



REPORT

TBE awareness and attitude among orienteers

June 2021



Background

Pfizer and IOF are partnering in spreading awareness about TBE to the society of orienteers. As an element in the collaboration, IOF conducted a study among the target group.

Technical description of study

The study was made through a web survey and was open during the period 18 May – 7 June. Recruitment to the study was done through IOF web page and by requesting the national federations to publish the invite in their respective media.

A total of 169 answers were received.

The answers represent the orienteering public reasonably well;

- Gender split similar to orienteering actives balance.
 - 55 % men
 - 44 % females
- Age split similar to orienteering actives balance.
 - 25 % under 35 years
 - 36 % 35-50 years
 - 29 % 51-65 years
 - 9 % 65+ years
- National distribution is also fairly representing orienteering actives balance.
 - 12 % from a Nordic country
 - 51 % from a central Europe country
 - 30 % from another European country
 - 7 % from a non-European country
- Distribution according to TBE distribution (based on TBE distribution map on IOF homepage)
 - 60 % are coming from a country with TBE prevalence *
 - 40 % are coming from TBE-free or almost TBE-free countries.

* Defined as: Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Sweden (other countries are on map but lack respondents in the survey).

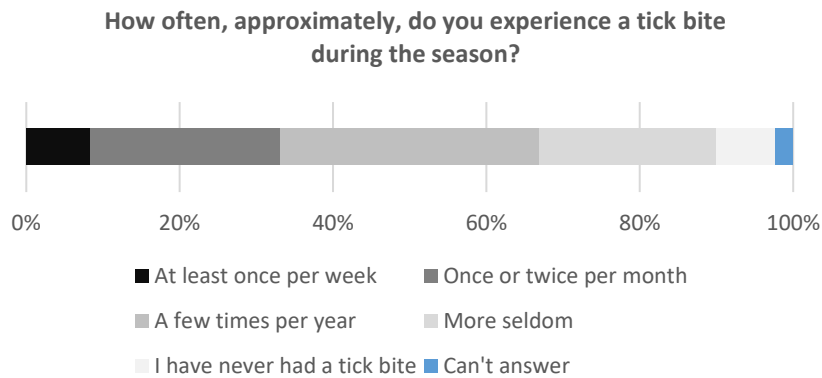
It is likely that we have a bias towards TBE concerned persons within the sample. This is a factor that can't be verified, but it is a known fact that topic interested persons are highly more likely to take part of a survey than persons not interested in the topic.

Relevance of the findings

The probable strong bias towards TBE interested persons is limiting the possibilities to interpret the data as valid for orienteers. We are rather studying TBE-interested orienteers. The analyses of the findings need to be done in this context.

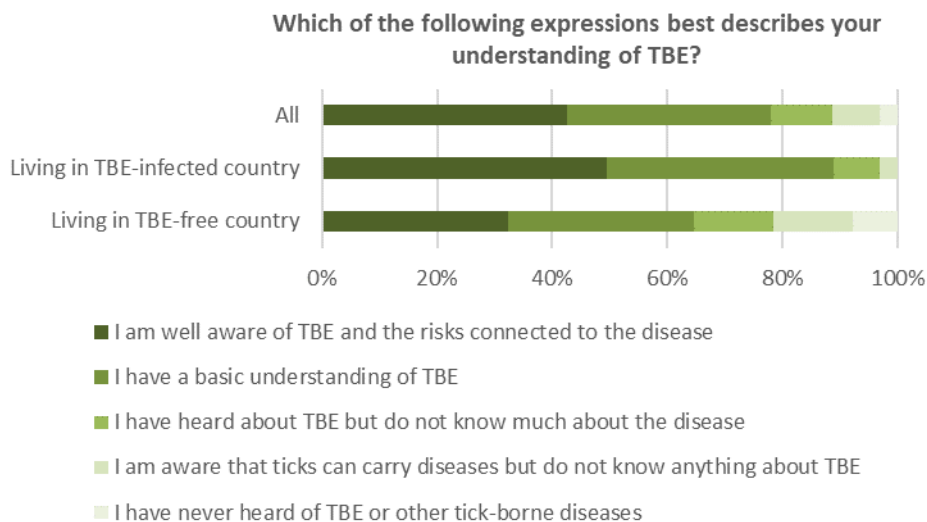


Tick bites frequency



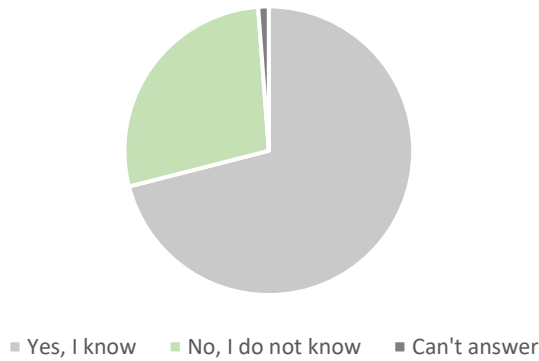
The majority are experiencing tick bites regularly, 2 out of 3 at least a few times per year.

