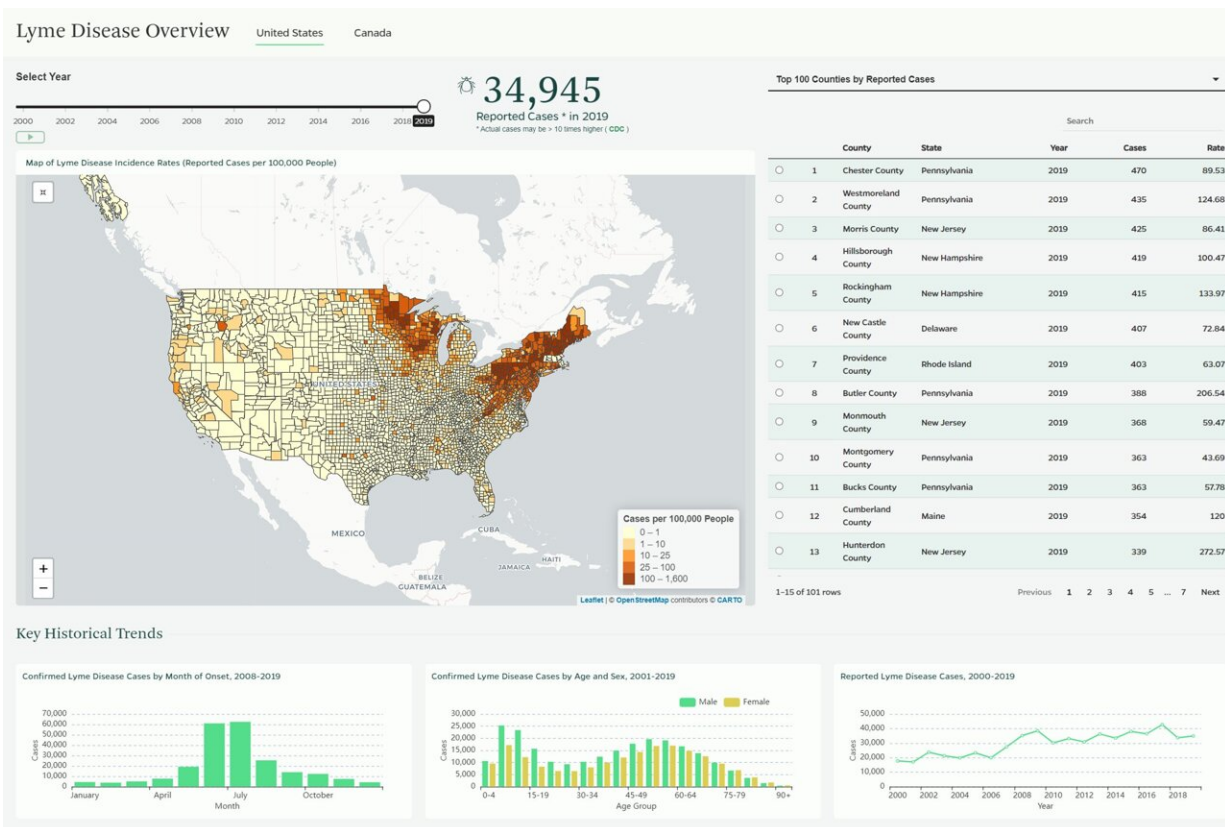


Johns Hopkins team creates Lyme and tick-borne disease dashboard

December 7 2021, by Bob Yirka



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A team of researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has created and posted online a free [Lyme and tick-borne disease dashboard](#). The group has published a paper describing the information available on the dashboard and how to use it on the open-access site *PLOS ONE*.

As the researchers note, tick-borne diseases are on the rise in the U.S., likely due to a warming climate. They also note that many cases of tick-borne diseases are never reported anywhere, which leaves people in certain areas unaware of the danger around them. In this new effort, the researchers created a dashboard (inspired by those used to track COVID-19) for use by people who want to know about the number of tick-borne [disease](#) cases in their area.

The dashboard made its debut last May but has been updated since then. The researchers note that Lyme disease is now the most commonly reported disease in the U.S. spread by insects or arachnids. They also note that scientists continue to discover new diseases that are spread by ticks. To help people understand it all, the researchers collected data from health departments around the country and added them to a database. The information in the database is then represented on a color-coded map of the U.S. Deeper reds, for example, show a state or county with high numbers of infections. The map can also show concentrations of different types of infections, though the researchers suspect its main use will be for tracking Lyme disease. Users can see concentration levels at the national, state and county levels. The dashboard also allows users to follow trends—tick-borne diseases are seasonal, with the most infections happening in the summer months. Users can watch the numbers increase in their area if they so choose.

The [dashboard](#) can also be used to track the spread of other tick-borne diseases, as well, including Rocky Mountain spotted fever, anaplasmosis and babesiosis. Also, users can track the population of the two main

kinds of ticks that spread disease. The researchers also included a section called "Geography, Ticks and You," where [users](#) can learn more about tick-borne disease and where they are most prevalent.

More information: www.hopkinslymetracker.org/

Frank C. Curriero et al, The Lyme and Tickborne Disease Dashboard: A map-based resource to promote public health awareness and research collaboration, *PLOS ONE* (2021). [DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0260122](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0260122)

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