



Ixodes scapularis,
Blacklegged tick

What

Babesiosis is a disease caused by a parasite that infects red blood cells. Common symptoms of babesiosis are **fever, chills, muscle pain, and anemia**.

How

Babesiosis is spread by the **bite of an infected blacklegged tick**. It has also rarely been spread through blood transfusions. Tests for screening blood donors for babesiosis became available in 2018.

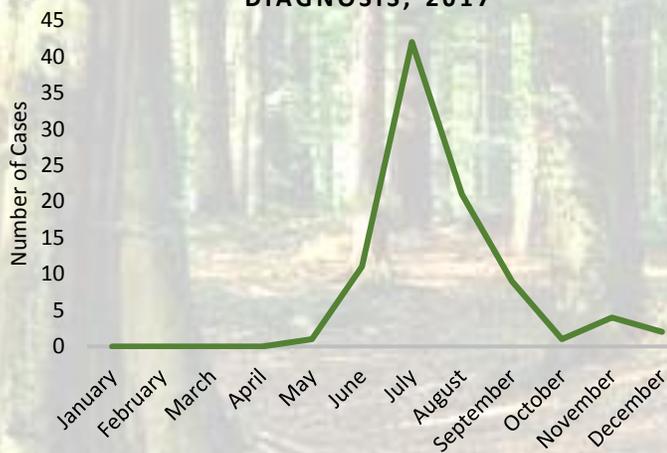
Who

The main risk factor for babesiosis is **travel to an endemic area**, outside of New York City, where blacklegged ticks and tick-borne diseases are more common.

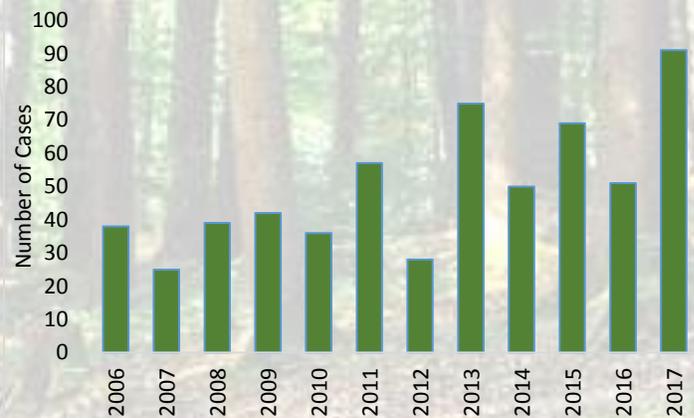
When

Most people become infected in the summer while **spending time outdoors** when ticks are most active. Babesiosis symptoms usually develop **1 to 4 weeks after the tick bite**.

BABESIOSIS CASES BY MONTH OF DIAGNOSIS, 2017



BABESIOSIS CASES BY YEAR, 2006 - 2017

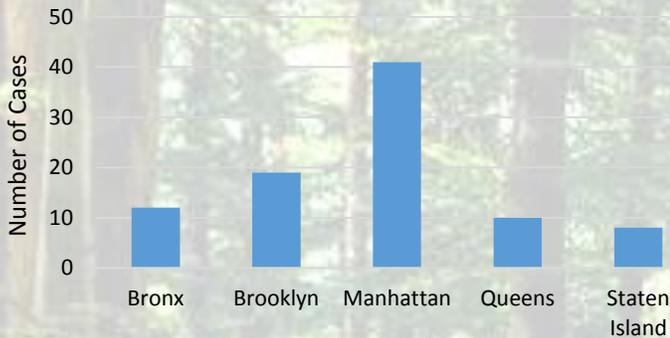


Demographics of 2017 NYC Babesiosis Cases

- 90 cases of babesiosis were reported among New York City residents
- Most identified as male (63%)
- Cases were reported among residents of all 5 boroughs, with most from Manhattan (45%)
- Average age was 59.7 years old (range 12 to 89 years)
- Majority identified race as Caucasian, non-Hispanic (65%)
- Most infections were likely acquired while traveling outside of NYC to an endemic area. Six out of 91 cases (7%) acquired their infection locally in Staten Island or the Bronx.
- One case was infected through blood transfusion

Babesiosis in New York City

NYC 2017 Babesiosis Cases by Borough

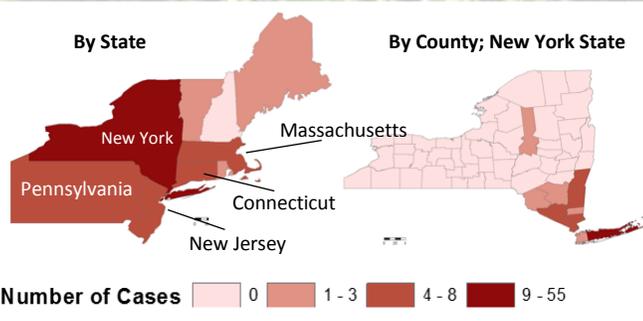


Most babesiosis cases reported travel to an endemic area outside of NYC, which is where infection likely occurred (see map below). However, 5 cases from Staten Island and 1 case from the Bronx reported no travel and were likely infected in NYC. Tick surveillance has found the blacklegged tick in parks in Staten Island and the north Bronx.

Outdoor Activities Reported by NYC Babesiosis Cases, 2017



Most Commonly Reported Travel Destinations of 2017 NYC Babesiosis Cases



The most common outdoor activities reported were ‘Spending time in wooded or grassy areas’ and gardening. Few people (23%) recalled being bitten by a tick before illness. Tick bite prevention and prompt removal of attached ticks are the best ways to prevent tick-borne diseases.



For more information, visit nyc.gov or cdc.gov and search **babesiosis**

- How to Prevent Tick-borne Infections:**
- Wear light colored, long-sleeved shirts, pants and socks when outdoors.
 - Use an EPA-registered insect repellent which contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535, PMD, or 2-undecanone. Always follow directions on the label.
 - Check yourself for ticks daily.
 - Shower soon after being outdoors.