



TOWN OF WEBSTER Public Health Department

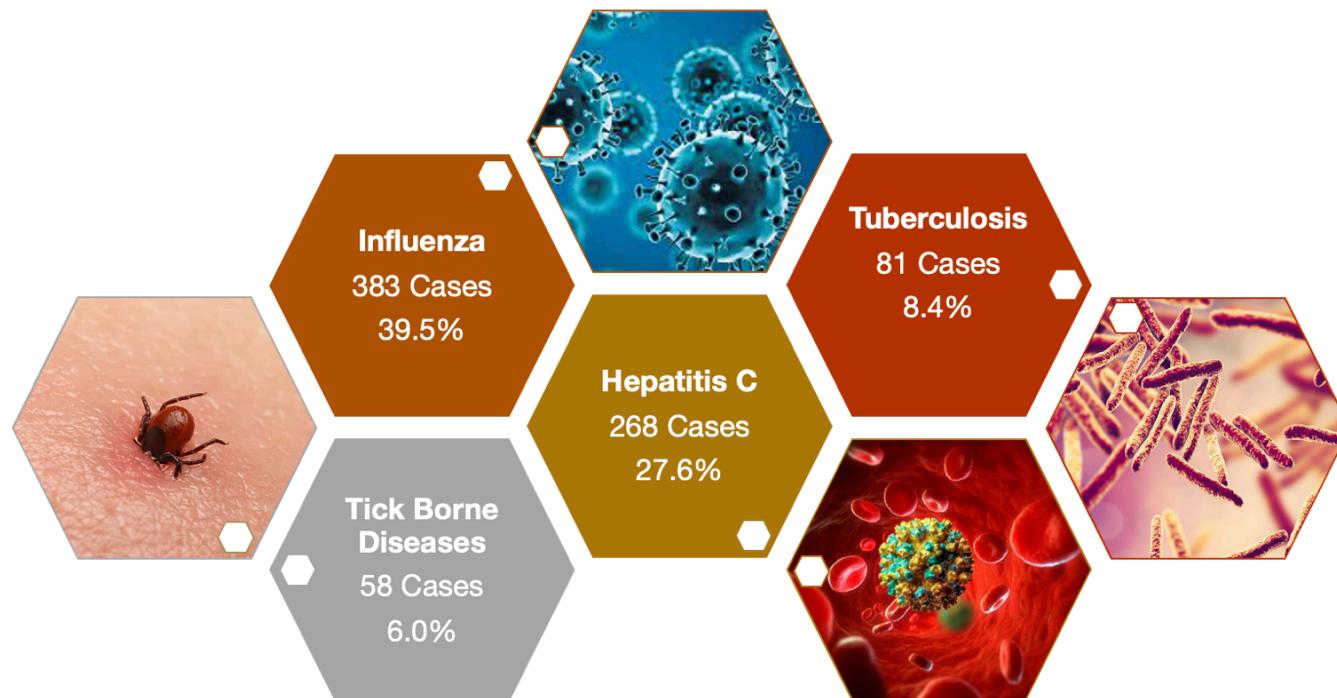
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350 Main Street
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Infectious Disease Overview 2011-2021





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Terms & Definitions

1. An **infectious disease** is an illness caused by a virus, bacteria, or fungi that enters the body and multiplies. These diseases can be contagious, spreading from person to person through physical contact, insect/animal bites, or through the air.
2. A **reportable disease** is one that must be reported to federal, state, or local health departments when diagnosed.
3. **Influenza** also known as the 'flu', is a disease of the respiratory system that is caused by a virus.
4. **Hepatitis C** is a curable liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus that can cause liver damage, cancer, and death if left untreated.
5. **Tuberculosis** also known as 'TB', is a curable bacterial disease caused by the mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria. This disease mostly affects the lungs.
6. **Tick-Borne Diseases** are passed to humans through the bites of infected ticks carrying bacteria, parasites, or viruses. The tick-borne diseases in this report include Lyme Disease, Babesiosis, and Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis.
7. **COVID-19** was excluded from this report to be able to effectively show the significance of other infectious diseases reported in the Town of Webster.
8. This report only reflects confirmed and probable cases reported into Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN). Additional cases could have been present in the absence of testing or reporting.



