



STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
**Health** AND **Human**  
SERVICES

2022 IOWA RABIES SUMMARY

OCTOBER, 2023

## Animal Rabies in Iowa

In 2022, 11 cases of animal rabies were reported in Iowa, all were bats.

### POSITIVE RABIES CASES 2012-2022

Species	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Bat	17	6	10	7	12	6	9	8	12	9	11	107
Cat	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	6
Cow	4	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
Dog	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Horse	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Skunk	9	4	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	19
Total	31	12	15	12	19	10	10	8	12	9	11	149

During 2022, 1,303 animals in Iowa were tested for rabies and 11 were confirmed positive (0.84%). Historically, the percent positive varies greatly by species. It is important to note that this data is greatly influenced by the number of animals tested. Many animals are tested because they have contact with humans or domestic animals and they exhibit unusual behavior or clinical signs making them more likely to be infected with the rabies virus. For these reasons, the percentages should not be considered representative of the true distribution of disease within the animal population in Iowa.

### PERCENT POSITIVE IN 2022

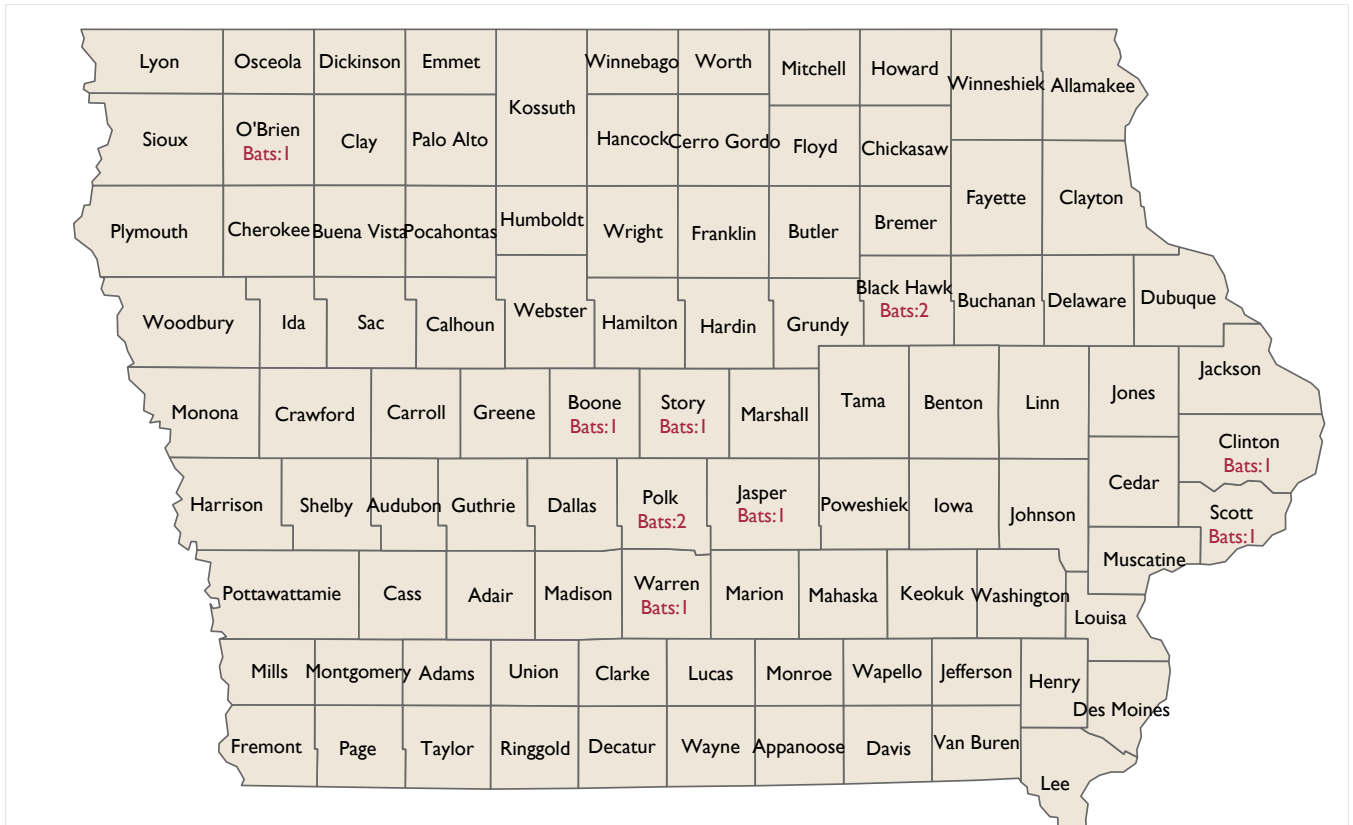
Animal	Positive	Total Tested	% Positive
Bat	11	533	2.06%

In Iowa, typically the most common bat species submitted for testing are the *Eptesicus fuscus* (big brown bat) and *Myotis lucifugus* (little brown bat); however other bat species are occasionally tested.

### BAT SPECIES TESTED FOR RABIES IN 2022

Species	Positive	Total Tested	% Positive
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	3	271	1.11%
<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	0	1	0.00%
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	0	2	0.00%
Unknown Bat	8	259	3.09%

2022 RABIES MAP



Species Count

Bat	11
Badger	0
Bovine	0
Canine	0
Equine	0
Feline	0
Fox	0
Human	0
Skunk	0
Squirrel	0

There are two laboratories that test animals for rabies in Iowa:

- State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa (tested 702 Iowa animals in 2022)
- Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (tested 601 Iowa animals in 2022)

Iowa animals are also periodically tested in out-of-state laboratories.

## Human Rabies in Iowa

Iowa's most recent human rabies case occurred in 2002, and was caused by the bat strain. Prior to that, the last reported case occurred in 1951. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates 60,000 people receive PEP each year. The exact number of Iowans who receive PEP each year is unknown.