

Lyme Disease

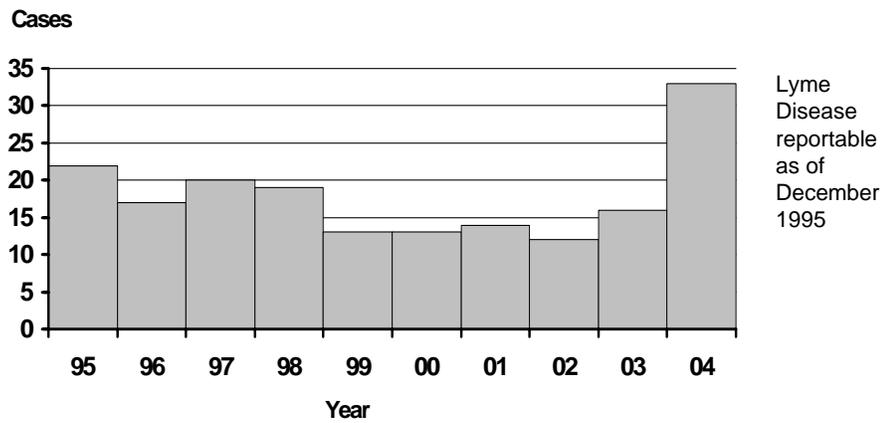
Lyme Disease is a tick-borne zoonotic disease caused by the spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi*. The first manifestation in about 60% of patients appears as a red macule or papule that expands slowly in an annular manner, sometimes with multiple similar lesions. This distinctive skin lesion is called erythema migrans (EM). The incubation period for EM ranges from 3 to 32 days after tick exposure; however, the early stages of the illness may be asymptomatic, and the patient may later develop systemic symptoms and neurologic, rheumatologic and cardiac involvement occurring in varying combinations over a period of months to years.

Currently, increasing recognition of the disease is redefining endemic areas; cases have been reported in 47 states, and in Ontario and British Columbia, Canada. Elsewhere, related borrelioses have been found in Europe, the former Soviet Union, China and Japan.

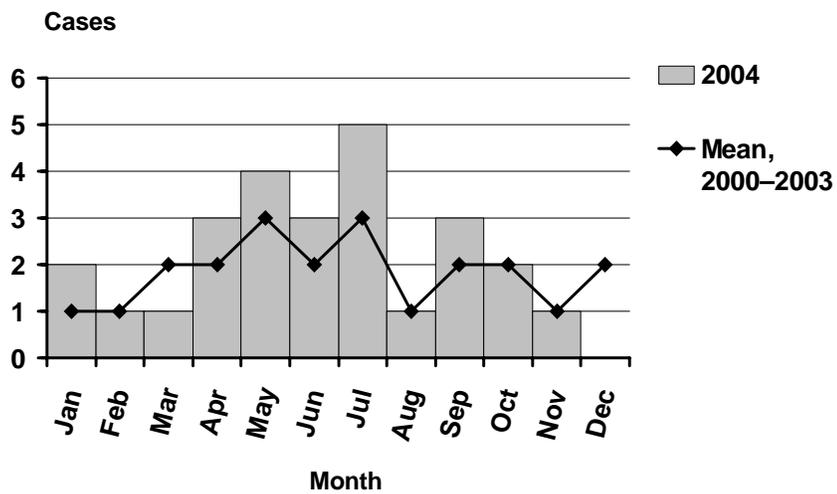
In 1997–1998, a tick identification and *Borrelia* isolation study was conducted by the CDC and the Oregon Department of Human Services. The organism was isolated in 3% of *Ixodes pacificus* ticks tested from Josephine and Jackson Counties.

Oregon Lyme disease rates pale in comparison to the national rate. Case counts increase in summer months when more Oregonians are outdoors. In 2004, 43% of cases interviewed reported seeing a tick (embedded or attached).

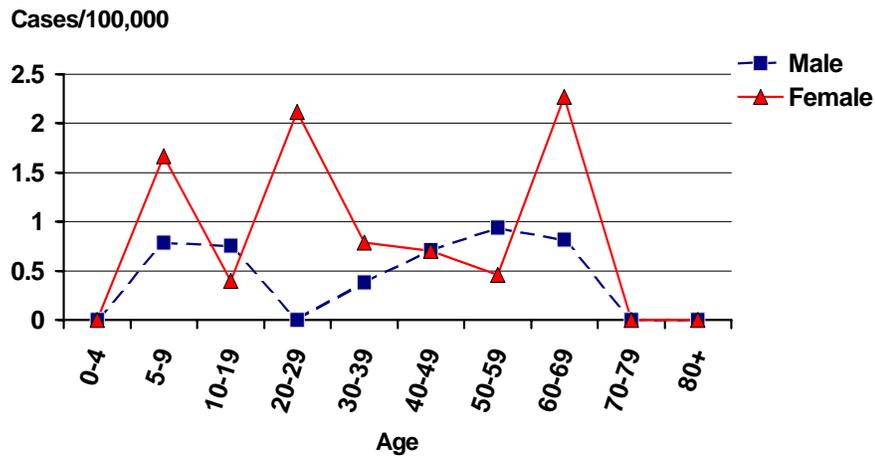
Lyme Disease by Year Oregon, 1995–2004



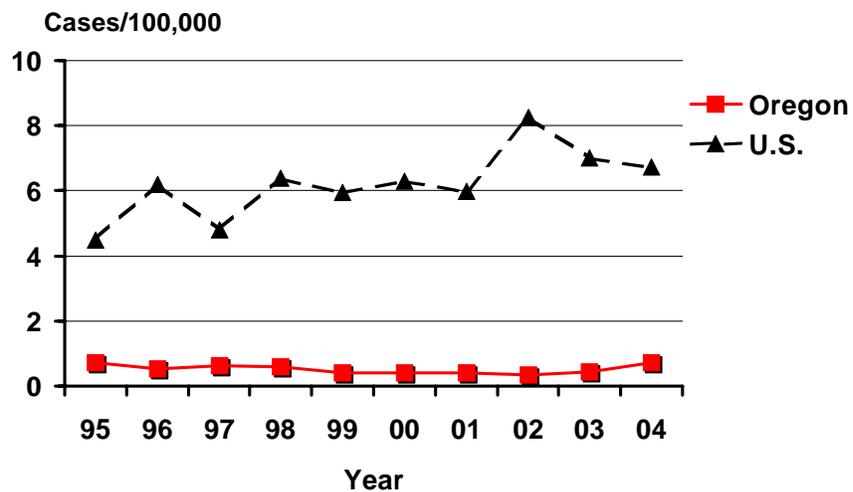
Lyme Disease by Onset Month Oregon, 2004



Incidence of Lyme Disease by Age and Sex Oregon, 2004



Incidence of Lyme Disease Oregon vs. Nationwide 1995–2004



Incidence of Lyme Disease by County of Residence, Oregon 2004

