

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*)**

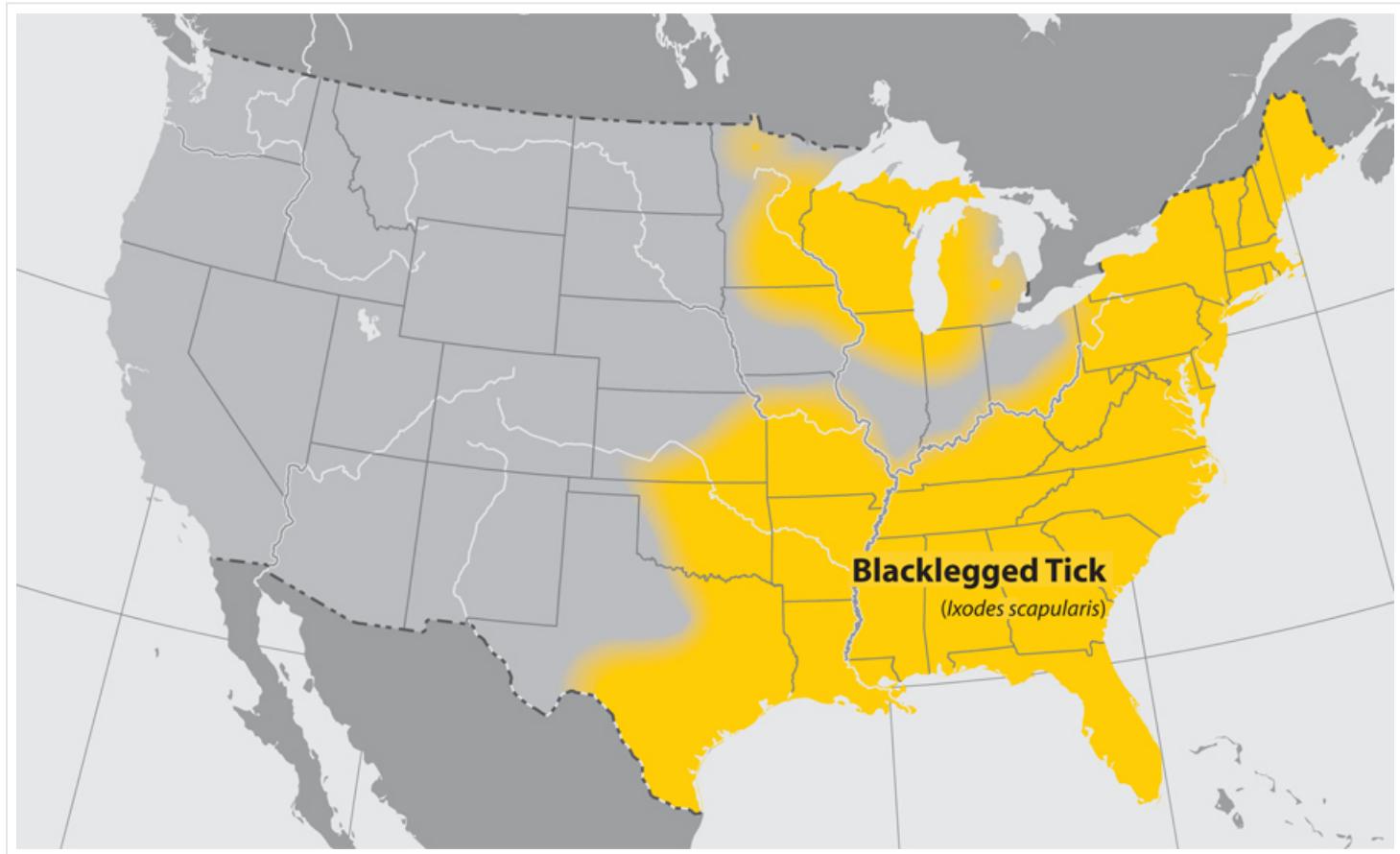
▼ **Blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)**



Where found: Widely distributed in the northeastern and upper midwestern United States.

Transmits: Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia muris eauclairensis*), babesiosis, *Borrelia miyamotoi*, and Powassan disease.

Comments: The greatest risk of being bitten exists in the spring, summer, and fall. However, adults may be out searching for a host any time winter temperatures are above freezing. Stages most likely to bite humans are nymphs and adult females.



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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- > **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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National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid>)

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