

- Data set is composed of all confirmed and probable cases of ehrlichiosis that were reported to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) between 2016 and 2021 and entered into the state's disease surveillance system. Only cases where the agent was reported as *Ehrlichia chaffeensis* or *Ehrlichia ewingii* are included. Cases classified as 'undetermined human ehrlichiosis/anaplasmosis' are not included in the data set.
- Ehrlichiosis is considered a reportable disease in the state of Kansas. As a result, healthcare providers and laboratories are required to notify the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) regarding any patients with a probable or confirmed case of the disease within 24 hours of receiving laboratory evidence that supports classifying the case as confirmed or probable. For definitions of what is considered a confirmed or probable case, please refer to the CDC's surveillance case definition for [ehrlichiosis](#) and select the appropriate year.
- The CDC's definition of what is considered a confirmed or probable case has changed over time. Cases associated with each year are classified using the corresponding case definition for that time period. Previous years of data are not re-classified when a new case definition is released.
- Cases are classified by age group based on age at disease onset. Age at disease onset is defined as the number of completed years between the patient's date of birth (DOB) and date of disease onset. If the date of disease onset is unknown, age at disease onset is estimated using the following protocol:
 1. If date of disease onset is unknown, age at disease onset is estimated by determining the number of completed years between DOB and date of diagnosis
 2. If both date of disease onset and date of diagnosis are unknown, age at disease onset is estimated by determining the number of completed years between DOB and laboratory collection date
 3. If date of disease onset, date of diagnosis and laboratory collection date are unknown, age at disease onset is estimated by determining the number of completed years between DOB and date the event was created in the state's disease surveillance system.
- Cases are classified by year using the Morbidity and Mortality Week Report (MMWR) year assigned to the case by the local or state health department. The MMWR year is the epidemiologic year for which the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) disease report is assigned by the reporting local or state health department for the purpose of MMWR disease incidence reporting and publishing.
- Location of exposure is defined as the state where the individual was most likely exposed to the disease. Location of exposure information is collected as part of the disease investigation. Cases where: 1) the location of exposure is unknown or 2) more than 1 state is listed are classified as unknown.
- The median age is defined as the middle value when cases are placed in ascending age order (youngest to oldest). The median age at disease onset represents the age where 50% of the cases have an age value that is smaller than or equal to the median and 50% of the cases have an age value that is greater than or equal to the median.
- Percent of travel-associated cases is defined as the percentage of cases where the location of exposure was reported as being outside of Kansas (i.e. out-of-state). The percentage only includes cases where the state of exposure could be definitely determined. Cases where the location of exposure was unknown or where more than 1 state was reported are not included in percentage calculations.

- Month of disease onset is defined as the month in which the patient first reported experiencing symptoms of the disease. If the date of disease onset is unknown, the month of disease onset is estimated using the following date hierarchy:
 1. Date of diagnosis
 2. Laboratory collection date
 3. Date event was created in state disease surveillance system

DATA DISCLAIMER:

Although care has been taken to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information provided in the data dashboard, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, adequacy, completeness, legality, reliability or usefulness of this information. Information is subject to change without notice. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) shall not be liable for any improper or incorrect use of the information described and/or contained herein and assumes no responsibility for the consequences of use of such information. In no event shall KDHE be liable for any direct, indirect, special or incidental damages resulting from, arising out of, or in connection with the use of this information.