

## Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis

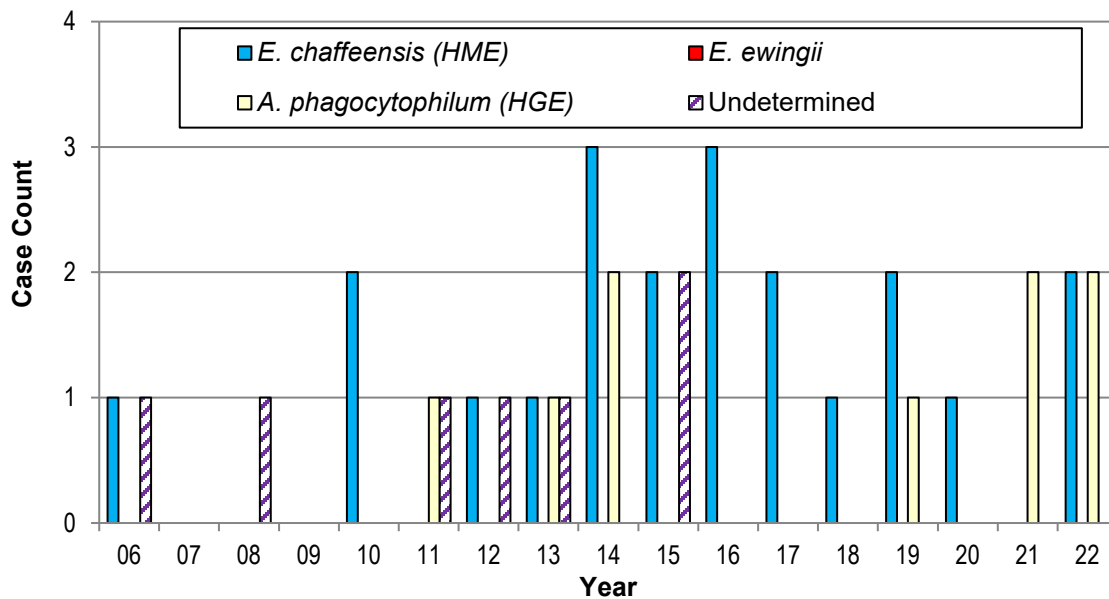
*Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis are Class C diseases. Cases and positive lab results must be reported to the state within five business days.*

Ehrlichiosis and anaplasmosis are emerging illnesses caused by tick-borne rickettsial bacteria resulting in acute, influenza-like illness with fever, chills, headache, malaise, myalgia, and nausea. They can also frequently cause rash with leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, and elevated liver enzymes, mainly ALT. Ehrlichiosis and anaplasmosis, if left untreated or poorly managed, can result in severe and even fatal complications such as acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), meningitis/encephalitis, and renal failure. The incubation period before the onset of symptoms is typically within 1-2 weeks after a tick bite or exposure.

### Cases

As of 2022, the average incidence of ehrlichiosis has been 0.04 cases per 100,000 per year and the average incidence of anaplasmosis has been 0.02 cases per 100,000 per year (Figure 1). Nationally, the number of cases of both the diseases has increased steadily since the diseases became reportable in 1999.

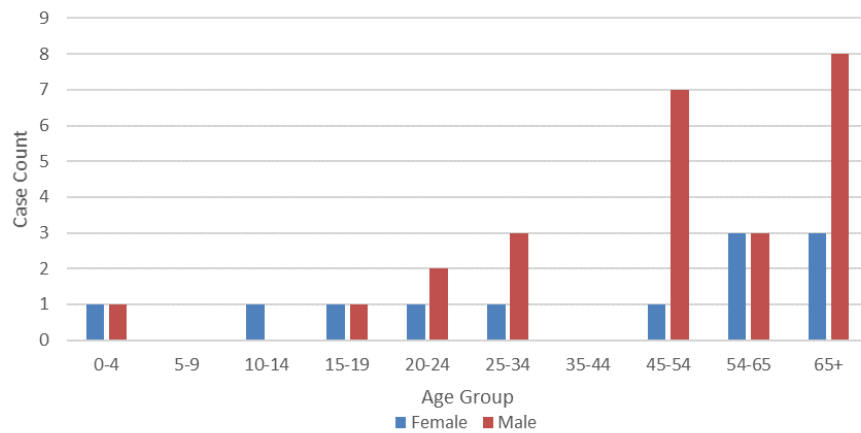
Figure 1: Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis Reported Cases - Louisiana, 2006-2022



## Gender and Age

Nationally, the frequency of both diseases is highest in males and people aged 60 years and older. Louisiana has a similar trend, with more cases reported among males (70%) than females. Data also indicated more cases among males in the age group of 45 to 64 years old, as well as those aged 65 years and older (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis Cases by Age and Gender - Louisiana, 2006-2022



## Race and Age

Race and ethnicity are frequently unreported in cases of rare illnesses. Current nationwide data on the breakdown of cases by race has not been published. The remaining cases did not have race reported.

## Seasonality

In the United States, a majority of cases are infected during summer months with a peak in the months of June and July (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis Reported Cases by Month of Onset - Louisiana, 2006-2022

