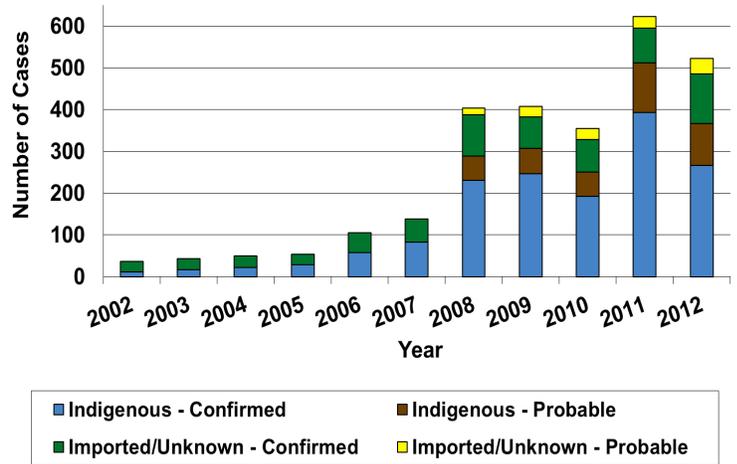


Lyme disease is caused by infection with the bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. In the eastern United States, Lyme disease is transmitted by the black-legged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, commonly known as the deer tick. Symptoms of Lyme disease include skin rash, swollen joints and flu-like symptoms such as fatigue, fever, sweats, chills and headache. Lyme disease can cause more serious illness involving the skin, heart, nerves or joints. Most people with Lyme disease are completely cured by antibiotics, but the goal is to decrease infections by preventing tick bites.

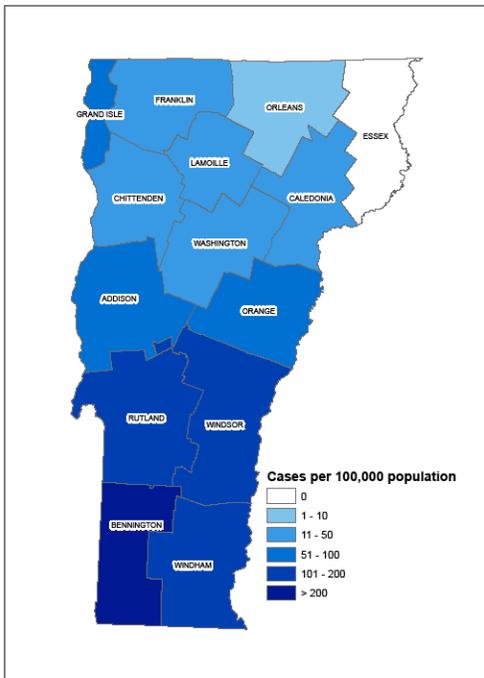
The first case of Lyme disease in a Vermonter was reported to the Vermont Department of Health in 1988. For several years, reports of Lyme disease were relatively uncommon, and most reports involved people exposed outside of Vermont.

However, in 2005, the number of people exposed in Vermont exceeded the number exposed out-of-state for the first time. Starting in 2006, the number of cases began to rise significantly. In 2011, 623 cases were reported, giving Vermont the second highest rate of infection in the country.

**Reported Cases of Lyme Disease in Vermont**



**Lyme Disease in Vermont 2012: Incidence Rate of Confirmed and Probable Cases**



Lyme disease has been reported in people from all counties in Vermont, but the southern four counties (Rutland, Bennington, Windham and Windsor) account for most of the illness in the state. Sixty-five percent of the people with Lyme disease who were likely exposed in Vermont live in one of these four counties.

Lyme disease affects people of all ages, but young children and older adults account for many of the cases. It is not completely understood why these two age groups are more commonly infected.

**Confirmed cases of Lyme disease by age and gender, Vermont, 2012**

