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A Detailed Review of the National Rabies Control Program (NRCP) in Jalandhar District (2023-2024)

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Abstract

Rabies remains a significant public health concern in India, with stray dog bites contributing to the majority of cases. This study presents a comparative analysis of dog bite cases, vaccination efforts, and bite severity trends from 2023 to 2024 in Jalandhar district.

Keywords

Rabies, NRCP, Dog Bites, Anti-Rabies Vaccination, Public Health, Epidemiology, Jalandhar

Introduction

Rabies is a fatal viral disease primarily transmitted through the bite of rabid animals, with dogs accounting for nearly 99% of human cases. India contributes to approximately 36% of the global rabies burden, prompting the launch of the NRCP under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Methodology

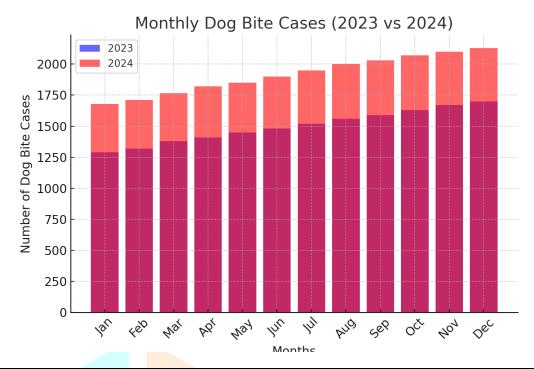
Data were collected from NRCP records of Jalandhar district (2023-2024), including reports on animal bite cases, dog bite categorization (Category I, II, III), vaccination coverage, and stray dog sterilization efforts.

Results and Findings

The study found a consistent increase in dog bite cases, particularly severe Category III bites. Category III cases increased from 1.6% in 2023 to 4.2% in 2024.

Monthly Dog Bite Cases (2023-2024)

The chart below illustrates the increasing trend in dog bite cases over two years.

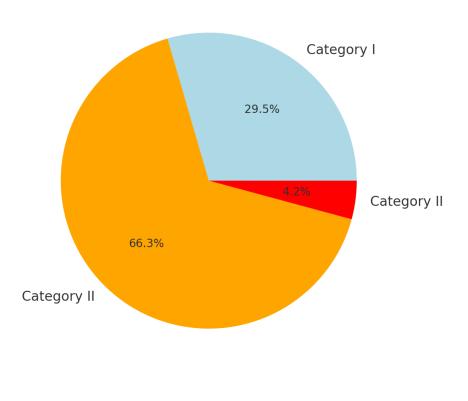


Month	Dog Bites (2023)	Dog Bites (2024)
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January	1,291	1,679
February	1,320	1,710
March	1,380	1,765
April	1,410	1,820
May	1,450	1,850
June	1,480	1,900
July	1,520	1,950
August	1,560	2,000
September	1,590	2,030
October	1,630	2,070
November	1,670	2,100
December	1,700	2,130

Bite Severity Distribution (2024)

The pie chart below shows the distribution of different categories of dog bites in 2024.

Bite Severity Distribution (2024)



Bite Severity Categorization (2023-2024)

Year	Category I	Category II	Category III
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2023	34.3%	64.1%	1.6%
2024	29.5%	66.3%	4.2%

Discussion

Key challenges in rabies control include an increasing stray dog population, a rising proportion of severe (Category III) bites, incomplete PEP adherence, and the need for expanded ARV and ARS availability in rural areas. Enhanced sterilization programs and increased public awareness are necessary.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Key findings indicate a consistent rise in dog bite cases from 2023 to 2024, with Category III bites showing significant growth. No rabies-related deaths have been reported in the last five years, showcasing the effectiveness of vaccination programs. To further improve rabies control, mass dog vaccination programs, expanded ARV availability, public awareness campaigns, and enhanced surveillance systems must be implemented.

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