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Summary

Over the past decade (2011-2021), 81.5% of reported infectious diseases in the Town of Webster were from Influenza, Hepatitis C, Tuberculosis, & Tick-borne diseases. Influenza had the highest percentage of cases (39.5%), followed by Hepatitis C (27.6%), Tuberculosis (8.4%), & Tick-borne diseases (6.0%) (Figure 1).

There were 383 reported influenza cases from 2011-2021. Cases widely varied per year, with only 1 reported case in 2011 and 107 reported cases in 2018 (Figure 2). There were 268 Hepatitis C cases reported during this time with the highest number of cases in 2014 (44) and 2015 (40) (Figure 3). There was an average of 8 Tuberculosis cases per year from 2011-2021, for a total of 81 cases (Figure 4). 2021 saw the most Tuberculosis cases (12), while 2012 (3) & 2014 (3) saw the least (Figure 4). From 2011-2021, 77.6% of reported Tick-borne diseases occurred between 2011-2015 (Figure 5). It is important to note, in that time (2011-2015) Lyme disease was the most prevalent reported Tick-borne disease but has since been preceded by Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis. Furthermore, the number of suspect cases that are not included in this report has significantly increased. Figure 6 shows a further breakdown of the reported Tick-borne diseases - Lyme disease (74.1%), Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (15.5%), and Babesiosis (10.3%). Figure 7 shows the yearly total of reported infectious diseases, with 2018 having the highest number (164) and 2011 (54) & 2019 (54) having the lowest. The last three years, 2019, 2020, & 2021, saw a significant decrease in the number of reported infectious diseases however, it is important to note that this report does not reflect the current pandemic and COVID-19 cases have not been included.

**COVID-19 was excluded from this report



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Infectious Diseases 2011-2021

Influenza, Hepatitis C, Tuberculosis, & Tick-Borne Diseases

All other infectious diseases

18.6%

Tick-borne Diseases

6.0%

Tuberculosis

8.4%

Hepatitis C

27.6%

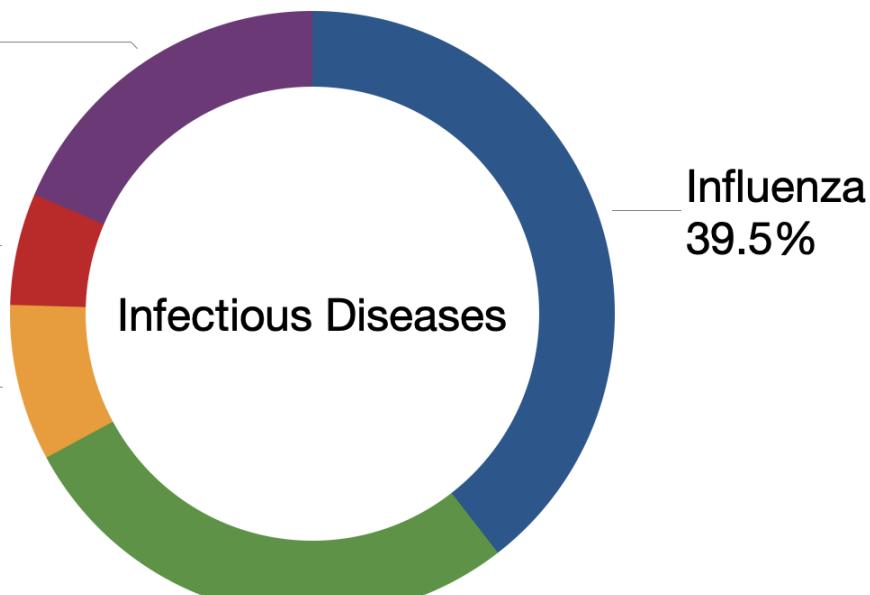


Figure 1



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Infectious Diseases 2011-2021

