

DIRECT FROM CDC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Tickborne diseases are on the rise in the U.S. A recent article shows that the number of reported cases of tickborne disease doubled from 22,527 cases in 2004 to 48,610 cases in 2016 (Figure 1) (Rosenberg et al., 2018). Lyme disease makes up 82% of all reported tickborne disease cases and the geographic area at risk for Lyme disease has been expanding (Kugeler, Farley, Forrester, & Mead, 2015). Data from clinical and laboratory diagnoses suggest that approximately 300,000 Americans are infected with Lyme disease each year (Hinkley et al., 2014; Nelson et al., 2015). In the past 13 years, 7 new tickborne diseases affecting humans were identified in the U.S. (Rosenberg et al., 2018).

There are currently no vaccines available in the U.S. to prevent tickborne diseases. A recent study suggests that although pesticide application alone decreased the number

of ticks in residential settings, it was not an effective method for preventing Lyme disease and other tickborne diseases (Hinckley et al., 2016). Current tickborne disease control strategies heavily rely on personal protective behaviors at the individual and household level, which poses a challenge for environ-

also training the next generation of vector control professionals and bolstering state and local vector control programs (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018). Developments from these two initiatives could mean more opportunities for environmental health professionals to engage in tick control activities and expand existing programs.

The need to increase tick services in the U.S. will likely lead to more environmental health agencies participating in tick surveillance and control. Ideally, a tick control program should adopt a comprehensive approach to controlling ticks, which includes education and outreach on personal protection behaviors, tick surveillance to identify high risk areas in the community, and the use of surveillance data to inform environmental and chemical control strategies. The 10 Essential Environmental Public Health Services (EEPHS) provide a framework that can be used to encourage a comprehensive and programmatic approach to providing

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