






Other Tickborne Diseases




Powassan, Hard Tick Relapsing Fever, Ehrlichiosis & Alpha-Gal Syndrome

Maine Surveillance Report | 2024

Powassan Encephalitis


7 Human cases ▶ 0% increase from 2023	0.5 Cases/100,000 people	 86% of patients (6) were male	71 Average age (range 55-86 years)	 100% of patients (7) with neuroinvasive disease	 100% of patients (7) hospitalized
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Hard Tick Relapsing Fever (*B. miyamotoi*)

23 Human cases ▲ 64% increase from 2023	1.6 Cases/100,000 people	 57% of patients (13) were male	66 Average age (range 42-82 years)	 70% of patients (16) with positive PCR result	 30% of patients (7) hospitalized
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Ehrlichiosis


2 Cases ▼ 33% decrease from 2023	0.1 Cases/100,000 people
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 50% of patients (1) were male	47 Average age
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 100% of patients (2) with positive PCR result	 50% of patients (1) hospitalized
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Alpha-Gal Syndrome (AGS)

9 Cases ▶ 0% increase from 2023	0.7 Cases/100,000 people
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 67% of patients (6) were male	63 Average age (range 52-73 years)
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 56% of patients (5) with GI symptoms	 0% of patients (0) hospitalized
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Trends in 2024:

- The germs that cause Powassan and Hard Tick Relapsing Fever are present in local Maine ticks.
- People may acquire ehrlichiosis, spotted fever rickettsiosis (SFR), and AGS infections while traveling to states where these pathogens are present.
- Maine reported 4 cases of SFR and 1 case of Tularemia in 2024.

Prevention:

- **Wear light-colored clothing**, including long-sleeved shirts, pants, and socks
- **Use EPA-approved repellents** for skin and clothing
- **Avoid infested areas** like wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter
- **Do a full-body tick check** including your clothing and gear when coming back indoors
- **Call a healthcare provider** if symptoms develop

For more information visit:

- www.maine.gov/dhhs/vectorborne
- www.cdc.gov/ticks