



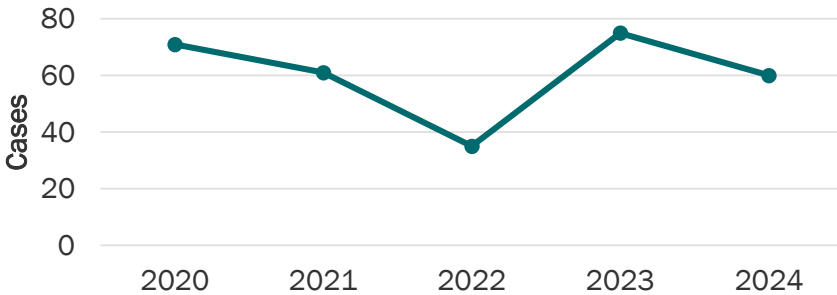
Animal Rabies

Maine Surveillance Report | 2024

Case Information:

60 Animals tested positive at HETL

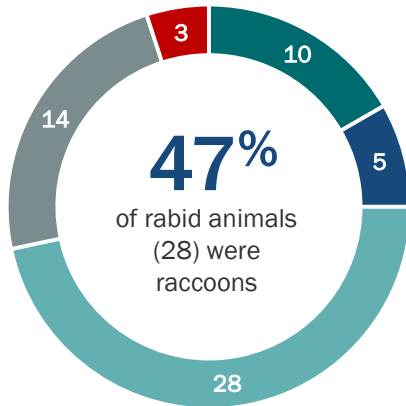
20% Decrease from 2023



Animals Tested in 2024:

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| Bats | Moles |
| Cats | Opossums |
| Chipmunks | Porcupines |
| Cows | Rats |
| Coyotes | Raccoons |
| Dogs | Reindeer |
| Foxes | Sheep |
| Goats | Shrews |
| Horses | Skunks |
| Llamas | Squirrels |
| Martens | Woodchucks |

Reported Rabid Animals:

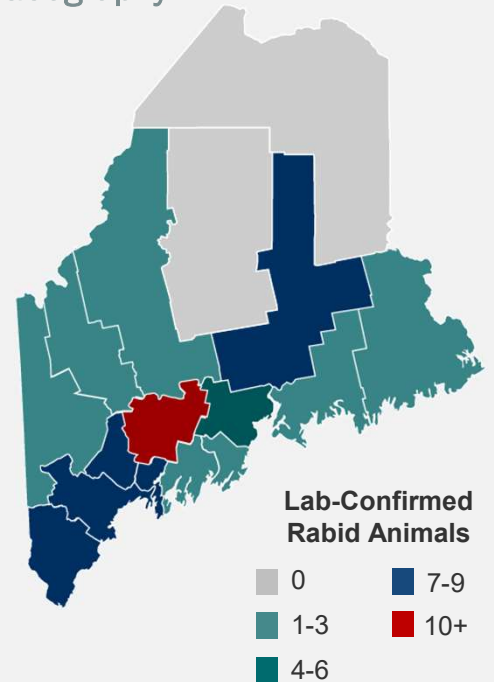


- Bat
- Fox
- Raccoon
- Skunk
- Other

Other includes: 1 Cat, 1 Goat, & 1 Woodchuck



Geography:



In Maine, lab-confirmed rabid animals were involved* in:

34 domestic animal exposures

11 human exposures

7 domestic animal & human exposures

*Eight animals were not involved in any exposures

Laboratory:

705 animals submitted to HETL for testing

316 animals submitted July to September (31% of total)

148 animals submitted in August (21% of total)

663 animals tested

603 negative results

42 animals not tested*

* Reasons include improper packaging, delays in shipment, contamination of the specimen, questionable exposures, etc.