Awareness and attitudes



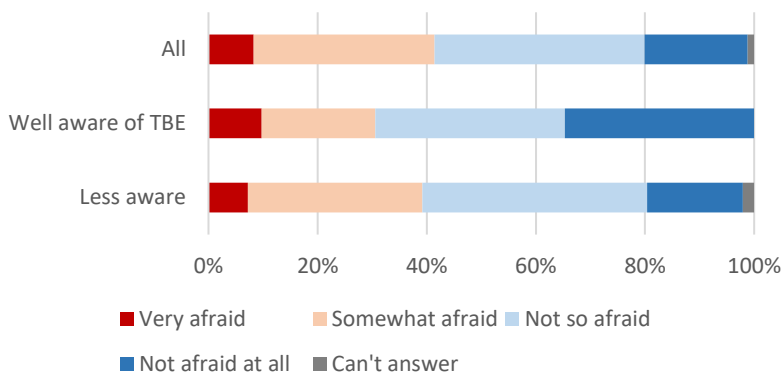
The vast majority in TBE-infected countries are claiming to have at least basic understanding of the disease. The knowledge level is considerably lower in TBE-free countries, which is expected.

Do you know if TBE is common in the areas where you usually train and compete?



Majority is also knowledgeable about TBE existence where they usually train. However more than one out of four do not know. This is proving need to further inform about local conditions.

How afraid are you of catching TBE?



TBE is a concern among orienteers. It seems to be a rather sound relationship, the majority seems to be cautious but not scared. The awareness level does not influence the level of concern of the disease.

Vaccination

47 % of respondents are fully vaccinated. Another 13 % are partly vaccinated. The vaccination level is higher in TBE-infected countries;

Vaccination level in TBE-infected countries:	67 %
Vaccination level in TBE-free countries	18 %
Total	47 %

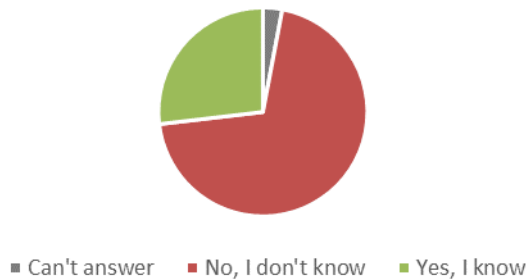
This is hardly surprising.

It is interesting to see that the knowledge about where to go is low among the non-vaccinated:



Among non-vaccinated:

If you wanted to vaccinate,
do you know where to go?

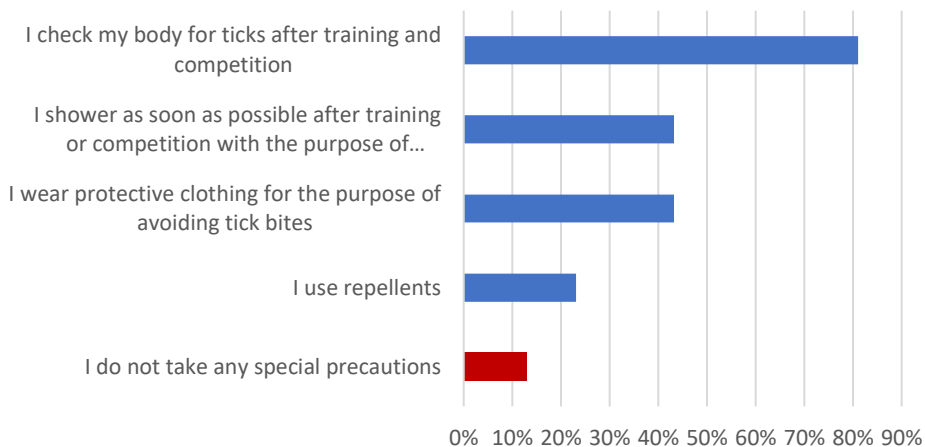


This is indicating that the knowledge about how to go about the vaccination may need to be promoted.

Precautions

The vast majority uses precautions regularly.

Which of the following precautions do you regularly
take to protect yourself from tick bites?



CONCLUSION

Even if TBE awareness is reasonably high within the group of respondents, it is certainly a need to continue informing about TBE. If possible, a possibility to easily check if TBE is reported in the area may be useful.

There is also a need for better knowledge about how and where to vaccinate. A big group are reasonably aware, know if the disease is around and but do not know where to vaccinate. Efforts should be made to ease for these persons to take the vaccine.

