

Title: Assessing TBE risk in outdoor occupations



Photo: Anders Lindström.

Background:

Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) is a significant public health threat in regions with prevalent tick populations. In Europe, the number of TBE cases increased from 2012 to 2020, and there was a spread towards the northwest in continental Europe. TBE is a viral infection transmitted to humans through the bite of infected ticks, primarily in forested areas. Outdoor workers, e.g. forest workers, hunters, berry pickers and farmers, due to their occupation, under high risk of TBE infection. This project aims to synthesize existing research findings and insights related to TBE risks in these specific occupational groups.

Aim and Method:

- Identify gaps in the existing literature concerning TBE vaccination rates, factors influencing coverage, and successful intervention strategies among these occupations.
- Analyses the data that collected from surveys targeted at specific outdoor occupational groups to assess their coverage of TBE vaccinations and the policies implemented by their employers regarding vaccination.

Expected starting time: The work will be carried out at the earliest convenience or during the autumn semester 2024 with supervisors from Umeå University and the National Veterinary Institute (SVA) in Uppsala.

Requirements: We are seeking a student in the field of public health, occupational health, or a related medical program who possesses academic interests. The orientation of the work can be partially adapted to your educational background and interests. Literature assessment and data extraction will be included so you should master Excel or a statistical language. The student can either do a degree thesis (15 hp) or individual project-based work (15 hp). The student need to have some knowledge of Swedish since the survey data we collected is in Swedish.

Contact person:

Junwen Guo, junwen.guo@umu.se

Anna Omazic, anna.omazic@sva.se