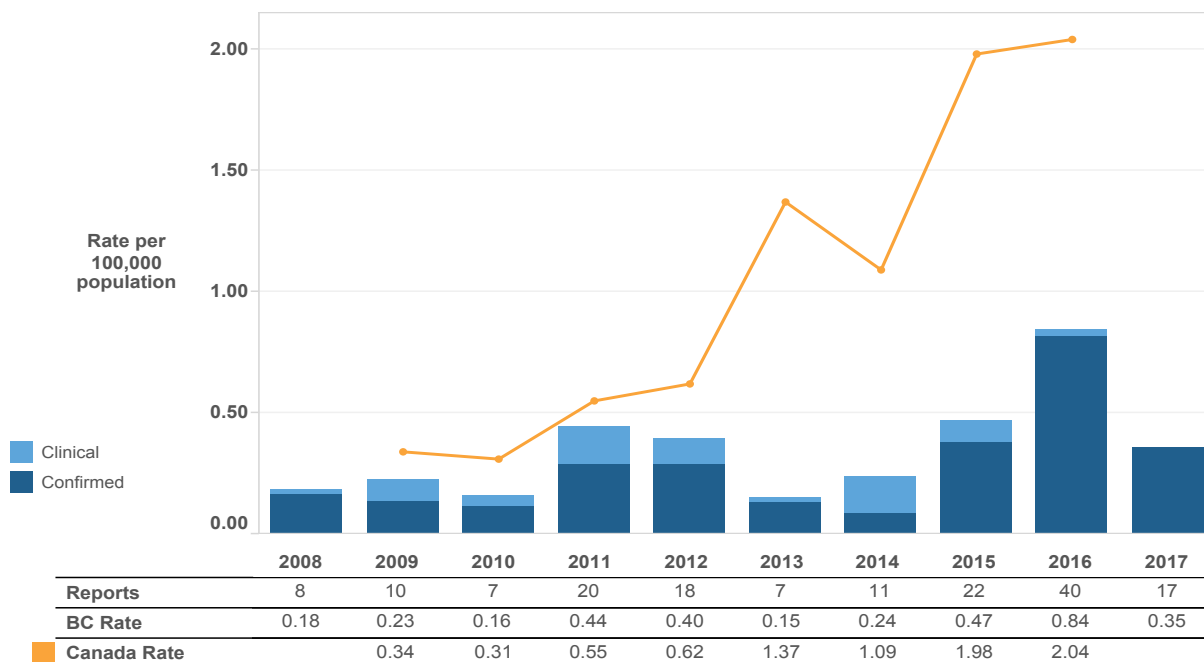
Most cases were reported in the summer and fall months, consistent with tick season. The highest number of cases was reported among adults between the ages of 40-59 years. The highest incidence was reported from Kootenay Boundary and

Thompson Cariboo Shuswap HSDA; however all these cases acquired their illness outside of BC.

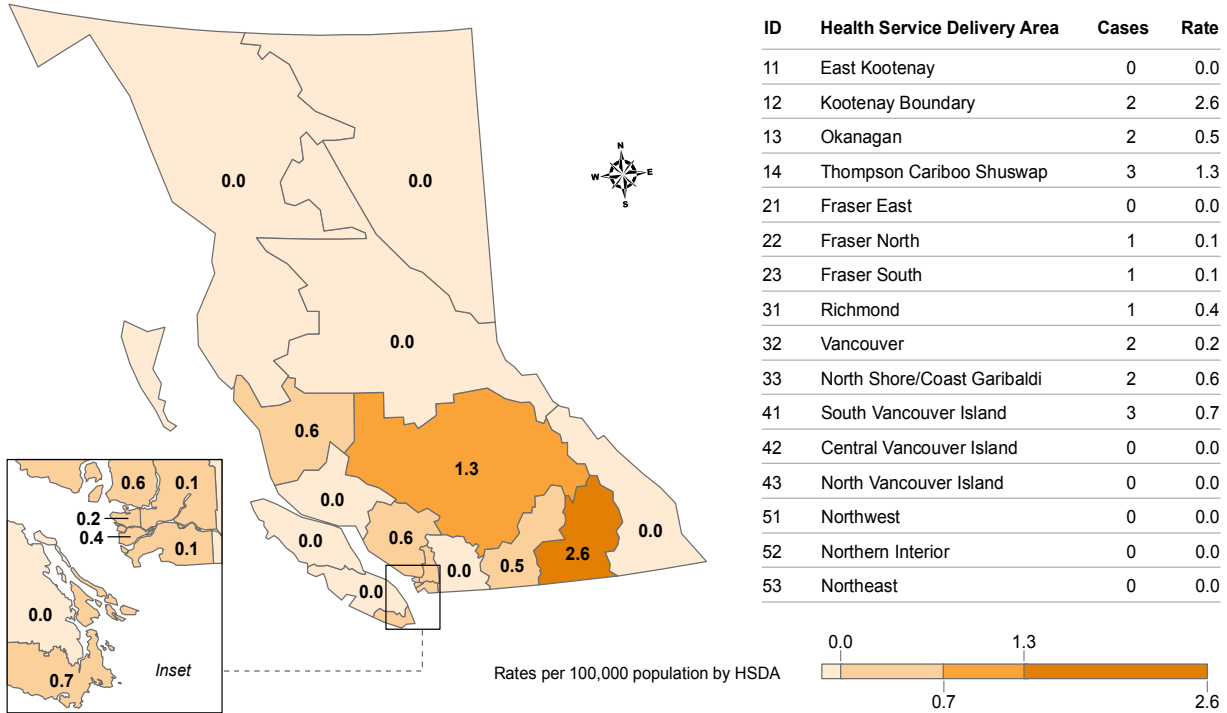
The majority of ticks that carry the bacteria that cause Lyme disease are found in southwestern BC, including Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, the Sunshine Coast, Greater Vancouver, and the Fraser Valley. The geographic distribution of human Lyme disease and *B.burgdorferi* in ticks in BC has also remained constant during this time period.



27.1 Lyme Disease Rates by Year, 2008-2017



27.2 Lyme Disease Rates by HSDA, 2017



27.3 Lyme Disease Rates by Age Group, 2017

