

ZIMBABWE

I.) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Zimbabwe covers 390,6757 sq km and shares its borders with Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia. Zimbabwe's population is estimated to be around 13.2 million (July 2013), with about 38 percent living in urban areas (2010). Its GDP per capita (PPP) amounts to 500 USD. 68 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2004. It is ranked according to the Human Development Index of 2013 on 172nd place, making it a low human development country.^{i ii}

In Southern Africa, 4 genotypes of the lyssavirus, which cause rabies, are endemic. The most common is Genotype 1 (Rabies virus, RABV). Others are Genotype 2 (Lagos bat virus, LBV), Genotype 3 (Mokola virus, MOKV) and Genotype 4 (Duvenhage virus, DUVV). Human infections are mostly due to the canine biotype of RABV.ⁱⁱⁱ

Rabies is a notifiable disease in Zimbabwe. Animal rabies is regulated by three different national policies. Both animal and human samples for fluorescent antibody testing are sent to the Central Veterinary Research and Diagnostics Laboratory in Harare. Despite an increase of the number of samples sent to the laboratory for testing in recent years, rabies surveillance is considered to be not satisfactory.^{iv}

II.) HUMAN RABIES EPIDEMIOLOGY

Rabies in humans in Zimbabwe is mostly transmitted through the bite of the domestic dog. According to data submitted to SEARG, there were 6 cases of human rabies laboratory confirmed in 2011. In the following year, 2012, only two human rabies cases were confirmed, while 11,959 people were reported to be bitten by dogs.^v

III.) RABIES VECTORS

In Zimbabwe, the dog accounts for about 45 percent of all animal rabies cases (1950-2000). 71.3 percent of Zimbabwe's dog population is located in rural areas, thus, urban dog rabies is generally not a problem, except in the region of Mutare in eastern Zimbabwe^{vi}. In 2011, 134 dogs tested positive for rabies and in 2012, there were 59 positive dog rabies cases^{vii}. In 2011, a total of 65 other domestic animals were tested positive for rabies, while in 2012 that number slightly decreased to 57 cases^{viii}. Cattle account for most of these positive rabies cases^{ix}.

In 2011, 18 cases and in 2012, 20 rabies cases were confirmed in wildlife^x. Rabies in wildlife is most commonly found in jackals, namely the side-striped jackal (*Canis adustus*) and the black-backed jackal (*Canis mesomelas*)^{xi}.

Data reported to the OIE World Animal Health Information System for 2011 are not consistent with the data above reported to SEARG, since 161 rabies cases of rabies in dogs, 86 rabies cases in other domestic animals (with cattle representing the vast majority of cases) and only 5 rabies cases in wildlife were reported.^{xii}

IV.) RABIES BIOLOGICS AVAILABILITY

Human rabies vaccines for post-exposure-prophylaxis (PEP) are available in private hospitals and clinics, and in some pharmacies. There, prices range between 25 USD to 45 USD. PEP in public hospitals is free of charge, however, availability of human rabies vaccines is not always guaranteed.^{xiii}

V.) OTHER

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- ⁱ CIA (2013). The World Factbook: Zimbabwe. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/zi.html#top> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- ⁱⁱ UNDP (2013). The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World. Human Development Report 2013. New York: UNDP.
<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/HDR/2013GlobalHDR/English/HDR2013%20Report%20English.pdf> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- ⁱⁱⁱ Rupprecht CE, J Barret, D Briggs, F Cliquet, AR Fooks, B Lumlertdacha, FX Meslin, T Muller, L Nel, C Schneider, N Tordo and A Wandeler (2008). Can rabies be eradicated? *Emerg Infect Dis*; 13(1):25-7.
- ^{iv} SEARG (2013). Zimbabwe country report: 2010-2012.
<http://searg.info/doku.php?id=aboutrabies:rabiesepidemiology:2013reportzimbabwe> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- ^v SEARG (2013). Zimbabwe country report: 2010-2012.
<http://searg.info/doku.php?id=aboutrabies:rabiesepidemiology:2013reportzimbabwe> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- ^{vi} Sabeta CT, J Bingham and LH Nel (2002). Molecular epidemiology of canid rabies in Zimbabwe and South Africa. *Virus Research*; 91:203-11.
- ^{vii} SEARG (2013). Zimbabwe country report: 2010-2012.
<http://searg.info/doku.php?id=aboutrabies:rabiesepidemiology:2013reportzimbabwe> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- ^{viii} SEARG (2013). Zimbabwe country report: 2010-2012.
<http://searg.info/doku.php?id=aboutrabies:rabiesepidemiology:2013reportzimbabwe> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- ^{ix} SEARG (2011). Zimbabwe country report 2011. <http://searg.info/fichiers/articles/2011003003d.pdf> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- ^x SEARG (2013). Zimbabwe country report: 2010-2012.
<http://searg.info/doku.php?id=aboutrabies:rabiesepidemiology:2013reportzimbabwe> [accessed 1.6.2013]
- ^{xi} Sabeta CT, J Bingham and LH Nel (2002). Molecular epidemiology of canid rabies in Zimbabwe and South Africa. *Virus Research*; 91:203-11.
- ^{xii} OIE World Animal Health Information System. Zimbabwe, 2011 (1).
http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/semestrial/review?year=2011&semester=1&wild=0&country=ZMB&this_country_code=ZMB&detailed=1 and Zimbabwe, 2011 (2).
http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Reviewreport/semestrial/review?year=2011&semester=2&wild=0&country=ZMB&this_country_code=ZMB&detailed=1 [accessed 1.6.2013]
- ^{xiii} SEARG (2013). Zimbabwe country report: 2010-2012.
<http://searg.info/doku.php?id=aboutrabies:rabiesepidemiology:2013reportzimbabwe> [accessed 1.6.2013]