

# Lyme Disease Surveillance in Massachusetts, 2005

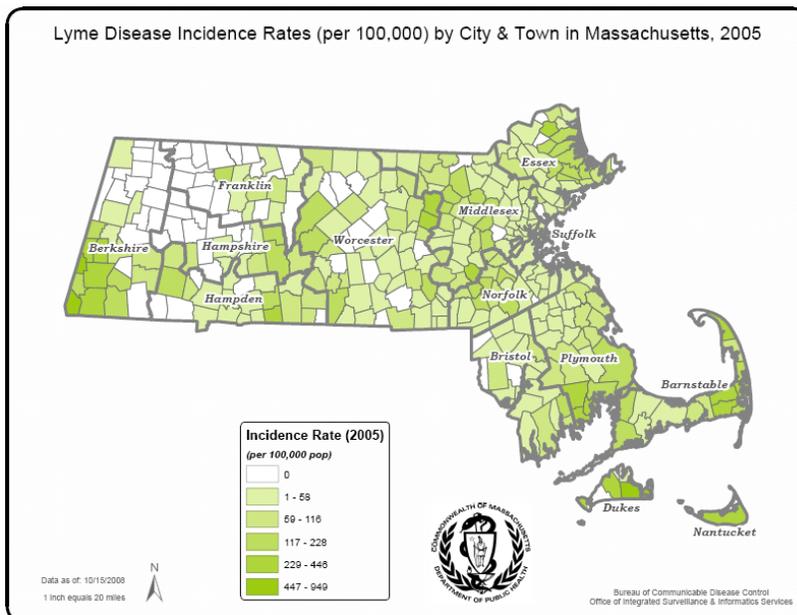
## Massachusetts Department of Public Health

### 2005 Surveillance Highlights

- 2,460 confirmed Lyme disease cases were reported in MA in 2005, representing a 51% increase over the number reported in 2004
- The largest increases were seen in Suffolk, Norfolk, and Middlesex Counties
- The majority of confirmed cases had onsets in June, July and August
- The average age for a confirmed Lyme disease case was 39 years. The highest reported incidence rates were among children aged 5-9 years and adults aged 55-64 years
- 36% of confirmed cases did not report an EM rash

The map below illustrates Lyme disease incidence rates per 100,000 by town in Massachusetts in 2005. The darker the shading, the higher the incidence. Lyme disease is considered endemic in the entire state of Massachusetts.

Areas of highest incidence include Cape Cod and southeastern Massachusetts, the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, areas north of Boston in Essex county, towns along the upper Middlesex and Worcester county border, along the Quabbin Reservoir watershed, and in southern Berkshire county.



County*	2005 Confirmed Cases (#)	Incidence Rate (per 100,000)
Barnstable	243	109
Berkshire	73	54
Bristol	159	30
Dukes	89	593
Essex	271	38
Franklin	24	33
Hampden	124	27
Hampshire	69	45
Middlesex	459	31
Nantucket	32	336
Norfolk	264	41
Plymouth	334	71
Suffolk	47	7
Worcester	255	34
<b>State Total</b>	<b>2460</b>	<b>39</b>