Yearly Influenza Cases

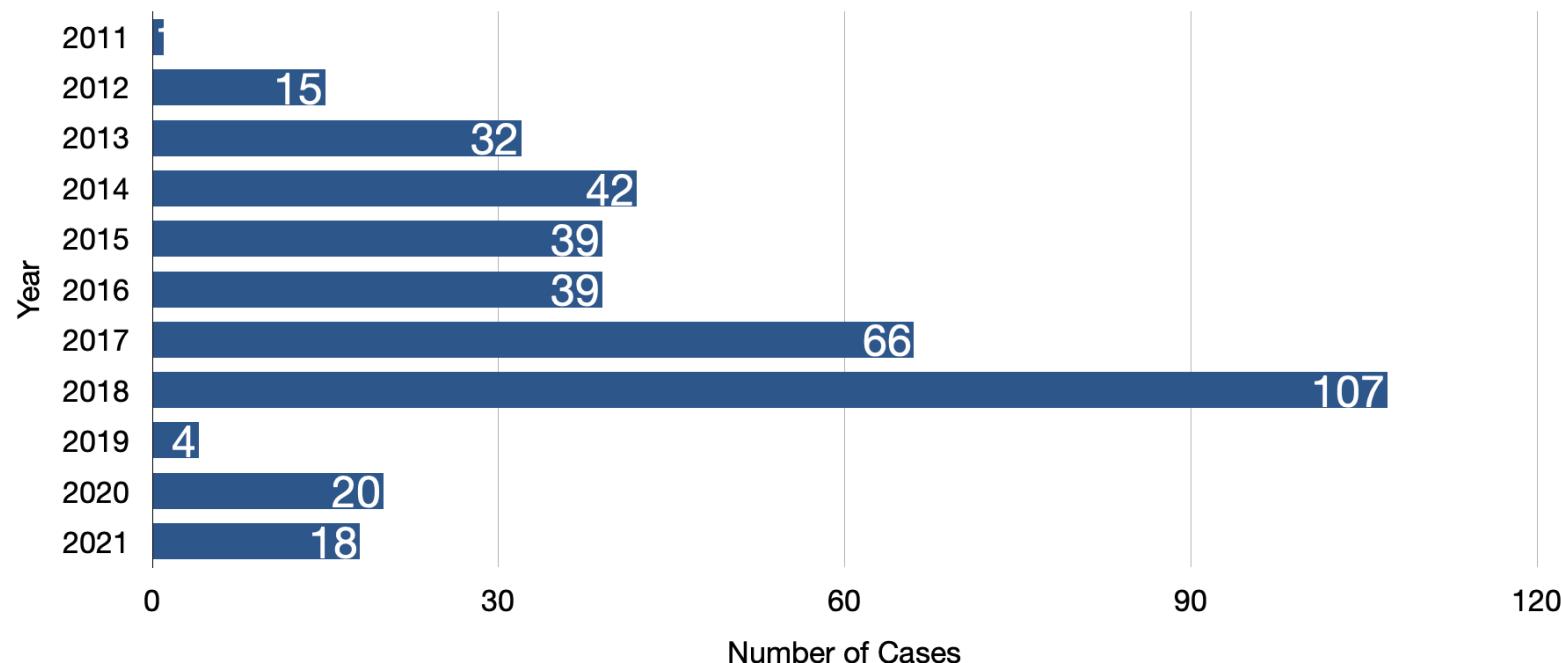


Figure 2



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Infectious Diseases 2011-2021

