

TICK SURVEILLANCE IN CANADA

Highlights from the 2020 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

8,252 ticks submitted in **9** provinces

Infected ticks found in **7** provinces

7,534 blacklegged ticks

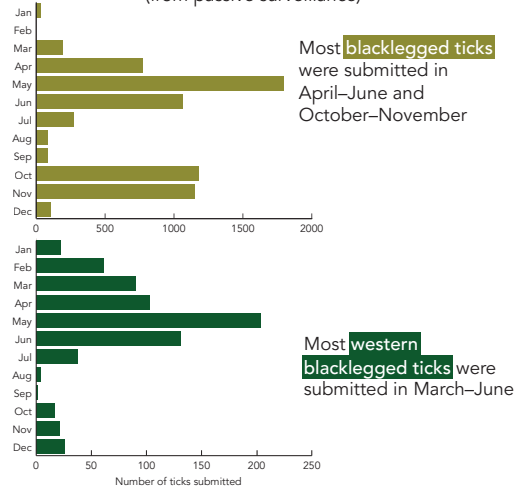
- about 1 in 6 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**
- about 1 in 115 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **anaplasmosis**
- about 1 in 204 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Borrelia miyamotoi disease**
- about 1 in 5000 ticks carried the parasite that causes **babesiosis**

718 western blacklegged ticks

- about 1 in 705 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Borrelia miyamotoi disease**
- no ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**

SEASONALITY OF TICKS

(from passive surveillance)



ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

45 sites visited in **3** provinces

Infected ticks collected in **3** provinces*

688 blacklegged ticks[†]

- about 1 in 3 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Lyme disease**
- about 1 in 22 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **anaplasmosis**
- about 1 in 228 ticks carried the bacteria that causes **Borrelia miyamotoi disease**
- 1 in 683 ticks carried the virus that causes **Powassan virus disease**
- 1 in 683 ticks carried the parasite that causes **babesiosis**

* no western blacklegged ticks were found
[†] 5 ticks were not tested

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