

# Health Notes: We're No. 1 – for tick-borne diseases

By [news@duluthnewstribune.com](mailto:news@duluthnewstribune.com) on Apr 11, 2013 at 12:00 a.m.



Northland counties are among the top 100 in the country in incidences of tick-borne diseases, a private company's analysis shows.

Douglas and Carlton counties each are among the top 100, while St. Louis County is among the 100 counties in which tick-borne diseases are fastest-growing, the analysis released this month by LymeEZ LLC said.

The company, which manufactures clothing designed to discourage tick bites, had a proprietary interest in knowing where tick-related diseases were prevalent but couldn't find up-to-date data, it said in a news release. It modeled its analysis from a Yale School of Public Health study on Lyme disease risk that used 2004-05 data, using data from 2011. It also looked at all tick-borne illnesses, not just Lyme disease.

The highest rates continue to be in New England and the Upper Midwest, the company found, with Wisconsin and Minnesota leading the way.

Between studies, Lyme disease grew at a rate of 12 percent in Wisconsin and 6 percent in Minnesota, the news release said. But it's not all Lyme disease; in Minnesota, non-Lyme diseases make up 27 percent of the tick total, it said.

Strangely enough, LymeEZ is based in Lyme, N.H.

State gains on infant child-care deaths

The numbers are small, but Minnesota may have turned a corner in deaths of infants in child care.

No infant deaths occurred in child care facilities in the state during the last half of 2012, the Minnesota Department of Human Services said in a news release.

That came after an increase of such deaths from an average of six a year before 2006 to more than 11 in both 2010 and 2011, the news release said. Six more deaths occurred during the first four months of 2012.