

Animal Bites and Rabies Exposure Events in Ohio, 2015



Each year since 1990, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has distributed a survey to all of Ohio's local health departments (LHDs) to gather information pertaining to potential rabies exposure events reported in the state. A human rabies exposure occurs when a human is bitten by a wild or domestic mammal (i.e., bite exposure) or when there is saliva contact with broken skin or mucous membranes (i.e., non-bite exposure). Non-bite exposures also occur when a bat is found in a room with a young child, with someone who is sleeping, or with someone with a sensory or mental impairment. Non-human rabies exposures occur when a domestic mammal is exposed to a suspected rabid mammal or when a mammal is investigated for showing signs compatible with rabies. There were 119 responses to the survey representing 100% of the LHDs (some health jurisdictions contract with others to report data).

A total of 20,654 potential rabies exposure events were reported to LHDs in 2015 (Table 1). This is essentially unchanged from 2014 (21,201). Of these events, 19,565 (94.7%) involved bites to humans, 827 (4.0%) involved human non-bite exposures and 262 (1.3%) were non-human exposure events. Dogs accounted for the majority of events (77.7%) followed by cats (17.0%) and bats (2.8%). Domestic animals (i.e., dogs, cats, ferrets, livestock, rodents, rabbits and other domestic mammals) accounted for 19,686 events (95.3%). Wild mammals (i.e., bats, raccoons, skunks, wild rabbits, wild rodents and other wild mammals) were involved in 967 events (4.7%). The distribution of events by species in 2015 was very similar to that reported in 2014. A summary of individual reports by jurisdiction and mammal category can be found in Appendix A.

In 2015, LHDs reported that 20,894 individuals experienced bite or non-bite rabies exposures. This is a 2.9% decrease from 2014 (21,507). In 2015, LHDs reported 383 exposed individuals started rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). This is a 5.9% decrease over 2014 when 407 individuals were reported to have received PEP. Rabies PEP is not reportable in Ohio so this total represents only a portion of the true number of individuals receiving treatment after rabies exposure. Bat (34.5%), dog (31.9%), cat (15.4%) and raccoon (14.1%) exposures accounted for the majority of reported instances of rabies PEP administration.

In 2015, there were 26 confirmed animal cases of rabies in Ohio. Twenty of these were bats and six were raccoons. The rabid bats were widely distributed throughout the state. The positive raccoons were from Trumbull and Mahoning Counties in Northeast Ohio. The raccoons were all infected with raccoon rabies variant.

Table 1: Reported Mammalian Bites for Ohio by Species, 2015.

Species	Bite Exposure Events	Non-Bites Exposure Events	Other Exposure Events	Total Exposure Events	Total Humans Exposed	Total Humans Starting PET
Dog	15,725	284	33	16,042	16,186	122
Cat	3,317	168	24	3,509	3,553	59
Ferret	11	0	0	11	11	1
Livestock	32	1	3	36	34	0
Rodent/Rabbit (Domestic)	51	2	1	54	52	0
Other Domestic	31	3	1	35	34	0
Rodent/Rabbit (Wild)	67	2	8	77	73	6
Raccoon	139	23	51	213	177	54
Skunk	5	4	4	13	8	1
Bat	122	338	122	582	698	132
Other Wild	65	2	15	82	68	8
Grand Total	19,565	827	262	20,654	20,894	383

Appendix A: Reported Rabies Exposure Events by Species and Jurisdiction, 2015.

Local Health Department (County/City)	Dog	Cat	Ferret	Livestock	Rodent / Rabbit (Domestic)	Other Domestic	Rodent / Rabbit (Wild)	Raccoon	Skunk	Bat	Other Wild	Total
Adams	48	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	55
Allen	173	21	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	198
Ashland	73	29	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	1	109
Ashtabula	142	41	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	0	190
Ashtabula City	51	14	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	70
Conneaut City	29	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	38
Athens	93	14	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	113
Auglaize	77	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	91
Belmont	141	44	0	2	0	1	3	3	0	5	1	200
Brown	67	14	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	1	89
Butler	274	40	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	12	3	334
Hamilton City	149	16	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	170
Middletown City	94	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	102
Carroll	32	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	46

