

Tick- borne diseases

Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) and Lyme disease (LD) are the most frequently reported transmission diseases in Europe and Lithuania. The main carrier of these diseases is *Ixodes ricinus* tick. Tick-borne encephalitis is caused by a virus, whereas Lyme disease is caused by *Rickettsia Borrelia burgdorferi*. Since 2004, Lithuania saw a trend of increasing incidence rate for tick-borne disease. The highest incidence of TBE and LD was reported in 2003: 763 cases of LD (morbidity rate of 21.95 cases/100 000 population) and 3.688 cases of LD (106 cases/100 000 population).

The incidence rates of LD in Lithuania in 2015 increased by 10.7 % compared to the data 2014. In 2015, a total of 2.252 cases of LD were reported (77.5 cases /100 000 population).

In 2015, the incidence rate of TBE per 100 000 population decreased by 3 % and that is 11.5 cases /100 000 population (overall 336 cases of the disease were reported).

The highest incidence of TBE in 2015 was reported in Alytus, Utena and Panevėžys counties (44-13.7 cases/ 100 000 population). The highest rates of LD incidence were observed in Vilnius, Utena, Kaunas, and Panevėžys counties (102-85.1 cases/ 100 000 population).

Europe's highest incidence rate of TBE (8.5- 18.5 cases /100 000 population) was recorded in Baltic States, Slovenia and the Czech Republic.