



Kent City Health Department
414 E. Main St. Kent OH 44240
330-678-8109

FACT SHEET

JUNE 2019

www.kentpublichealth.org

BY THE NUMBERS

8 in 10

About 80% of vector control organizations lack critical prevention and control capacities.

Illnesses from Mosquito, Tick, & Flea Bites Climbing

■ 14% of Portage County adults thought insects threatened their health.

Source: **Portage County Community Health Assessment**

Almost everyone has been bitten by a mosquito, tick, or flea. These can be vectors for spreading pathogens (germs). A person who gets bitten by an insect and gets sick has a vector-borne disease, like dengue, Zika, Lyme, or plague. Between 2004 and 2016, more than 640,000 cases of these diseases were reported, and 9 new germs spread by bites from infected mosquitoes and ticks were discovered or introduced in the U.S.

State and local health departments and vector control organizations are the nation's main defense against this increasing threat. Yet, 84% of local vector control organizations lack at least 1 of 5 core vector control competencies. Better control of mosquitoes and ticks is needed to protect people from these costly and deadly diseases.

Want to learn more? Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/vector-borne/>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

VECTORS MAY BE A THREAT TO YOU, AT HOME AND WHEN TRAVELLING

VECTORS ARE SMALL ORGANISMS THAT CARRY SERIOUS DISEASES

WITH JUST 1 BITE they can transmit diseases such as:

- Malaria
- Dengue
- Leishmaniasis
- Lyme disease
- Yellow fever
- Japanese encephalitis

Diseases spread by vectors kill a million people every year and more than half of the world's population is at risk

9 Since 2004
Nine new germs spread by mosquitos and ticks have been discovered or introduced.

3X's
Disease cases from mosquito, tick, and flea bites tripled in the U.S.A. 2004-2016

PROBLEM

Risk Increasing, Response Limited:

- Diseases from mosquito and tick bites are occurring in every state; and are moving more germs into new areas causing more people to be at risk. **55** mosquito surveillance traps tested positive for West Nile Virus in the city of Kent in 2018 and **169** in 2017, compared to **11** in 2016 and **7** in 2015.
- Health Department vector control programs face increasing demands to respond to threats. During 2018, the Kent Health Department safely abated over **520** mosquito larvae breeding sites within the city of Kent limits covering **100** plus acres.
- Appropriate control methods are required across the world to prevent and control the viruses and germs caused by mosquitos, ticks and fleas. The Kent Health Department completed **8** mosquito spray applications throughout the city of Kent in 2018 covering more than **317 miles** of roadway.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Everyone can:

- Use an Environmental Protection Agency registered insect repellent: www.epa.gov/insect-repellents
- Take steps to control mosquitoes, ticks and fleas inside and outside the home; and on pets: www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes, www.pestworld.org/10-steps-to-keep-your-pets-pest-free
- Learn more about insect bite disease safeguards: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/about/prevent-bites.html>

