Recent dramatic increases in tick populations and tick-borne diseases and costs demand immediate action to increase resources for prevention and research. Tick-borne disease incidence has doubled since 2003 and tripled since 1995. Tick-borne diseases in humans are increasing in number of diseases, cases and geographic distribution in the US. Investment to develop cost-effective, long-term solutions must be commensurate with the level of tick-borne disease – currently the investment falls far short of the costs.

**Costs**
- In 2015, the estimated annual US direct and indirect medical costs, lost income and tax revenue from 380,690 new cases of Lyme disease at $10,817 per case, totaled more than $4.1 billion.
- If additional tick-borne diseases are considered, the number of cases and costs increases by 30 percent to an estimated $5.4 billion annually.

**Investments**
- In 2012 the NIH invested $112 million in hepatitis C with 1300 new cases annually, or $86,154 per new case. Similarly, an investment of $29 million compared to 5700 new cases of West Nile virus, or $5087 per new case.
- Only $25 million was invested in 312,000 new cases of Lyme disease, which is only $80 per new case.
- As Lyme disease cases rose in 2013, the NIH reduced funding to $20 million.
- The total 2016 CDC funding line for Lyme disease was approximately $10.6 million dollars.
- The investments to reduce Hepatitis C and West Nile virus have been effective and provide evidence that commensurate funding would mitigate tick-borne disease.