

**Deer Tick Surveillance: Adults  
(Oct to Dec) Powassan Virus  
Only: Beginning 2009  
DATA DICTIONARY**

**Division of Epidemiology  
Bureau of Communicable Disease Control  
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**Health Data NY**

Field Name	Definition
Year	Year in which ticks (all species and life stages) were collected.
County	The county where ticks (all species and life stages) were collected. Ticks are often collected from multiple publicly accessible sites in each county.
Total Sites Visited	The total number of publicly accessible sites visited in the county. For the adult dataset, this means publicly accessible sites visited from October to December.
Total Ticks Collected	The total number of ticks (all species and life stages) collected in the county during visits to publicly accessible sites from October to December.
Tick Population Density	<p>The average number of adult deer ticks (also known as blacklegged ticks or their scientific name <i>Ixodes scapularis</i>) collected per 1,000 meters sampled in the county. Tick population density is calculated only from the total adult deer ticks collected (and does not include other species or life stages collected at the time of the site visit).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> When taken in conjunction with Minimum Infection Rate (MIR) for Powassan virus, this field can give a sense of risk of encountering an infected tick. But tick population density and MIR can vary widely at different publicly accessible sites within a county, as well as from year to year. <b>Statewide tick testing for Powassan virus began in 2009.</b></p>
Total Ticks Tested	Total number of adult deer ticks that were tested for Powassan virus.
Pools Tested	<p>The number of pools of adult deer ticks tested for Powassan virus. Typically, 5-10 ticks are processed together in one tube and tested as one unit (called a “pool”).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Testing is for the Powassan family of viruses, which includes Powassan virus and Deer Tick virus. Because of the low expected infection rate of Powassan virus in ticks, ticks are not tested individually, but in pools.</p>
Pools Positive	<p>Total number of adult deer tick pools that tested positive for Powassan virus.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This testing will detect both Powassan virus and Deer Tick virus, but does not differentiate between the two. It is expected that the vast majority of adult deer ticks testing positive are infected with Deer Tick virus.</p>

Field Name	Definition
Minimum Infection Rate	<p>When adult tick pools test positive, it is assumed that one tick in the pool was positive. Minimum Infection Rate (MIR) is the measure used to address this. MIR is the ratio of the number of positive pools to the total number of adult ticks tested.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This field can give a sense of the percentage of adult ticks infected with Powassan virus in a particular area. But tick population density and (MIR) can vary widely at different publicly accessible sites within a county, as well as from year to year.</p>
County Location	<p>This is a centroid location within the county. It is used strictly for mapping purposes and does not reflect any specific place of the listed locality or county.</p>

**Disclaimer:** Years with no data for a specific county do not indicate no ticks were collected in that county, rather ticks collections may have been performed on private land and therefore not represented in this dataset. For more information specific to your county, contact your local health department, or visit <http://www.nyscho.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3713>.