

Lyme Disease

In 2018, the reported number of Lyme disease cases decreased to 9 compared to 18 cases in 2017 (Figure 25.1). The fluctuation in incidence from year to year may be due to the low number of reported cases.

All of the reported cases were lab-confirmed. Three cases were caused by the European strains of the bacterium that causes Lyme disease which means these people were likely infected in Europe. Based on reported travel history, four additional cases likely acquired their illness outside of BC but within North America. Based on this, it is believed that two or 22% of cases were exposed in BC.

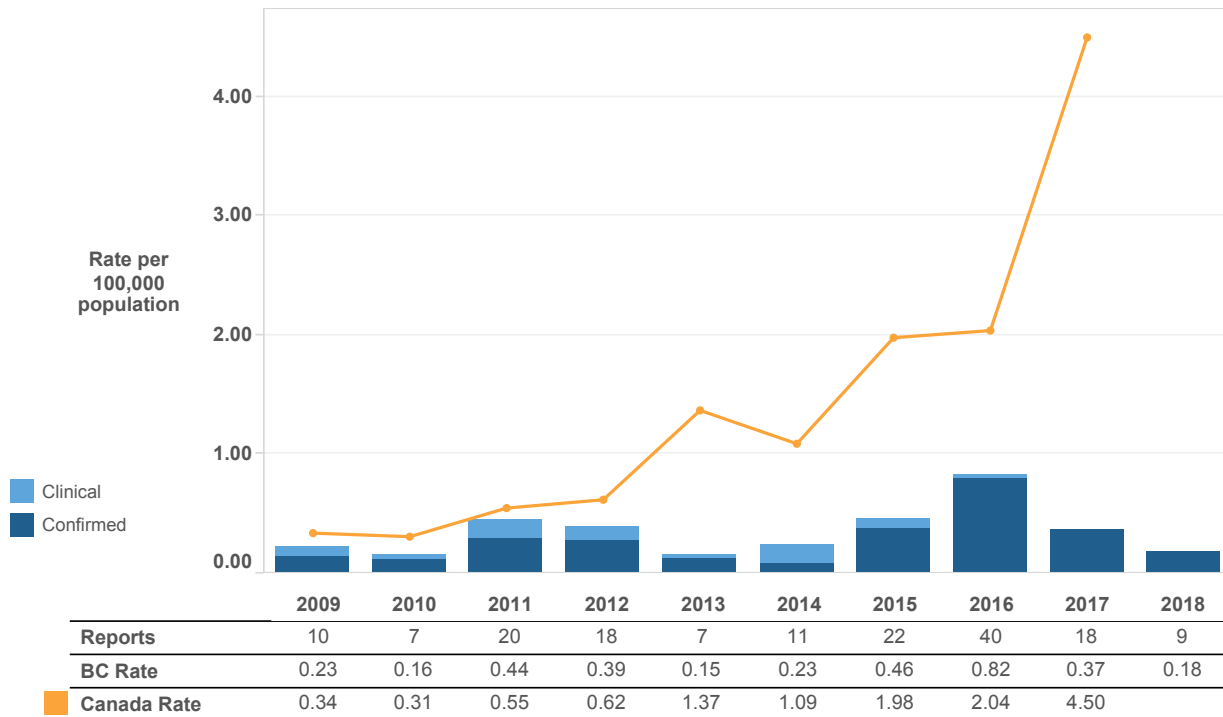
Most cases were reported in the summer and fall months, consistent with tick season. The highest number of cases was reported among adults over

the age of 40 years. The highest incidence was reported from North Shore/Coast Garibaldi HSDA however all these cases acquired their illness outside of BC.

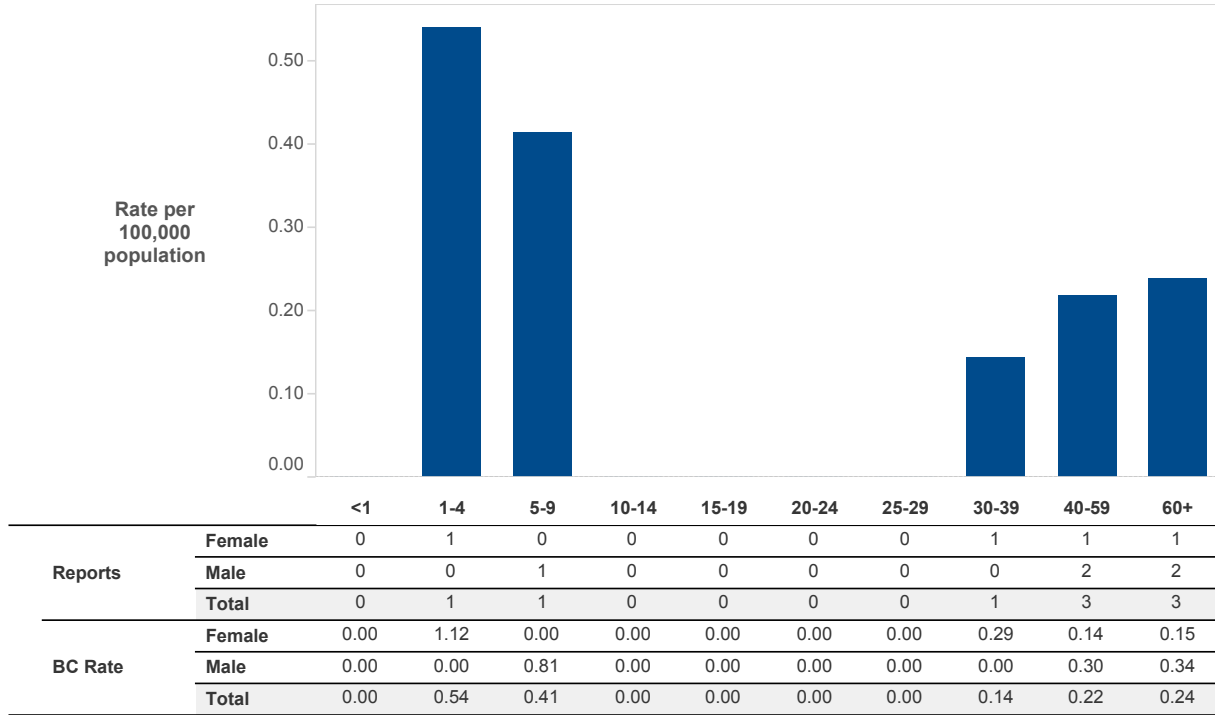
The majority of ticks that carry the bacteria that cause Lyme disease are found in southwestern BC, including Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, the Sunshine Coast, Greater Vancouver, and the Fraser Valley. The geographic distribution of human Lyme disease and *B. burgdorferi* in ticks in BC has remained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



25.1 Lyme Disease Rate by Year, 2009-2018



25.2 Lyme Disease Rates by Age Group, 2018



25.3 Lyme Disease Rates by HSDA, 2018

