

What do *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes feed on?

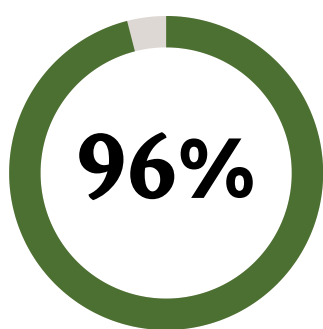
Ae. albopictus mosquitoes are known to transmit many different disease agents to humans and animals. These include agents that cause chikungunya, dengue, and Zika viruses, and occasionally West Nile virus.



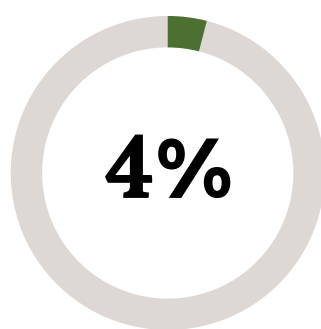
It is important to know the feeding habits of *Ae. albopictus* mosquitoes in order to understand health risks to humans and other animals.

Bloodfed *Ae. albopictus* mosquitoes were collected from Virginia, USA. Researchers were able to identify what species the mosquito fed on through DNA analysis.

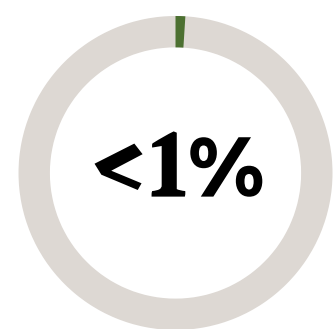
Ae. albopictus mosquitoes' diet consisted of...



Mammals



Reptiles



Birds

Common species included domestic cats, Virginia opossums, white-tailed deer, and humans.

In Suffolk, Virginia, the chance of human blood feeding increased as median household income increased.

Feeding off humans was more likely May-June compared to July-October.

What do we know now?

Ae. albopictus mosquitoes play a crucial role in transmitting disease agents to humans that cause dengue, chikungunya, and Zika.

Ae. albopictus' limited interactions with bird hosts suggests that it is unlikely to become a primary transmitter of West Nile virus, but more research must be done on this topic.