

BABESIOSIS

Babesiosis cases have increased greatly in the past few years, with most occurrences being reported since 2011. Due to the severity of the infection, hospitalization is common in patients infected with babesiosis; 47% of babesiosis cases from 2011-2014 were hospitalized.

Facts

- Babesiosis is a disease caused by the parasite *Babesia*.
- The disease occurs primarily in the upper Midwest and northeastern states.
- The blacklegged (deer) tick is the most common vector for babesiosis.
- In rare instances, the infection has been acquired through blood transfusions.

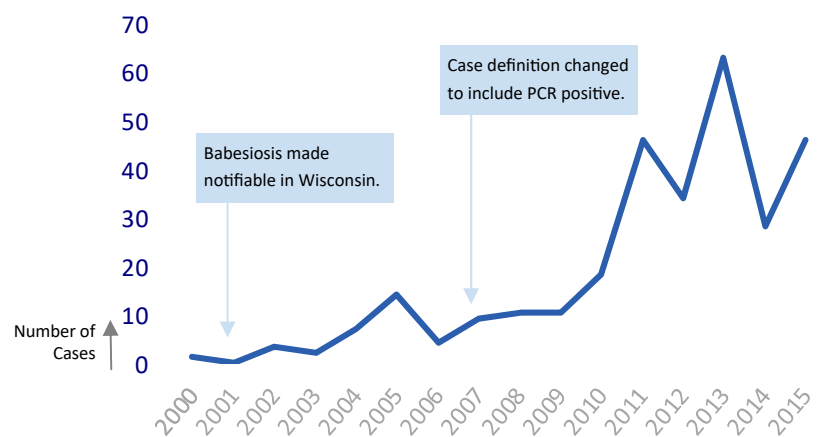
Clinical Signs

Symptoms of babesiosis tend to be more apparent and severe in the elderly population or in people with compromised immune systems. Symptoms may include fever, fatigue, and anemia (which can last from several days to several months). Infections can also occur without producing symptoms.

Treatment

The use of antibiotics, combined with certain drugs used in the treatment of malaria, has been found to be effective in some patients with babesiosis.

Reported Confirmed Cases of Babesiosis in Wisconsin



Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Division of Public Health

Climate and Health Program

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