

TICK SURVEILLANCE IN CANADA

Highlights from the 2022 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**, **anaplasmosis**, **babesiosis**, and **Powassan virus disease**.

TYPE OF TICK SURVEILLANCE USED

- ▶ Passive and active surveillance methods were used to collect data on ticks in Canada.

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).



HIGHLIGHTS

PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE

7,941 ticks submitted in **10** provinces and **1** territory

7,030 blacklegged ticks

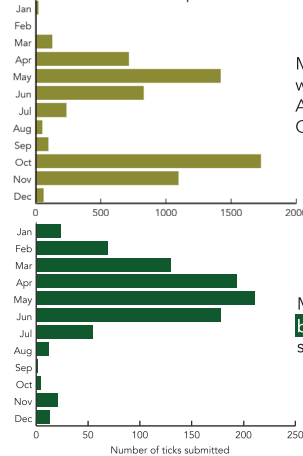
- 🦋 About **57%** of the data were from image-based submissions.
- 🦋 Passive surveillance programs with pathogen testing have been gradually discontinued in Canada resulting in limited data on pathogen testing results for blacklegged ticks in 2022.

911 western blacklegged ticks

- 🦋 About **1** in **89** ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**.

SEASONALITY OF TICKS

(from passive surveillance)



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

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

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

331 sites visited in **10** provinces

Infected ticks **collected** in **6** provinces

2,292 blacklegged ticks

- 🦋 About **1** in **4** ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**.
- 🦋 About **1** in **35** ticks carried the bacteria that causes **anaplasmosis**.
- 🦋 About **1** in **397** ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Borrelia miyamotoi disease**.
- 🦋 **1** in **397** ticks carried the parasite that causes **babesiosis**.
- 🦋 **1** in **990** ticks carried the virus that causes **Powassan virus disease**.

109 western blacklegged ticks

- 🦋 About **1** in **34** ticks carried the bacteria that causes **anaplasmosis**.
- 🦋 About **1** in **83** ticks carried 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



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