

Geographic distribution of ticks that bite humans

Of the many different tick species found throughout the world, only a select few bite and transmit disease to people. Of the ticks that bite people, different species of ticks transmit different diseases. These maps show the general distribution of human-biting ticks in the contiguous United States. Populations of ticks may be found outside shaded areas. Naturally occurring populations of the ticks described below do not occur in Alaska; however, the brown dog tick occurs in Hawaii.

Note that adult ticks are the easiest to identify and male and female ticks of the same species may look different. Nymphal and larval ticks are very small and may be hard to identify.

▼ American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)



Where found: Widely distributed east of the Rocky Mountains. Also occurs in limited areas on the Pacific Coast.

Transmits: Tularemia and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

Comments: The highest risk of being bitten occurs during spring and summer. Dog ticks are sometimes called wood ticks. Adult females are most likely to bite humans.



About This Map

This map is not meant to represent risks for a specific tick-borne disease, because disease transmission is influenced by multiple factors beyond mere tick presence. This map has been designed to answer the question “What ticks should I be concerned about at a regional scale?” Please consult a local public health authority or USDA Agricultural Extension Office to determine more specific information at the state, county, or municipal level. Background data for this map is from the US National Atlas.

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- › **Blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)**
- › **Brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*)**
- › **Gulf Coast tick (*Amblyomma maculatum*)**
- › **Lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*)**
- › **Rocky Mountain wood tick (*Dermacentor andersoni*)**
- › **Western blacklegged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*)**

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Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/>)

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Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD) (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/index.html>)