



Health Care Provider Memo

Date: Jun 24, 2025

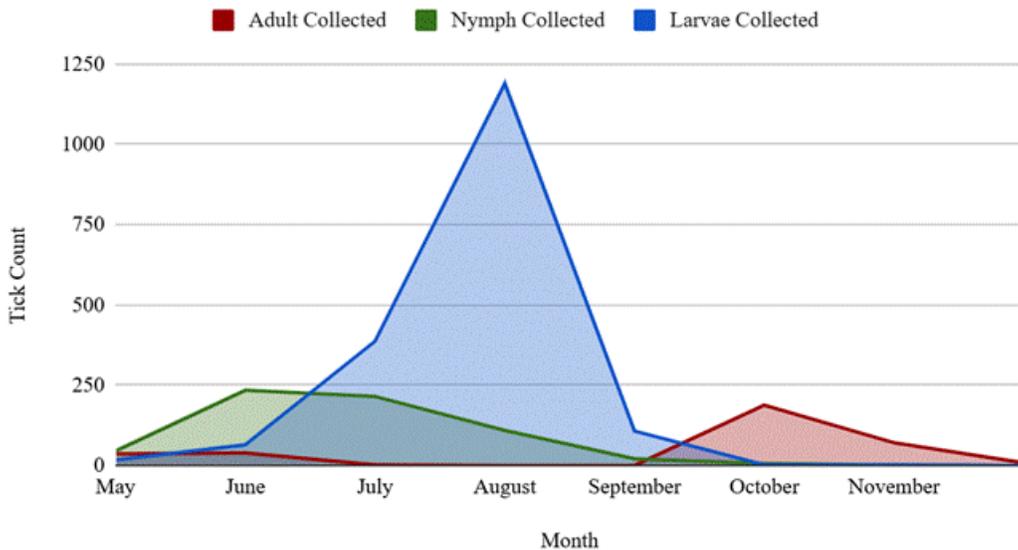
From: Melinda Smith-Pritt, Veronica Crenshaw

Questions: melinda.smith@maryland.gov, veronica.crenshaw@maryland.gov

RE: Ixodes Scapularis Surveillance and Lyme Disease Risks in Garrett County

The following information has been provided by the Garrett County Health Department’s Office of Environmental Health and represents phenology and pathogen prevalence for Ixodes scapularis, the Blacklegged Tick, also known as the deer tick. In recent years personnel have conducted routine tick surveillance throughout Garrett County, mostly on lands with public access camping and/or hiking trails. Ticks are sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for DNA pathogen testing. During surveillance events, Dermacentor variabilis (American Dog Tick) and Haemaphysalis longicornis (Longhorn Tick) have also been collected but are not represented in the datasets below. More information on those ticks will be provided in future correspondence.

Tick Prevalence 2023-2024



Garrett County, a healthier place to live, work, and play!

garretthealth.org

Toll Free Maryland Department of Health 1-877-463-3464
TDD for Disabled Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258
Equal Opportunity Employer

Ticks can be active throughout the year, any time that temperatures are above 40°F. Ticks in Garrett County generally have a 2 year life cycle, beginning in the spring the first year and ending around 2 years later in the spring or early summer. Nymphs, or juvenile ticks, are most active during late spring and summer months, as they seek a host for a blood meal. It is less common to see nymphal ticks infected with pathogens, but they pose a larger risk due to their small size often going undetected on a host. Adult ticks become most active in the fall and spring. Adult ticks are easier to detect on the body, but are much more likely to contain various pathogens that can infect humans, such as *B. burgdorferi*, the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease, and *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, the bacteria causing Anaplasmosis.

	Total Ticks Tested	<i>B. burgdorferi</i> alone (%)	<i>B. burgdorferi</i> + <i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i> (%)	<i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i> alone (%)	<i>Babesia Microti</i> alone (%)
2024 Adults	275	116 (42.18)	32 (11.64)	7 (2.55)	3 (1.09)
2023 Adults	69	37 (53.62)	9 (13.04)	0 (0)	0 (0)
2024 Nymphs	489	108 (22.09)	19 (3.89)	6 (1.23)	0 (0)
2023 Nymphs	145	42 (28.97)	9 (6.21)	0 (0)	0 (0)

On average in 2023 and 2024, 18.55% of ticks that tested positive for *B. burgdorferi* also tested positive for another pathogen, namely *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. With this in mind, it is vital to consider the possibility of co-infection when evaluating patients with tick-borne diseases, especially with *Babesia* becoming more common in the area. Neglecting to consider co-infection can potentially prolong and worsen symptoms in a patient. 2024 was the first year that *Babesia microti* was detected in the Black Legged tick. All positives came from adults that were collected in the South Eastern region of the County.



Garrett County, a healthier place to live, work, and play!

garretthealth.org

Toll Free Maryland Department of Health 1-877-463-3464

TDD for Disabled Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Equal Opportunity Employer