



Tick-Borne Infections Council
of North Carolina, Inc.

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Mission

Tick-Borne Infections Council of North Carolina, Inc. is a non-profit organization formed to improve the recognition, treatment, control, and understanding of tick-borne diseases in North Carolina.

History

TIC-NC was incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of North Carolina in May 2005 by several North Carolina residents whose lives were negatively affected by tick-borne infections. In March of 2007 we were granted 501(c)3 tax-exempt status by IRS.

Goals

Educate the public, medical and veterinary professionals, school health nurses, and the public health system about tick-borne diseases in North Carolina, including risk factors, emerging infections, and prevention.

Foster an enhanced public health response.

Encourage state public health agencies to conduct ongoing surveillance of the prevalence of tick-borne infections in (a) at-risk populations and (b) ticks and vectors; and make this information available to the public and the medical sector periodically.

REPORT TO MEMBERS AND DONORS 2012-2016

Dear TIC-NC Members and Supporters,

We have just passed our 10th anniversary! We have been very busy during these last four years, especially since 2011 when the State Legislature demolished the unit within Public Health that carried out tick research and helped protect and educate the public about staying safe.

Purpose of this report

1. To let you know of our accomplishments in the last four years.
2. To get your updated contact information.
3. To ask you to get friends and neighbors to join, to read our newsletters, fill out a Case Registry if applicable, and to support us with donations.

Please use the enclosed stamped and addressed envelope to update your contact information and case registry if applicable, and to make a donation if you wish.

Cases of tick-borne infections (TBI) have been growing since our last report to you in 2010. A fifth human-biting tick, the Gulf Coast tick (*Amblyomma maculatum*) has entered North Carolina and is spreading. It transmits *Rickettsia parkeri* rickettsiosis, a form of spotted fever.

State/CDC statistics (preliminary) on tick-borne infections 2015 (2010 numbers)

- Lyme disease: 230 (confirmed/ probable) (82 in 2010)
- SFR* 459 (confirmed/ probable) (286 in 2010)
- Ehrlichiosis 74 (confirmed/ probable) (99 in 2010)
- Anaplasmosis 19 (confirmed/ probable) (28 in 2010)

(Official reports undercount actual cases for a variety of reasons.)

*SFR- Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis, includes Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Major Activities and Accomplishments 2012 – 2016

- Six counties (Wake, Guilford, Haywood, Alleghany, Buncombe, and Wilkes) have now been declared endemic for Lyme disease by Public Health, State of NC.
- Welcomed a new president, several new board members, and a Scientific Adviser.
- Redesigned and expanded our educational brochure, now a booklet, and distributed thousands of copies around the state.
- Held meetings with North Carolina public health officials.
- Taught school nurses, adult education classes at Duke and NC State, and selected classes in local schools about ticks, TBI's and how to avoid tick bites.
- Obtained a grant that allowed us to create a tick safety card in English and Spanish which was distributed in dozens of schools throughout Orange and Chatham counties.
- Began and maintain a Facebook page with the latest happenings and articles of interest.



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Develop and maintain a registry of persons with tick-borne diseases in North Carolina.

Encourage the public health sector to identify and characterize the newly emerging tick-borne infections in the southeast.

Work with the public health sector to require all tick-borne infections be reported at both county and state levels.

Staffing and Volunteers

TIC-NC remains a volunteer organization. We continue to need volunteers for special projects and to serve on the board.

Membership

We have approximately 400 members. We need to increase our numbers. Everyone can help by getting friends and neighbors to join.

Funding and expenditures

We are dependent entirely on donations. Many of you have given generously. We have not had sufficient resources yet to mount a fund-raising effort or apply for grants. We hope to do so in the future and welcome people to help who have experience. Printing our brochure is one of our major expenses.

We are grateful to Sandy DeMaioNewton, former board member, for her excellent design of our new logo, booklet, info card, business cards, repellent brochure, and website. www.she-design.com

- Created a new logo and expanded website which has had hundreds of thousands of visits since its inception in 2005.
- Staffed numerous educational booths at music festivals, state employees' health fairs, and other such organizations.
- Met with park rangers and state trail organizations.
- Kept our members up-to-date on the lone star tick-associated red meat allergy (alpha-gal).
- Published a brochure with comprehensive information on repellents.
- Interacted with Hispanic organizations providing brochures and information.
- Participated in meetings of the NC Mosquito and Vector Control Association.
- Created a tri-fold brochure, Spanish on one side, English on the other, with tick information and safety points. It is proving very popular and the translation has been praised.

On-going activities

- Publish seasonal newsletters on our website and send via email to our members.
- Answer numerous tick-related calls and emails from the public.
- Continue updating and distributing our educational brochure.
- Participate in media—television appearances and writing for newspapers, medical journals, and other outlets.
- Participate in the state Vector-borne Disease Working Group meetings.
- Attend and/or speak at local area meetings, public and private, related to ticks.
- Maintain our website. It has had over 100,000 'hits' since 2005; 39,000 just in the last 2 ½ years.

And, more!

We will continue to work hard to improve the health and safety of our citizens with regard to ticks and tick-borne infections. We welcome your help and ideas. Thanks to our former board members and others who have helped us so much. Thank you for your interest, commitment, and financial support.

Your donations are greatly appreciated! They are what keep us going. We are all volunteers so most of our budget goes to printing and distribution of our booklet and brochures.

Thank you,

Your TIC-NC Board

Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year-