

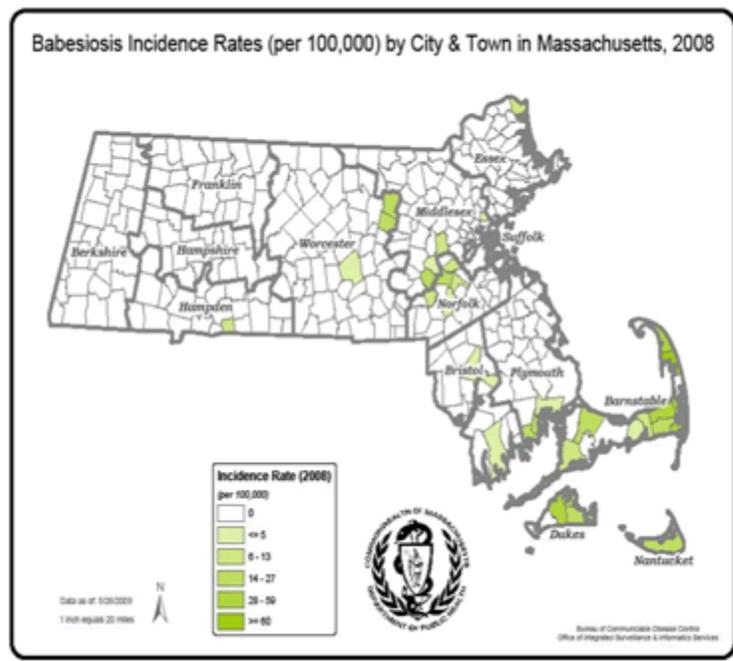
# Babesiosis Surveillance in Massachusetts, 2008

## Massachusetts Department of Public Health

### 2008 Surveillance Highlights

- 51 confirmed cases of babesiosis were reported in Massachusetts in 2008, representing a 34% increase from the number of cases reported in 2007.
- Counties with the highest incidence included Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket.
- The majority of confirmed cases occurred in June, July and August. Only 18% of cases reported knowing that they had a recent tick bite.
- 90% of confirmed cases were over the age of 55 years. The average age for a confirmed babesiosis case was 68.2 years and 61% were male.
- 43% of confirmed cases were hospitalized. The symptoms most commonly reported in confirmed cases included fever (86%), fatigue (86%) and chills (84%).
- Five confirmed cases (10%) reported receiving a blood transfusion, tissue products or organ donation in the year prior to becoming ill.

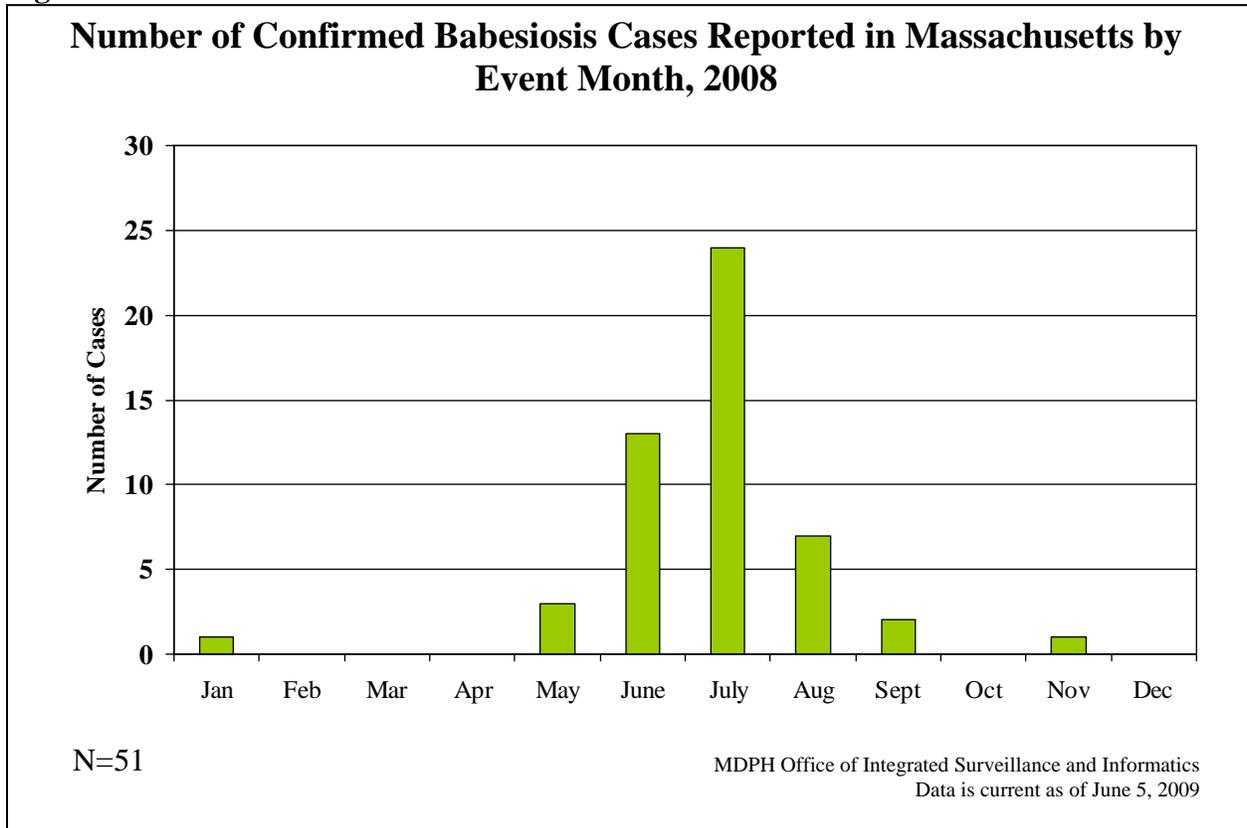
The map below illustrates babesiosis incidence rates per 100,000 by city and town of residence in Massachusetts in 2008. Areas of highest incidence include Cape Cod and the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. No cases of babesiosis were reported from Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, or Suffolk Counties in 2008.



County	2008 Confirmed Cases (#)	2008 Incidence Rate (per 100,000)
Barnstable	25	11.3
Berkshire	0	0.0
Bristol	2	0.4
Dukes and Nantucket**	6	24.4
Essex	1	0.1
Franklin	0	0.0
Hampden	1	0.2
Hampshire	0	0.0
Middlesex	4	0.3
Norfolk	6	0.9
Plymouth	3	0.6
Suffolk	0	0.0
Worcester	3	0.4
<b>State Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0.8</b>

**\*\*Statistics for Dukes and Nantucket counties are combined in accordance with confidentiality guidelines**

**Figure 1.**



**Figure 2.**

