

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 2016 increased by 31.1 % compared to the data 2015. In 2016, a total of 2.915 cases of LD were reported (101.6 cases /100 000 population).

In 2016, the incidence rate of TBE per 100 000 population increased by 90.8 % and that is 22.1 cases /100 000 population (overall 336 cases of the disease were reported).

The highest incidence of TBE in 2015 was reported in Utena, Panevėžys, Kaunas and Alytus counties (42.8 – 26.5 cases/ 100 000 population). The highest rates of LD incidence were observed in Kaunas, Panevėžys, Tauragė and Vilnius counties (140.1 – 112.1 cases/ 100 000 population).

Europe's highest incidence rate of TBE (4.2- 12 cases /100 000 population) in 2014, was recorded in Baltic States, Slovenia and the Czech Republic^{1,2}.

¹ http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/climate_change/health_effects/Pages/vector_borne_diseases.aspx

² ECDC. Epidemiological situation of tick-borne encephalitis in the European Union and European Free Trade Association countries. Stockholm:ECDC; 2014