

Epidemiological Study of Animal Bites and Rabies in Affiliated Counties of Mashhad and Torbat Heydariyeh University of Medical Sciences during 2013–2017

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Abstract

Background & Aim: Animal bites have been around the world as a major health threat and with negative consequences, including rabies, animal Loss, economic and health damages. The aim of this study was to determine the epidemiological patterns of animal bites in affiliated areas of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences and Torbat Heydariyeh.

Methods: This study was a descriptive-retrospective study. Information about people with animal bites was obtained from the relevant systems in Health Department system from 2013 to 2017. The data were analyzed by Excel 2010 and SPSS 20 software

Results: During the 4 years of study, 45735 cases had been bitten by animals; bites were significantly higher in males (81%) than females. The mean age of the cases was 18.32 ± 29.92 years. Also, 52% of the injuries were in the upper limbs. Most of the animal bites occurred in rural areas and by dogs. The highest and lowest percentages of bites were calculated for spring and winter seasons, respectively.

Conclusion: According to the results of the present study, most cases were bitten in the spring by domestic animals, in rural males and in the age group of 36 to 69 years. Therefore, more detailed studies are needed to determine the main factors that increase the number of bites, as well as educational and interventional activities for vulnerable groups can reduce health-related problems such as physical, mental, social and economic harms.

Keywords: Animal Bite, Rabies, Epidemiology

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