

Tick- borne diseases

Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) and Lyme disease (LD) are the most frequently reported transmission diseases in Europe and Lithuania. *Lithuania* is considered *endemic country* for tick-borne encephalitis and Lyme disease. 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*.

During the last decade (2004-2014), 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 2014 decreased by 11.3 % compared to the data 2013. In 2014, a total of 2,257 cases of LD were reported (77 cases /100 000 population) compared to 2 567 cases in 2013 with the incidence index of 86.8 cases /100 000 population.

In 2014, the incidence rate of TBE per 100 000 population decreased by 28.9 % and that is 12 cases /100 000 population (overall 353 cases of the disease were reported) , compared to 16.9 cases /100 000 population (501 cases) in 2013 .

The highest incidence of TBE in 2014 was reported in Alytus, Utena and Panevėžys counties. The highest rates of LD incidence were observed in, Vilnius, Utena, Kaunas, and Panevėžys counties (105.2-78.4 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^{15,16}.