**Title: Human Exposure to Animal bites, Liberia, 2016-2018**

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**Introduction:** Rabies is a vaccine-preventable viral disease. Dogs are the main source of human rabies deaths. Infection causes tens of thousands of deaths every year. Forty percent of people bitten by suspect rabid animals are children under 15 years of age. In Liberia, human exposure to animal bite (suspected human rabies) is one of the immediately reportable disease under surveillance. We analyzed human exposure to animal bite data by person, place and time.

**Method:** We conducted a secondary data analysis of human exposure to animal bite surveillance data. Data was collected from the Division of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology (DIDE) at the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL). Collected data were cleaned and analyzed descriptively and findings were presented in frequencies and rates.

**Results:** A total of 3,738 cases were reported from the fifteen counties. 1976 (53%) were males and the median age range were 2016, 13(0-72), 2017, 16(1-86), 2018, 17(1-120). The most affected age groups were persons aged 1 to 10 years who accounted for 1310 (35%). The prevalence of human exposure to animal bite was 3/100,000 populations. Montserrado County accounts for the highest number of cases 1647 (44%). Seven hundred and nineteen (19%) of cases had missing/incomplete data. In 2016, there was 17 (2%) vaccinated, 2017 108 (8%) vaccinated and 2018 278 (17%) vaccinated respectively. Sixteen (16) deaths were recorded from 2016 to 2018.

**Conclusion**: Montserrado reported the highest number of suspected cases and majority of cases occurred among males in the older age group. The problem of under reporting and data not being disaggregate could be contributing factors for the lack of visibility of the extent and impact of rabies. Ministry of health needs concerted efforts to address the issue of under reporting.

**Keywords:** Secondary data analysis, surveillance, Rabies

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