

- Data set is composed of all confirmed and probable cases of spotted fever rickettsiosis (SFR) 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.
- Spotted fever rickettsiosis 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 [spotted fever rickettsiosis](#) 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.
- As a result of the changes that were made to the spotted fever rickettsiosis case definition in 2020, a sharp decrease in the number of confirmed and probable cases is expected from 2020 onward. The CDC made changes to the case definition including raising the minimum titer for reporting and eliminating some test types that were previously used for disease surveillance. Since antibodies to SFR may remain high for months to years after infection, these changes help to better identify new cases of spotted fever rickettsiosis and enable epidemiologists to better track and understand changes in disease burden.
- 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:

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