



Erie County Health Department Vector Control Field Laboratory

2005 - 2006 Lyme Disease Survey

8/ 2007

Number of Human Lyme Disease Cases Confirmed by the NYSDOH in Erie County*					
2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
4	11	1	1	1	4

*note: NYSDOH reporting form "DOH 389" does not require a travel history.



In early July of 2007 a resident of northern Erie County was diagnosed with Lyme disease. In mid July of 2007 a southern Erie County resident was also diagnosed with Lyme disease. Subsequent laboratory tests for both patients detected antibodies to Lyme disease. In both cases, there was no significant travel history outside Erie County.

Ticks Identified in Erie County*			
Year	Total Ticks Identified	<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>	% <i>Ixodes scapularis</i>
2006	164	32	19.5%
2005	76	21	27.6%
2004	49	8	16.3%
2003	84	33	39.3%
2002	103	16	15.5%
2001	49	9	18.4%
Total	525	119	22.8%

*Note: Ticks were identified by the Erie County Vector Field Laboratory, NYSDOH Western Regional Entomologist and the NYS Wadsworth Laboratory

Erie County Canine Lyme Disease Survey Results				
Year	Vets Surveyed	Vets That Test for Lyme	Canines Positive*	No Travel History
2005	66	47	54	22
2006	54	35	83	23

*Note: Laboratory confirmation of Lyme disease relies on indirect methods such as antibody detection. Scientific studies have demonstrated variable levels of sensitivity (30-80%) and specificity (80-90%) associated with the performance of these assays and are dependant upon stage of the infection, presence of cross-reacting antibodies, etc. Therefore, it must be assumed that a laboratory result for the diagnosis is not absolute and performance characteristics of the assay must be considered. Additionally, the diagnosis of the disease cannot rely on the laboratory result alone, but must incorporate clinical recognition, history, and other pertinent information.

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