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Lyme Disease in Washington State

Lyme and tick borne disease information for Washington State is of poor quality.

A study of tick distribution was done in 1990. Though it identified approximate locations of the types of ticks found, an analysis of ticks for diseases was never done.

This map, no longer available, essentially showed the distribution of the *Ixodes pacificus* tick (the primary Lyme disease carrier) throughout the region west of the Cascade Mountains. A facsimile of this map is included under "Maps" below. Normally, over time and without intervention, tick populations can be expected to increase both in numbers and in geographic distribution.

Yet, even without a tick disease analysis or any supporting data, the Washington State Department of Health continues to state Lyme disease is rare or absent in Washington. Also, the importance of the study on Lyme disease transmitted by the *Ixodes angustus* tick (referenced below) should be noted. This tick has wide distribution in the Far West ranging from Alaska to the desert southwest. The Washington State

1990 tick distribution study showed this tick present in the semi-arid area of Pullman in eastern Washington.

Maps

Tick distribution in Washington State – 1990 study

<http://lyme.kaiserpapers.org/1990-lyme-study-washington.html>

Mitochondrial DNA sequence variation in *Ixodes pacificus*

<http://www.nature.com/hdy/journal/v83/n4/full/6886110a.html>

Note; Examines genetic variation in tick populations of western states.

Map of areas studied -

http://www.nature.com/hdy/journal/v83/n4/fig_tab/6886110f1.html#figure-title

Mapping the national distribution of blacklegged ticks in 1998

http://wildlifehealth.tennessee.edu/lyme_gradient/map.htm

Where tick-borne diseases are found (from IDEXX a veterinarian testing laboratory)

http://www.dogsandticks.com/diseases_in_your_area.php

State provided information

Lyme Disease - a Monograph and Guide for Washington Physicians

[http://lyme.kaiserpapers.org/pdfs/Lyme Disease WA Physician Guide Spach 1993-1.pdf](http://lyme.kaiserpapers.org/pdfs/Lyme_Disease_WA_Physician_Guide_Spach_1993-1.pdf)

Note; Much of this information is obsolete, incomplete, and incorrect. For example, the statement that the EM rash occurs in 60%-80% of those infected has been proven wrong. Many symptoms of Lyme disease are not listed, such as serious cardiac complications. The treatment guidelines are inadequate.

Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases in Washington

Washington State Department of Health – Notifiable Conditions

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/PublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/NotifiableConditions.aspx>

Tickborne Disease in Washington State - British Columbia Zoonotic Disease Conference - 2010

This presentation has some updated information and maps. However, it is not complete and the "official" statistics given do not represent reality. The most encouraging piece of information is the newly awarded grant to collect and test ticks. The focus will be for Ixodes pacificus ticks and Lyme disease on the west side of the Cascade Range in Washington. Hopefully, this study will be done in a competent manner using the right tests at the right laboratories. Otherwise, the results will be inaccurate and misleading.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/94E3B61F-BA93-43B2-8FA2-EAA916857FD8/0/TickborneDisinWANMH.pdf>

Studies

Is Ixodes (ixodiopsis) angustus a vector of Lyme disease in Washington State?

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2741454>

Vector competence of Ixodes angustus (Acari: Ixodidae) for Borrelia burgdorferi sensu stricto.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10823359>

Babesiosis in Washington State: a new species of Babesia?

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8328736>

Infection with a babesia-like organism in northern California

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7816065>

Pathology of acute fatal babesiosis in hamsters experimentally infected with the WA-1 strain of Babesia

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8642781>

Tick-borne relapsing fever in the Pacific Northwest: an underdiagnosed illness?

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7415171>

Outbreak of tick-borne relapsing fever in Spokane County, Washington

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/5394422>

Tick-borne relapsing fever in the northwestern United States and southwestern Canada

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9455520>

Acute respiratory distress syndrome in persons with tickborne relapsing fever--three states, 2004-2005

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17947965>

Fatal spirochetosis due to a relapsing fever-like Borrelia sp. In a northern spotted owl

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11838214>

Geographic correlation of schizophrenia to ticks and tick-borne encephalitis

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7701281>

Tick paralysis: 33 human cases in Washington State, 1946-1996

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10585792>

Tick paralysis--Washington, 1995. From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8602132>

A newly identified intraerythrocytic Babesia-like organism, WA1, and its relatives were recently shown to be infectious for humans in the western United States (1989)

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC107933/>

News articles

There are a number of news articles on Lyme disease in Washington State both west and east of the Cascades. Some are only available on a pay-per-view basis.

UNDETECTED LYME DISEASE CAN MAKE LIFE MISERABLE,
July 6, 1988

<http://www.seattlepi.com/archives/1988/8801190337.asp>

Stored at: <http://lyme.kaiserpapers.org/news/undetected-lyme.html>

First Lyme disease case reported in Kittitas County, July 28, 1989

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=izkQAAAIBAJ&sjid=WY8DAAAIBAJ&pg=6914,3118567&dq=lyme+disease+washington+state&hl=en>

Lyme disease suspected on the Palouse, March 9, 1990

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=gE4tAAAIBAJ&sjid=mNAFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2279,1323270&dq=lyme+disease+washington+state&hl=en>

Support groups

Washington Online Lyme Support

is source for information and support for people with Lyme and other tick-borne diseases living in Washington.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WashingtonLyme>

Seattle Lyme Support Group

Meets second Saturday of every month, from 2:30pm-4:30pm at the Shoreline Library

Contact: Joy Scheibner

snoodledoo@yahoo.com

Bainbridge Island Lyme Disease Support Group:

Meets 1st Saturday of the month, 1:00-3:00 pm.

Call Cory: 206-201-3313 for directions, information.

Pierce/Kitsap Lyme Support Group:

meets at Key Center Library in Lakebay, WA, the 3rd Saturday of every month, from 1-3pm.

Email: Willo at midnightdawn@gmail.com for more info.

Portland Support Group email Portland Lyme Disease Support

(Serves SW Washington as well)

Email: portland@oregonlyme.org

Dave Johnson 503-625-7033

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