Yearly Hepatitis C Cases

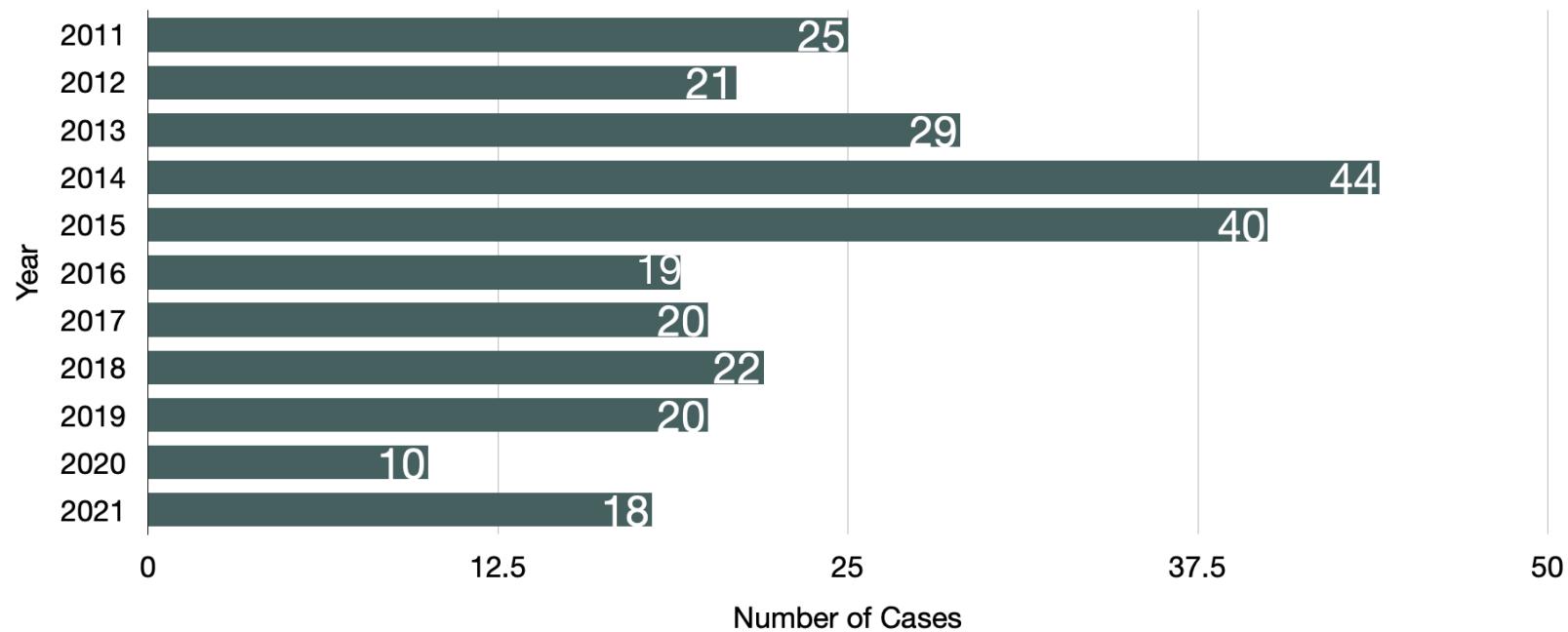


Figure 3



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Infectious Diseases 2011-2021