Local Health Department (County/City)	Dog	Cat	Ferret	Livestock	Rodent / Rabbit (Domestic)	Other Domestic	Rodent / Rabbit (Wild)	Raccoon	Skunk	Bat	Other Wild	Total
Champaign	43	13	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	58
Clark	187	44	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	11	0	249
Clermont	278	40	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	3	2	331
Clinton	73	13	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	1	0	93
Columbiana	124	34	0	0	0	0	6	3	0	5	1	173
East Liverpool	29	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
Salem City	30	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
Coshocton	43	7	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	53
Coshocton City	42	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	53
Crawford	72	10	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	85
Galion City	33	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	43
Cuyahoga	761	216	0	0	2	4	1	20	2	38	8	1,052
Cleveland City	586	101	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	2	0	695
Shaker Heights City	7	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	25
Darke	85	27	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	4	0	121
Defiance	63	30	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	96
Delaware	206	50	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	14	9	285
Erie	133	33	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	170
Fairfield	192	44	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	6	1	246
Fayette	55	8	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	71
Franklin	529	87	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	13	1	638
Columbus City	1,033	186	2	0	1	0	1	8	0	21	2	1,254
Fulton	81	20	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	105
Gallia	57	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	77
Geauga	106	48	0	0	1	1	3	7	1	9	1	177
Greene	201	40	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	17	4	266
Guernsey	88	18	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	10	0	120
Hamilton	508	101	1	2	3	0	3	5	0	36	0	659

Local Health Department (County/City)	Dog	Cat	Ferret	Livestock	Rodent / Rabbit (Domestic)	Other Domestic	Rodent / Rabbit (Wild)	Raccoon	Skunk	Bat	Other Wild	Total
Cincinnati City	345	37	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	66	0	456
Norwood City	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	39
Springdale City	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
Hancock	57	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
Findlay City	62	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	92
Hardin	42	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Harrison	26	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	30
Henry	71	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
Highland	70	22	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	1	1	99
Hocking	61	11	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	4	0	81
Holmes	25	6	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	36
Huron	105	21	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	134
Jackson	49	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	59
Jefferson	69	19	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	3	0	95
Steubenville	20	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Knox	102	34	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	12	0	155
Lake	336	106	0	0	3	0	3	12	1	10	0	471
Lawrence	68	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	73
Ironton City	23	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Licking	260	95	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	3	1	366
Logan	78	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	95
Lorain	163	44	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	214
Elyria City	110	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	124
Lorain City	168	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	190
Lucas	586	89	0	0	2	0	4	3	0	16	1	701
Madison	65	10	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	79
Mahoning	175	42	0	3	0	0	4	5	0	5	0	234
Youngstown City	107	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	120

Local Health Department (County/City)	Dog	Cat	Ferret	Livestock	Rodent / Rabbit (Domestic)	Other Domestic	Rodent / Rabbit (Wild)	Raccoon	Skunk	Bat	Other Wild	Total
Marion	133	16	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	153
Medina	238	83	0	2	2	1	1	3	0	32	0	362
Meigs	40	16	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	59
Mercer	50	10	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	63
Miami	106	21	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	132
Piqua City	37	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	40
Monroe	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Montgomery - Dayton	727	118	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	23	1	874
Morgan	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Morrow	56	20	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	81
Muskingum	228	47	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	280
Noble	13	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	22
Ottawa	74	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	96
Paulding	34	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	40
Perry	49	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	57
Pickaway	61	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	69
Pike	50	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
Portage	183	50	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	13	2	254
Kent City	23	6	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	4	0	40
Preble	47	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	53
Putnam	35	6	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	44
Richland	185	51	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	6	1	249
Shelby City	19	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Ross	167	30	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	202
Sandusky	83	26	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	111
Scioto	112	44	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	158
Portsmouth City	59	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
Seneca	91	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104

Local Health Department (County/City)	Dog	Cat	Ferret	Livestock	Rodent / Rabbit (Domestic)	Other Domestic	Rodent / Rabbit (Wild)	Raccoon	Skunk	Bat	Other Wild	Total
Shelby	76	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	90
Stark	403	142	1	0	3	1	3	9	3	26	2	593
Alliance City	56	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	75
Canton City	274	37	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	318
Massillon City	99	14	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	115
Summit	653	134	1	1	0	1	1	7	1	18	6	823
Trumbull	171	45	1	1	0	0	2	7	0	9	3	239
Warren City	59	19	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	80
Tuscarawas	109	42	0	2	0	2	2	3	0	6	0	166
New Phil. City	27	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	33
Union	73	24	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	100
Van Wert	32	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	46
Vinton	24	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	30
Warren	217	41	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	7	4	274
Washington	55	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	83
Belpre City	12	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Marietta City	17	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Wayne	119	45	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	5	1	174
Williams	64	17	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	5	0	90
Wood	175	43	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	9	0	234
Wyandot	32	19	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	55
Total, Ohio	16,042	3,509	11	36	54	35	77	213	13	582	82	20,654