\* County was unknown for 17 cases

Figure 1

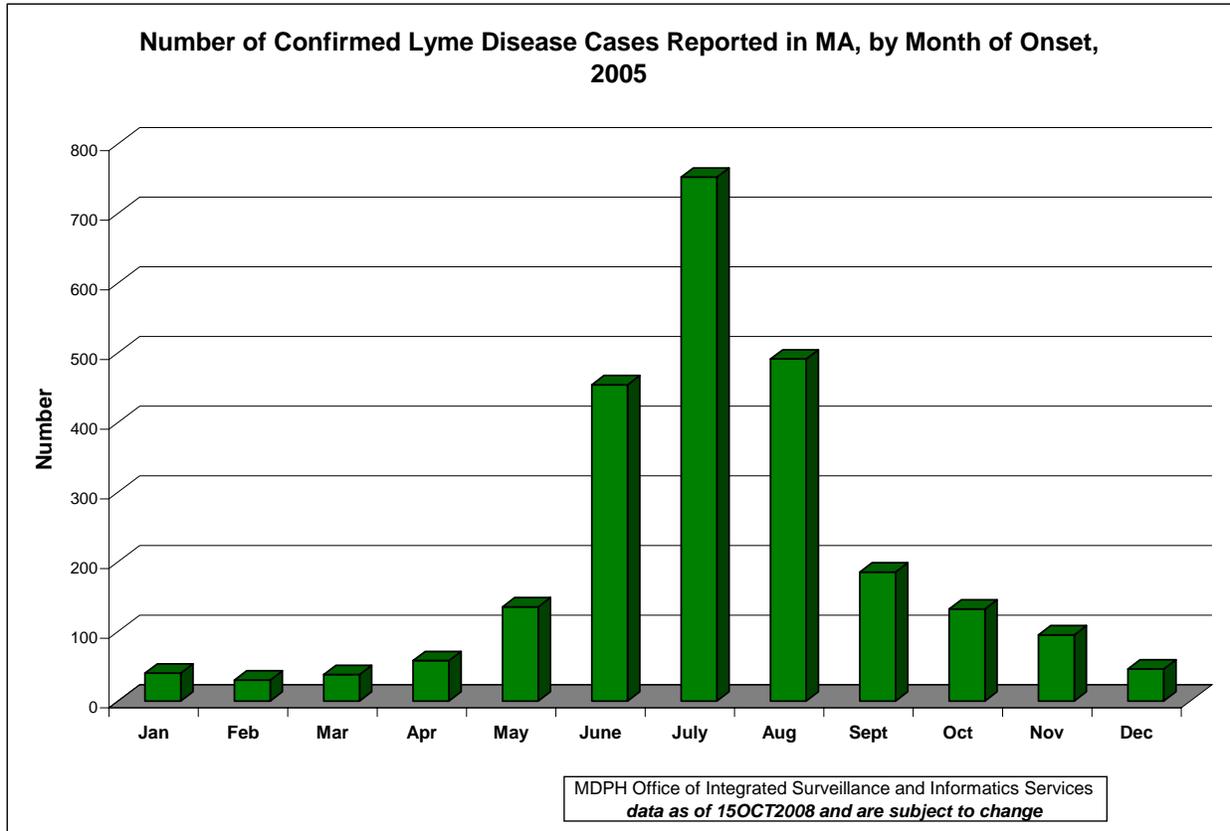
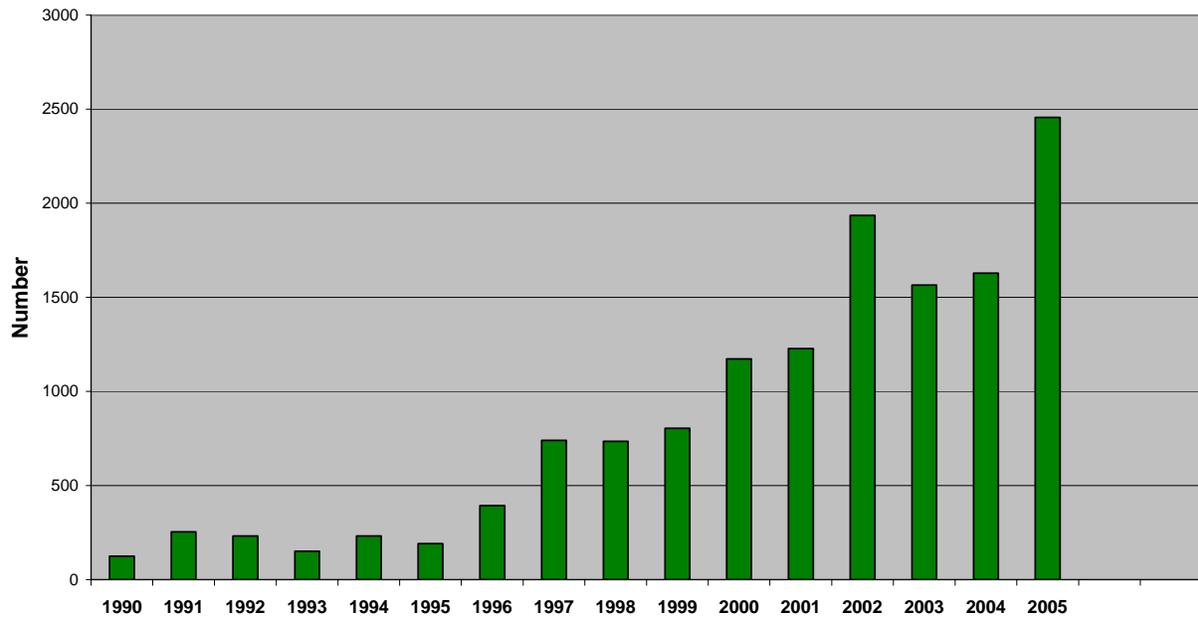


Figure 2

### Number of Confirmed Lyme Disease Cases Reported in MA, 1998-2005



MDPH Office of Integrated Surveillance and Informatics Services  
data as of 15OCT2008 and are subject to change