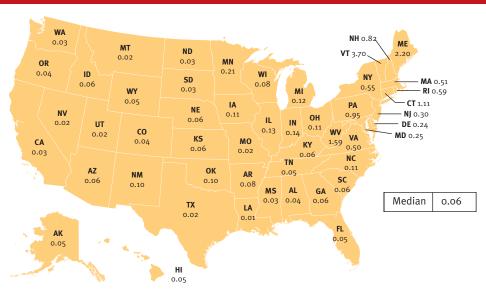


## **DEVELOPING DATA**

## Northeast Leads in Lyme-Related Diagnoses in Urgent Care

■ Alan A. Ayers, MBA, MAcc

## UC PATIENT VISITS WITH ANY LYME-RELATED DIAGNOSIS, PER 1,000 VISITS



Analysis of 34,686,786 patient visits with any Lyme-related diagnosis (ICD-10) code, in the Experity EMR from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025.

n the United States, 8 common species of ticks exist in different geographies that present risk of transmitting more than 10 different types of diseases. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most common ticks associated with human disease transmission in the United States are the American dog tick (Dermacentor variabilis, or D. similis), also known as a "wood tick," and the blacklegged tick (Ixodes scapularis), commonly referred to as a "deer tick." The deer tick is associated with Lyme disease as well as other diseases. Both of these species exist in every state east of the Rocky Mountains.

Lyme disease symptoms can vary, but common early



Alan A. Ayers, MBA, MAcc is President of Urgent Care Consultants and Senior Editor of The Journal of Urgent Care symptoms include a characteristic erythema migrans (EM) rash, which often looks like a bull's eye target, as well as flu-like symptoms such as fever, fatigue, headache, and muscle/joint aches.2 It's important to note that not all patients will develop a rash, and the flu-like symptoms can be easily mistaken for viral or other conditions.

Prompt treatment with antibiotics (usually doxycycline, amoxicillin, or cefuroxime)<sup>3</sup> can prevent Lyme disease from spreading and causing more serious complications to the heart, nervous system, and joints. ■

- 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Where Ticks Live. CDC. Published April 22, 2025. Accessed May 28, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/about/ where-ticks-live.html
- 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About Lyme Disease. CDC. Published August 26, 2024. Accessed May 28, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/ about/index.html
- 3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Clinical Treatment of Erythema Migrans Rash. CDC. Published July 12, 2024. Accessed May 28, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/hcp/clinical-care/erythema-migrans-rash.html