

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) represents more than 7,000 governmental, private, academic, and uniformed services sector environmental health professionals in the U.S., its territories, and

advocate for excellence in the practice of environmental health as it delivers on its mission to build, sustain, and empower an effective environmental health workforce.

Policy Statement on Vector Control Adopted: November 2021 Policy Sunset: November 2026

Vectors, such as mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas, are pests that carry and transmit diseases to hosts (humans or animals) and pose a significant public health threat to human health and wellness globally. In the U.S., there is evidence of ticks, mosquitoes, rodents, and cockroaches being present in every state but vector control is not considered to be a high priority. Deficiencies in funding, research, and surveillance, paired with increased contact between humans, animals, and the environment, make preventing vectorborne diseases a challenge that the U.S. is not currently equipped to handle. NEHA advocates incorporating the vector management framework outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), d2(nt)5(al)-3(he)13(alth)5()-3(w)4(ork)12(f)-3(or)12(

Improved surveillance to monitor the changes in vector ranges related to climate change and human population changes.

Increased coordination at national, state, and local health agency levels to share data and findings, and to establish more uniform regulation and response.

Increased training for environmental health professionals to improve awareness of and plans to protect public health against pests through inspection and action plans, and relevant and effective education to the public about individual practices and methods that are effective for minimizing risks in their jurisdictions.

Analysis

Although everyone is at risk for vectorborne disease, vector control in the U.S. is not considered to be as large of a priority as it should. This lack of concern may stem from a number of reasons, such as beliefs that the risk of contracting vectorborne disease is low or a lack of awareness that the risk of contracting a vectorborne disease has been increasing due to environmental changes. The risk of vectorborne illness continues to increase, with numbers of reported disease cases having tripled from 2004 to 2016, and tickborne disease accounted for over 60% of all mosquito

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2021). Integrated pest management (IPM) principles. https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/integrated-pest-management-ipm-principles

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