

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.



Mostly sunny 58/36 • Tomorrow: Showers 48/33 • DETAILS, B3

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012

K MD DC VA SU VI V2 V3 V4
washingtonpost.com • B1

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012

The Washington Post

EZ E3

Health E3

Tick tally pinpoints risk areas for Lyme

Researchers who spent three years dragging sheets of fabric through the woods to snag ticks have created a detailed map of areas of the eastern United States where people have the highest risk of contracting Lyme disease. The data for the map, collected between 2004 and 2007, is part of a study published in the February issue of the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Though the areas highlighted as high-risk are likely known to anyone familiar with the disease, the researchers say the data contained some surprises — such as finding that one in five ticks collect was infected with the bacteria that causes Lyme.

“The key value is identifying areas where the risk for Lyme disease is the highest, so that should alert the public and the clinicians and the public health agencies in terms of taking more precautions and potential interventions,” said the study’s lead author, Maria Diuk-Wasser of the Yale School of Public Health. “In areas that are low-risk, a case of Lyme disease is not impossible but it’s highly unlikely, so the clinician should be considering other diagnoses.”

— Associated Press

