

Rabies2009.pdf

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Subject: Bat rabies in South Dakota 2009

<http://doh.sd.gov/documents/Rabies2009.pdf>

In 2009 there were 108 bats tested in SD for rabies with 4 testing positive, 4%. The 4 rabid bats were in Pennington and Minnehaha Counties, 2 each. I do not know the species of the positive bats.

Below is a table with the bat rabies testing numbers for SD, 1990-2009. Nationally, the 1,806 cases of rabies reported in bats during 2008 represented a decrease of 6.7%, compared with the number reported in 2007.

Total percentage of tested bats with positive results also decreased from 6.4% in 2007 to 6.0% in 2008.

Rabies in bats was widely distributed throughout the United States, with cases reported from 47 of the 48 contiguous states. Alaska, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Puerto Rico did not report any cases of bat rabies during 2008. Four states reported >100 cases of rabies in bats, and these 4 states accounted for nearly half of the reported cases of rabies in bats during 2008 (Texas, 548 cases [30.3%]; California, 137 cases [7.6%]; New York, 112 cases [6.2%]; and Illinois, 103 cases [5.7%]). Nine states (Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin) reported rabies in bats but not in terrestrial mammals. Of the bats infected with rabies virus, 26.3% (475/1,806) were identified beyond the taxonomic level of order (18 to the level of genus and 457 to the level of species). Among bats identified beyond the taxonomic level of order, 63.8% (303) were the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), 10.1% (48) were the Brazilian (Mexican) free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), 4.4% (21) were the hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), 4.2% (20) were the red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*), 4.0% (19) were the western pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus hesperus*), 3.4% (16) were the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), 1.9% (9) were the silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), 1.3% (6) were the pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), 0.6% (3) were the long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*), 0.4% (2) were the California myotis (*Myotis californicus*), 0.4% (2) were the northern long-eared myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*), 0.4% (2) were the Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanesis*), 0.4% (2) were the western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), 0.4% (2) were the big free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops macrotis*), 0.2% (1) was the evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*), and 0.2% (1) was the Seminole bat (*Lasiurus seminolus*). Unidentified bats of the genus *Myotis* (18/475) accounted for the remaining rabid bats and contributed 3.8% to the total number of bats identified beyond the taxonomic level of order." (Blanton, JD, K Robertson, D Palmer and CE Rupprecht. 2009. Rabies surveillance in the United States during 2008. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 235: 676-689. <http://avmajournals.avma.org/doi/pdf/10.2460/javma.235.6.676>

Note: the human rabies vaccine supply is back to normal after a year of shortage and rationing. The ACIP recommendation is for "all persons who frequently handle bats" to have pre-exposure rabies vaccination consisting of Primary Course (3 IM deltoid shots on days 0, 7 and 21 or 28), and "serologic testing every 2 years; booster vaccination in antibody titer is below acceptable level" (1:5 serum dilution by RFIT), CDC-MMWR 23 May 2008 55. RR-3. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5703a1.htm>

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