Learning to Live with Ticks? The Role of Exposure and Risk Perceptions in Protective Behaviour Against Tick-Borne Diseases - Dataset for study of the Role of Exposure and Risk Perceptions in Protective Behaviour Against Tick-Borne Diseases

SND-ID: snd1049-1. Version: 1.0. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5878/003014

Download data
SND1049-001-V1.0.zip (403 KB)

Associated documentation
Fästingenkät - Slunge - slutversion - oktober 2013.pdf (975.89 KB)
Learningtolivewithticks-codebook-eng.pdf (136.3 KB)
Learningtolivewithticks-codebook-swe.pdf (135.23 KB)
Tick Survey - Final Version - October 2013 - Daniel Slunge.pdf (472.36 KB)

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snd1049-1-1.0.zip (~2.07 MB)

Citation
Slunge, D. (2018) Learning to Live with Ticks? The Role of Exposure and Risk Perceptions in Protective Behaviour Against Tick-Borne Diseases - Dataset for study of the Role of Exposure and Risk Perceptions in Protective Behaviour Against Tick-Borne Diseases (Version 1.0) [Data set]. University of Gothenburg. Available at: https://doi.org/10.5878/003014

Creator/Principal investigator(s)
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Description
The purpose of this study is to analyse the role of risk perceptions and exposure for protective behaviour against tick bites and the related diseases Lyme borreliosis (LB) and tick-borne encephalitis (TBE), both of which are growing health concerns. We use data from a national survey in Sweden with respondents in geographical areas with substantial differences in both abundance of ticks and incidence of LB and TBE. We find that the share of respondents who frequently use protective clothing (64%), perform tick checks (63%) or avoid tall grass while in areas with ticks (48%) is relatively high. However, the use of protective measures is uneven and a considerably lower share tuck their trousers into their socks (18%), use repellent against ticks (16%) or use a combination of protective measures. Thirty-one per cent of the respondents report one or more tick bites in the last year and 68% report one or more lifetime tick bites, indicating that it is difficult to protect oneself from tick bites. There is a strong positive association between exposure and checking the skin for ticks, but exposure is only weakly associated with other protective measures. Tick bites are perceived as a serious health risk by
as many as 43% of the respondents. The perception that a single tick bite is serious is negatively associated with actual exposure to ticks, while the opposite is true for the perception that tick bites constitute a serious lifetime health risk. This indicates a learning effect in relation to risk perceptions and the performance of tick checks, but not in relation to other protective measures. Recommendations include informing people of the risks associated with tick bites, the efficacy of various protective measures and the importance of combining multiple types of protection. Given the high exposure to tick bites, the growing incidence of TBE and LB, and the difficulties in preventing tick bites, other preventive measures should be further discussed, including vaccination programmes.

Purpose:

To analyse the role of risk perceptions and exposure for five protective measures against tick bites and the related diseases tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) and Lyme borreliosis (LB).

The dataset contains the variables used in the study "Learning to Live with Ticks? The Role of Exposure and Risk Perceptions in Protective Behavior Against Tick-Borne Diseases", by Slunge and Boman. The questionnaire about Ticks, TBE and Borrelia contains additional questions that are not included in this material. Data is available for download in SPSS and STATA format.

Unit of analysis
Individual

Time Method
Cross-section

Sampling procedure
Other

Time period(s) investigated
2013-05-01 – 2013-11-30

Variables
69

Number of individuals/objects
1510

Data format / data structure
Numeric

Data collection 1
- Mode of collection: Self-administered questionnaire
- Time period(s) for data collection: 2013-10-01 – 2013-11-30
- Data collector: Enkätfabriken
- Source of the data: Population group

Geographic spread
Geographic location: Sweden
Responsible department/unit
Department of Economics

Ethics Review
Gothenburg - Ref. 544-13

Research area
Medical and health sciences (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)
Social sciences (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)
Economics (CESSDA Topic Classification)
Health (CESSDA Topic Classification)
Natural environment (CESSDA Topic Classification)

Keywords
Ticks, Tick-borne diseases, Borrelia infections, Encephalitis, tick-borne, Tbe, Risk perception, Protective behaviour

Publications
Slunge D, Boman A (2018) Learning to live with ticks? The role of exposure and risk perceptions in protective behaviour against tick-borne diseases. PLoS ONE 13(6): e0198286.
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0198286
Link to article at PLOS ONE

If you have published anything based on these data, please notify us with a reference to your publication(s). If you are responsible for the catalogue entry, you can update the metadata/data description in DORIS.

Accessibility level
Access to data through SND
Data are freely accessible

Use of data
Things to consider when using data shared through SND

Versions
Version 1.0. 2018-04-23

This resource has the following relations
Has part The Willingness to Pay for Vaccination against Tick-borne Encephalitis and Implications for Public Health Policy: Evidence from Sweden

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DDI 2.5
DDI 3.3
