

Kentucky is swarming with deer ticks: over 50% of counties infested

Sunday, April 29, 2018

<http://danielcameronmd.com/kentucky-swarming-deer-ticks-50-counties-infested/>

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The authors collected deer ticks from 794 hunter-harvested white-tailed deer and 2 from black bears (killed by cars). An additional 6 ticks were removed from two field biologists assisting with tick collection, which took place between October 2015 and January 2017.

“We combined our data (41 new county records) with data from [Eisen et al. \(2016\)](#) (18 counties) [2] which indicate *I. scapularis* is present in at least 59 counties,” [writes Lockwood](#).

The authors’ data demonstrates that the deer tick “occurs throughout Kentucky and is established in numerous counties where it had not been previously reported.”

Furthermore, the authors examined a select number of ticks and found 11% of them were infected with *B. burgdorferi*. “We detected *B. burgdorferi* s.s. in *I. scapularis* at numerous sites across Kentucky despite similar studies in Tennessee failing to detect *B. burgdorferi* s.s. in >800 *I. scapularis* tested.”

While the number of cases of Lyme disease is still low in Kentucky, it is rising. “The number of human Lyme disease cases has increased in recent years from five human cases/year ... from 2006–2012 to 14.25/year ... from 2013 to 2016,” Lockwood states. The authors did not, however, discuss the possibility of underreporting of Lyme disease cases.

Lockwood concludes, “public health measures are important to prevent tick-borne diseases in Kentucky.”

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[More than 50% of mice in Kentucky infected with Lyme bacteria](#)

[CDC advises doctors to consider Lyme disease in emerging states](#)

[Culture evidence of Lyme disease in antibiotic treated patients living in the Southeast](#)

References:

1. Lockwood BH, Stasiak I, Pfaff MA, Cleveland CA, Yabsley MJ. Widespread distribution of ticks

- and selected tick-borne pathogens in Kentucky (USA). *Ticks Tick Borne Dis.* 2018;9(3):738-741.
2. Eisen RJ, Eisen L, Beard CB. County-Scale Distribution of *Ixodes scapularis* and *Ixodes pacificus* (Acari: Ixodidae) in the Continental United States. *J Med Entomol.* 2016.

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