



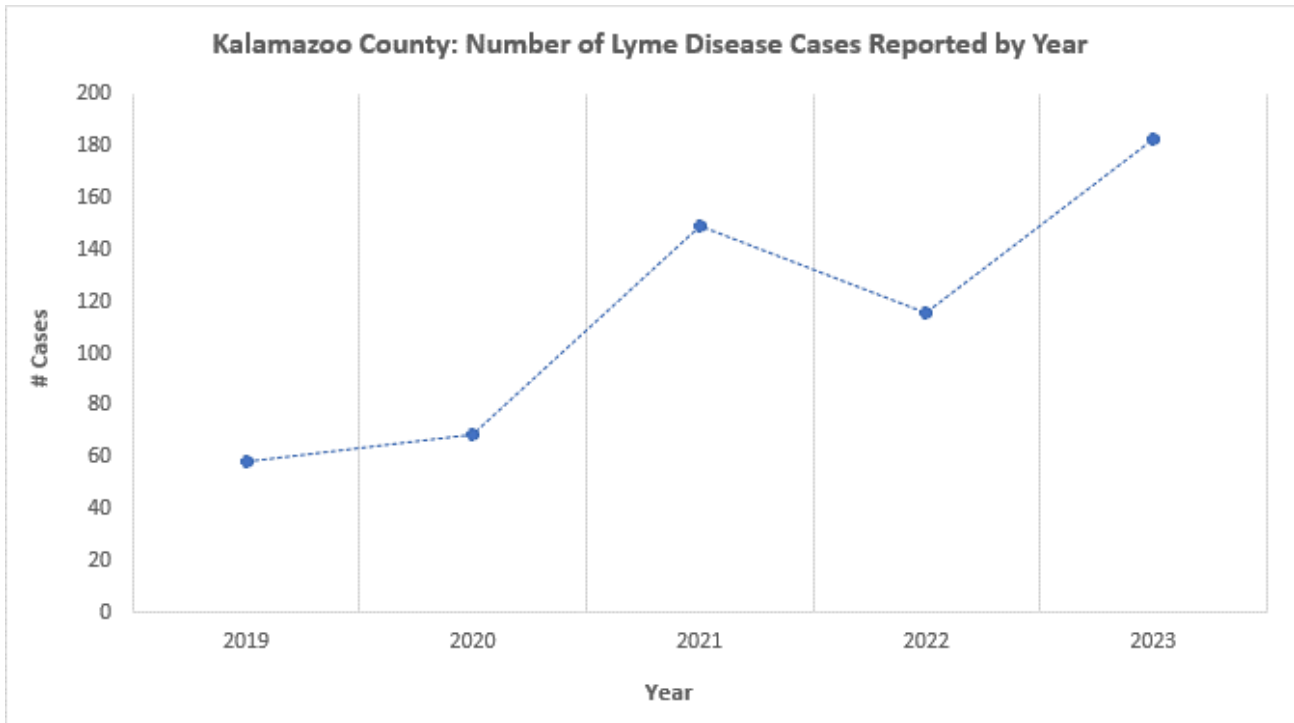
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Tick and mosquito surveillance begins in Kalamazoo County amid warming temperatures and rising Lyme disease cases

KALAMAZOO, Mich.— With temperatures rising and Lyme disease cases on the upswing, the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is initiating proactive measures to monitor and mitigate the risks posed by ticks and mosquitoes to residents and their pets. As families gear up for outdoor activities, it's crucial to be mindful of tick and mosquito bites, which can transmit serious diseases like Lyme disease, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and the West Nile virus.

“Our team will be monitoring mosquito traps and performing tick drags throughout the spring and summer months, in order to better understand what diseases are in our communities and better inform residents on steps they can take against them,” said Lucus Pols, Environmental Health Division Manager. “We say ‘**Small Bite, Big Threat**’ for a reason. Lyme disease cases have been climbing steadily in Kalamazoo County, highlighting the need for proactive prevention.”

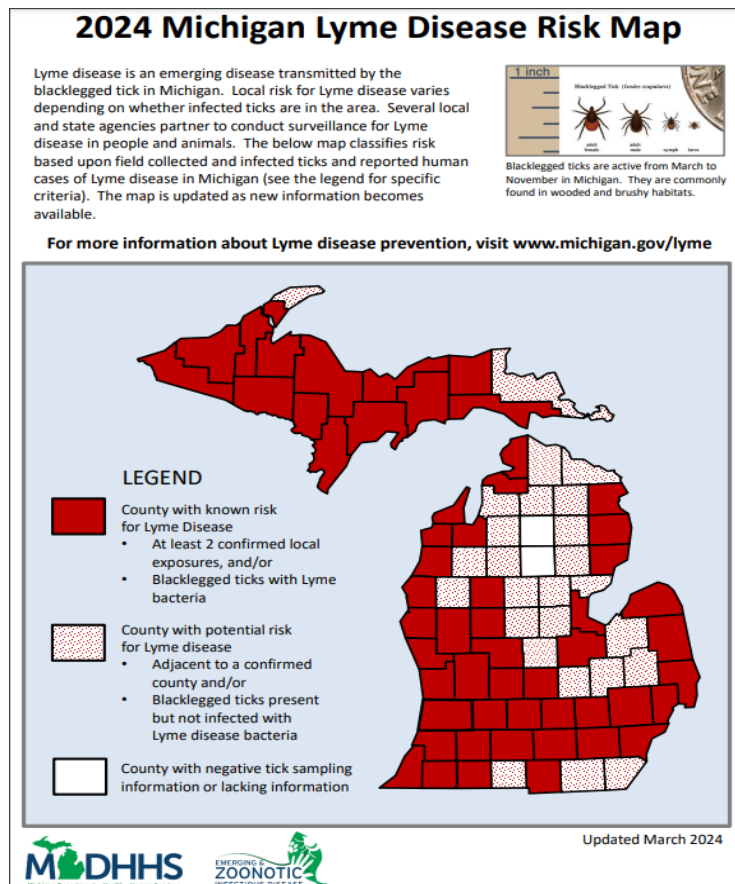


1According to data from the Michigan Disease Surveillance System, the number of cases of Lyme disease has increased from 58 in 2019 to more than 100 in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Key Points:

- **Lyme Disease Surge:** Cases have more than doubled since 2019, emphasizing the urgency of prevention efforts. Lyme disease, the most common vector-borne disease in the United States, exhibits typical symptoms including fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. If left untreated, infection can spread to the joints, the heart, and the nervous system.
- **Prevention Tips:** Simple steps like wearing EPA-registered insect repellent, covering up with long clothing, and eliminating standing water can significantly reduce the risk of tick and mosquito bites. For additional tips to prevent tick and mosquito bites, visit [here](#).
- **Active Season:** While exposure can happen year-round, ticks and mosquitoes are most active from April to September, with peak mosquito activity from dusk to dawn.

For more information about tick and mosquito surveillance occurring in Kalamazoo County, and how to prevent being bitten by these bugs, visit <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/eh/> or call 269-373-5210.



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