

TICK SURVEILLANCE IN CANADA

Highlights from the 2021 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 (or their images) 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

7,669 ticks submitted in **10** provinces

Infected ticks found in **7** provinces

6,892 blacklegged ticks

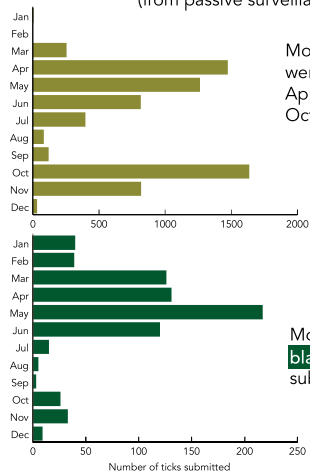
- about 1 in 6 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**
- about 1 in 89 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **anaplasmosis**
- about 1 in 278 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Borrelia miyamotoi disease**
- about 1 in 2,500 ticks carried the parasite that causes **babesiosis**

777 western blacklegged ticks

- about 1 in 112 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

More than **153** sites visited in **8** provinces

Infected ticks collected in **5** provinces

1,935 blacklegged ticks

- about 1 in 5 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**
- about 1 in 23 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **anaplasmosis**
- about 1 in 145 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Borrelia miyamotoi disease**
- 1 in 862 ticks carried the virus that causes **Powassan virus disease**
- 1 in 862 ticks carried the parasite that causes **babesiosis**

18 western blacklegged ticks

- no tick** was found carrying the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**

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



talk with your veterinarian about tick bite and Lyme disease prevention

To learn more about ticks, tick-borne diseases and where risk areas are, refer to Canada.ca/LymeDisease



Public Health Agency of Canada

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