

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

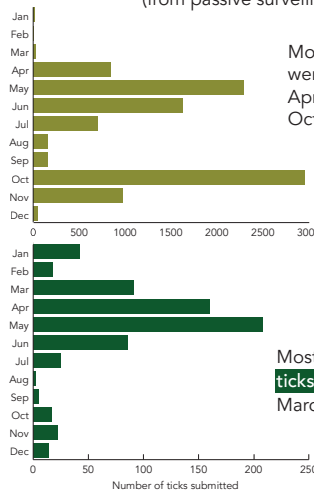
- about 1 in 5 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**
- about 1 in 70 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **anaplasmosis**
- about 1 in 750 ticks carried the parasite that causes **babesiosis**

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