Yearly Tuberculosis Cases

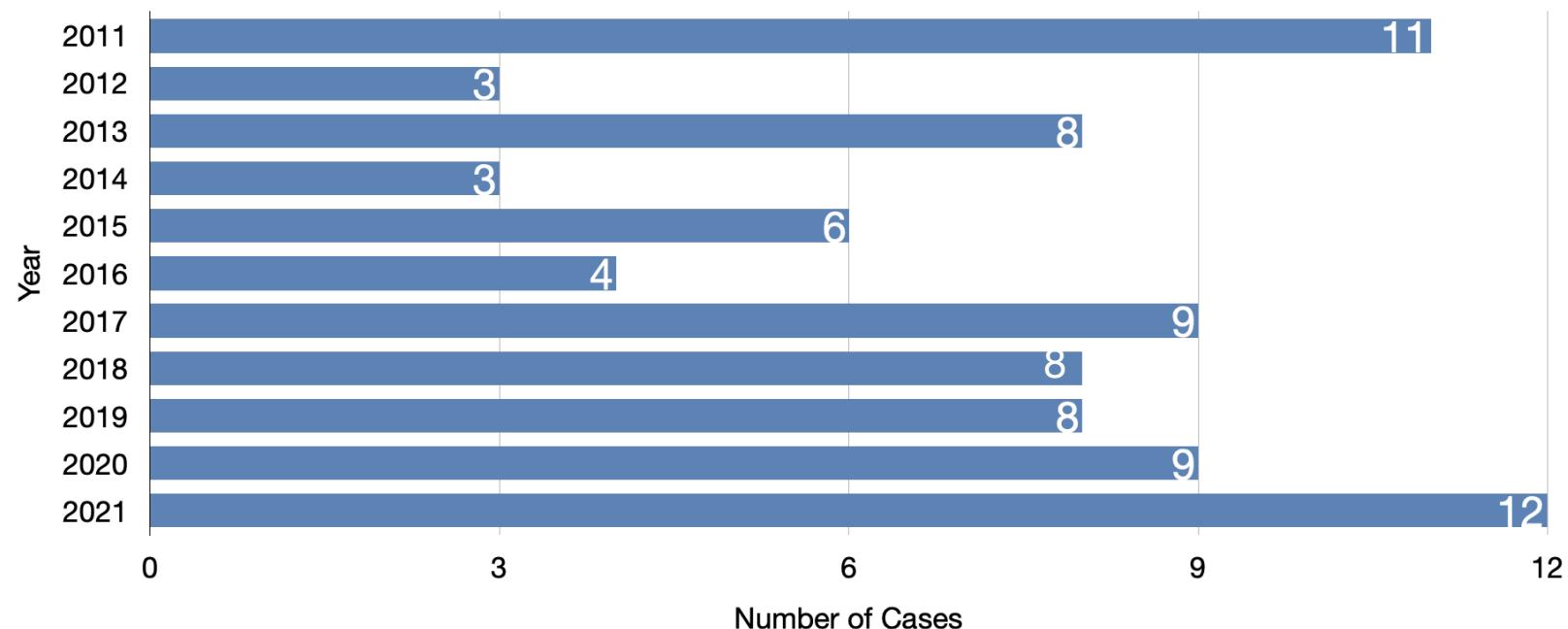


Figure 4



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Infectious Diseases 2011-2021

