

Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis

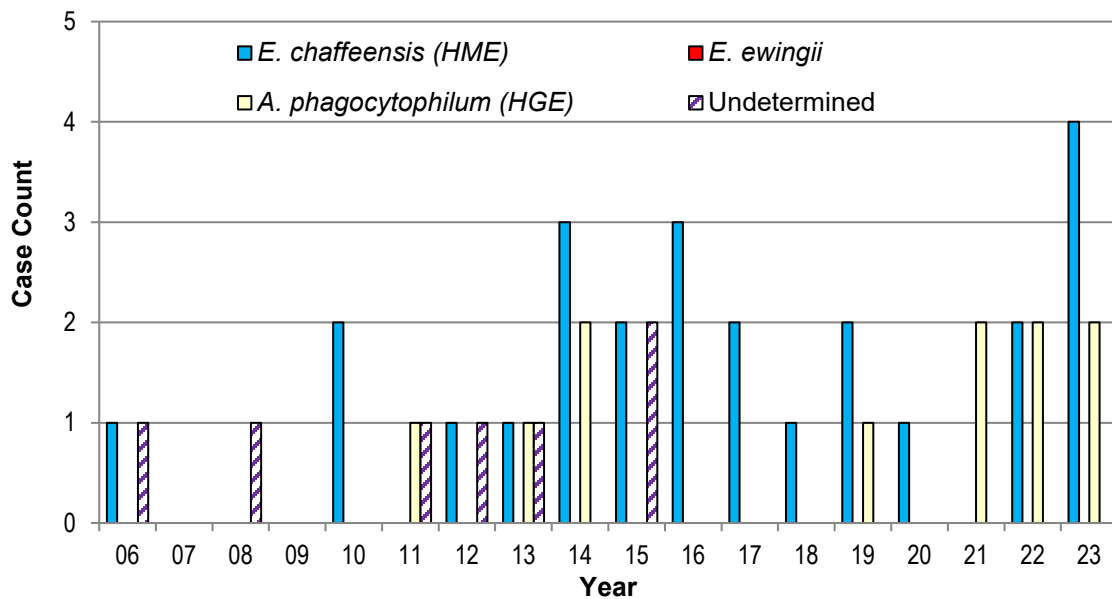
Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasmosis are Class C diseases. Cases and positive lab results must be reported to the state within five business days.

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

The 10-year average incidence of ehrlichiosis in Louisiana from 2014 to 2023 has been 0.04 cases per 100,000 people and the average incidence of anaplasmosis has been 0.02 cases per 100,000 people (Figure 1). Nationally, the number of cases of both the diseases has increased steadily since the diseases became reportable in 1999.

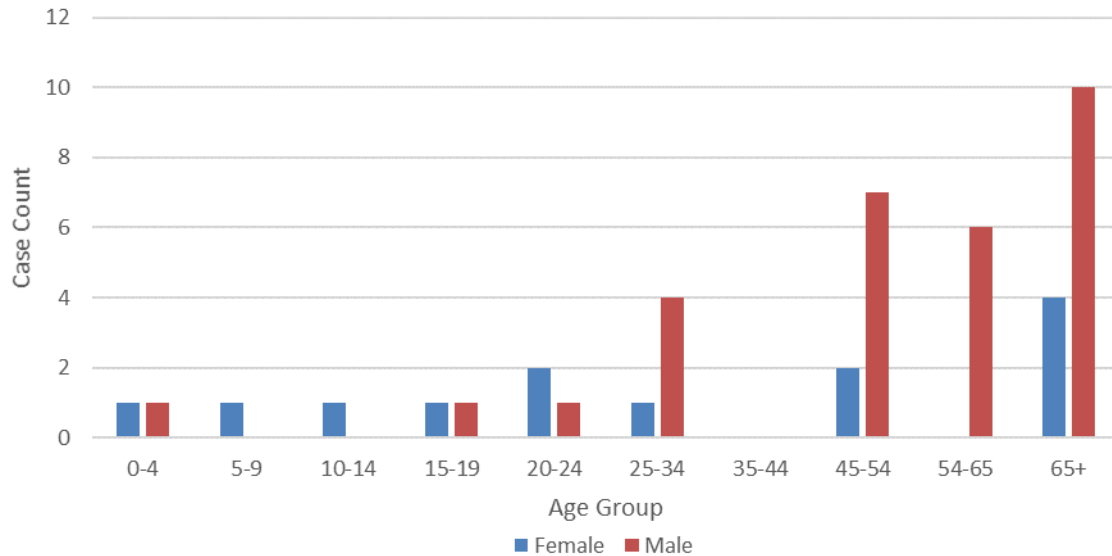
Figure 1: Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis Reported Cases - Louisiana, 2006-2023



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 (66%) than females (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis Cases by Age and Gender - Louisiana, 2006-2023



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, 2006-2023