Trends in 2024:

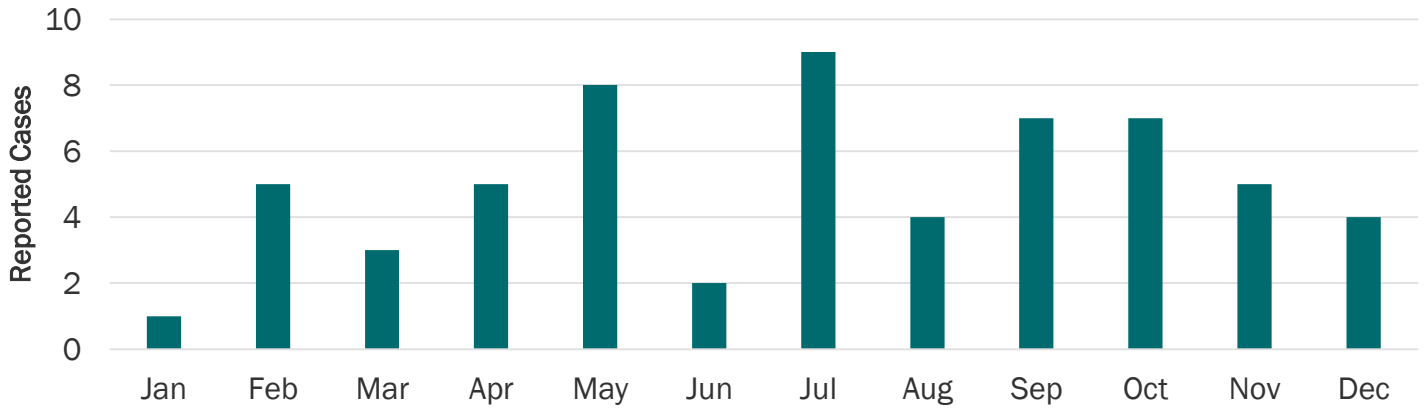
- Total reported cases decreased compared to the previous year.
- Cases reported in 14 out of 16 counties.
- Highest number (10) of rabid animals from Kennebec County.

For more information visit:
www.maine.gov/dhhs/rabies
www.cdc.gov/rabies





Monthly Distribution of Rabid Animals:



Human Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):

213 Maine residents received rabies PEP

▲ 48% increase from 2023

17 Out-of-state residents received rabies PEP

3% Patients were previously vaccinated for rabies

Demographics:

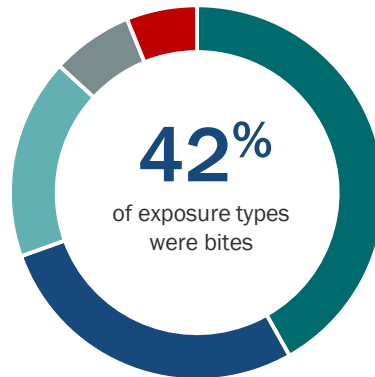


55% of patients were female

Median age of 35
Age range of 6 months-92 years

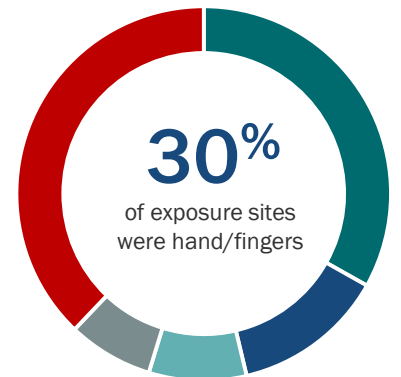
97% of patients were White

Exposure Types



- Bite
- Possible bat
- Other
- Scratch
- Mucous

Exposure Sites



- Hand/Finger
- Multiple sites
- Leg
- Head/Neck
- Other

Prevention:

Keep rabies vaccinations up-to-date for all dogs, cats, and ferrets

Feed pets indoors and keep garbage cans and other food sources tightly secured

Avoid contact with wildlife or any animals you do not know

After an animal exposure:

- Clean all wounds with soap and water for 15 minutes
- Call your local Animal Control Officer or Game Warden
- For **human** exposures, contact a healthcare provider
- For **pet & livestock** exposures, contact a veterinarian