Yearly Tick Borne Diseases Cases

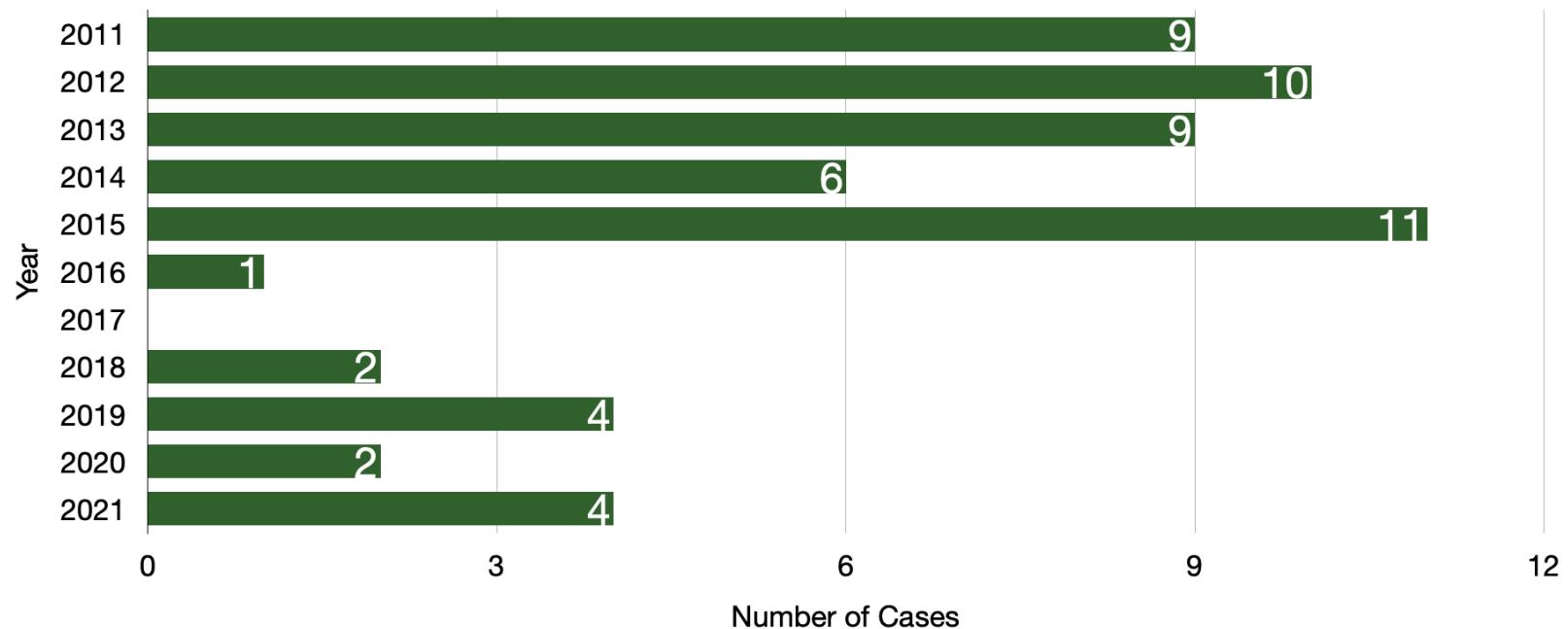


Figure 5

Data Source: Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN)

Tick-Borne diseases in this report include Lyme Disease, Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis, & Babesiosis



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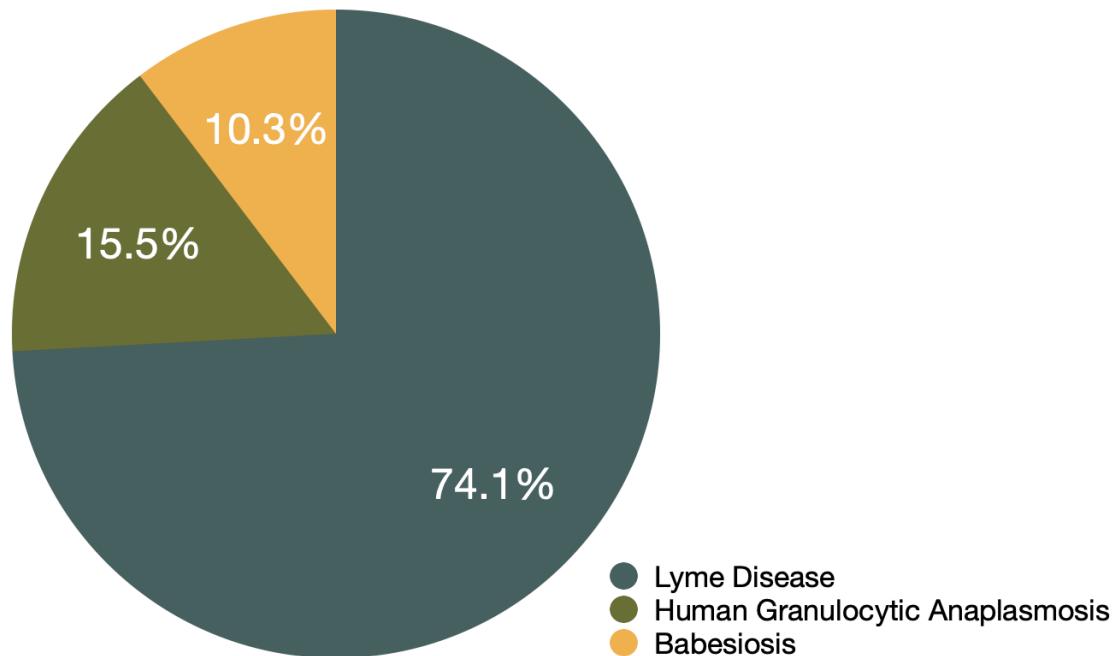
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Infectious Diseases 2011-2021 Breakdown of Tick-Borne Diseases





