Tick-borne Disease Surveillance in Florida, 1994

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Lyme disease

In 1994, twenty-one cases of Lyme disease were reported in Florida. As Figure 1 shows, 14 (66.7%) of the cases were acquired in Florida, 4 (19%) were acquired in the United States but not in Florida, and for 3 cases (14.3%) the location where the disease was acquired is unknown.

Figure 1

Among the individuals reported as having acquired the disease in Florida (14 cases) there were more males (64.3%) than females (35.7%). The average age was 37.6 years old (range 4-75). Of the cases, 12 (85.7%) were white non-Hispanic and 2 (14.3%) were white Hispanic. Eleven (78.6%) cases resided in the northern region of Florida, 2 (14.3%) resided in the central region, and 1 (7.1%) resided in the southern region of Florida. All cases met the case definition for confirmed Lyme disease. As seen in Figure 2, 4 (28.6%) cases occurred in June, 2 (14.3%) occurred in each July, and September, and 1 (7.1%) occurred in each of the following months: March, April, May, August, October, and November.
Lyme disease cases reported by month, 1994

The Number of Lyme disease Cases Reported For Each Month in 1994

Rocky Mountain spotted fever

In 1994, five cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) were reported. As Figure 3 shows, 1 (20%) was acquired in Florida, 3 (60%) were acquired in the United States but not in Florida, and for 1 (20%) the location where the disease was acquired was unknown.

Figure 3

RMSF case origin, 1994

The one case acquired in Florida was a white, Hispanic female residing in the northern region of Florida. The case met the case definition for confirmed Rocky Mountain spotted fever. The disease was acquired during the month of October.
*For the purpose of this analysis, Florida counties were divided into regions as follows:


Central- Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Manatee, Okeechobee, Osceola, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, St. Lucie.

South- Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach.