

# SURVEILLANCE OF TICKS IN CANADA

Highlights from the 2019 report on blacklegged and western blacklegged ticks

## THE RISK FROM TICK BITES



- ▶ Most **blacklegged ticks** are found in central and eastern Canada
- ▶ **Western blacklegged ticks** are found in British Columbia
- ▶ Ticks get infected by feeding on an infected animal or bird
- ▶ Infected ticks can bite humans or animals and can spread diseases like **Lyme disease**, or less commonly, **anaplasmosis**, **babesiosis** or **Powassan virus disease**

## TYPE OF TICK SURVEILLANCE USED

### PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE

- ▶ Ticks collected from **people** or **pets** that healthcare professionals, veterinarians or the public submit voluntarily



### ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

- ▶ Ticks collected from their **natural habitat** using field study methods such as dragging a piece of fabric along the ground (drag sampling)



## FINDINGS

### PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE

**10,549** ticks submitted in **10** provinces\*



infected ticks found in **8** provinces



**9,858** blacklegged ticks

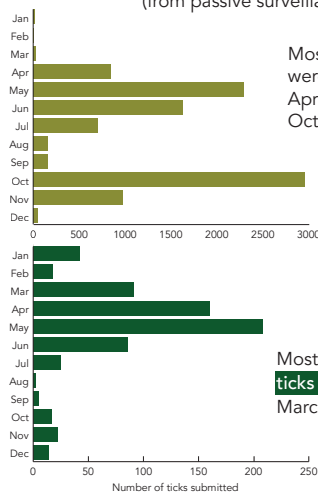
- about 1 in 5 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**
- about 1 in 70 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **anaplasmosis**
- about 1 in 750 ticks carried the parasite that causes **babesiosis**

**691** western blacklegged ticks

- about 1 in 333 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**

### SEASONALITY OF TICKS

(from passive surveillance)



Most **blacklegged ticks** were submitted in April–July and October–November

Most **western blacklegged ticks** were submitted in March–June

### ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

**184** sites visited in **10** provinces\*



**1,166** ticks collected in **7** provinces



infected ticks found in **4** provinces



**1,156** blacklegged ticks

- about 1 in 4 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**
- about 1 in 30 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **anaplasmosis**
- about 1 in 180 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Borrelia miyamotoi disease**
- about 1 in 700 ticks carried the virus that causes **Powassan virus disease**

**10** western blacklegged ticks

no infected ticks found

\* no ticks were found in the Territories

## PREVENT AND PROTECT FROM TICK BITES

### TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TICK EXPOSURE



cover exposed skin



use insect repellent with DEET or Icaridin



remove ticks using clean, fine-point tweezers



do a full body check for ticks after being outside

### TO REDUCE YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL RISK



clear leaf litter



keep lawns maintained

### TO PROTECT YOUR PETS



check your pet for ticks after being outside

To learn more about ticks, tick-borne diseases and where risk areas are, refer to [Canada.ca/LymeDisease](https://Canada.ca/LymeDisease)