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Infectious Diseases 2011-2021

Yearly Total of Infectious Diseases Reported

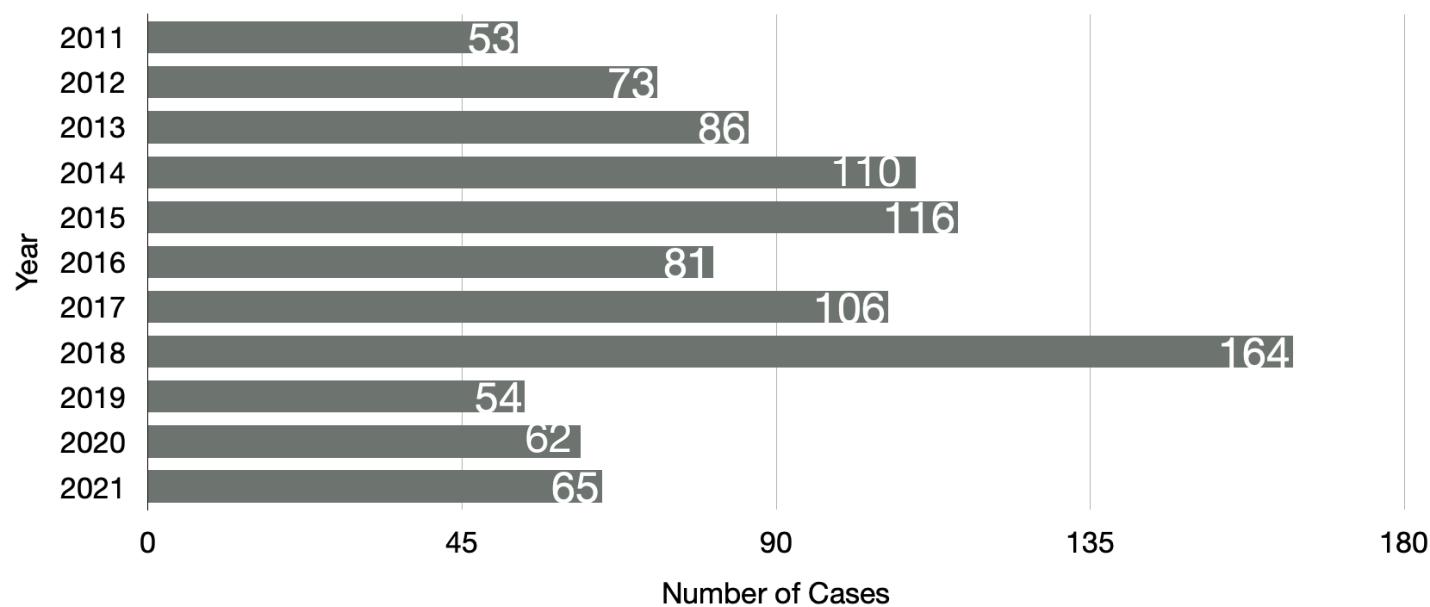


Figure 7

Data Source: Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN)

A list of reportable diseases in the state of Massachusetts can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/infectious-disease-reporting-and-regulations-for-health-care-providers-and-laboratories>