



2023 IOWA RABIES SUMMARY

MAY, 2024

Animal Rabies in Iowa

in 2023, 14 cases of animal rabies were reported in Iowa. Twelve bats, one dog, and one skunk.

POSITIVE RABIES CASES 2013-2023

Species	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Bat	6	10	7	12	6	9	8	12	9	11	12	102
Cat	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Cow	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Dog	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
Horse	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Skunk	4	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
Total	12	15	12	19	10	10	8	12	9	11	14	132

During 2023, 1,232 animals in Iowa were tested for rabies and 14 were confirmed positive (1.13%). 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 2023

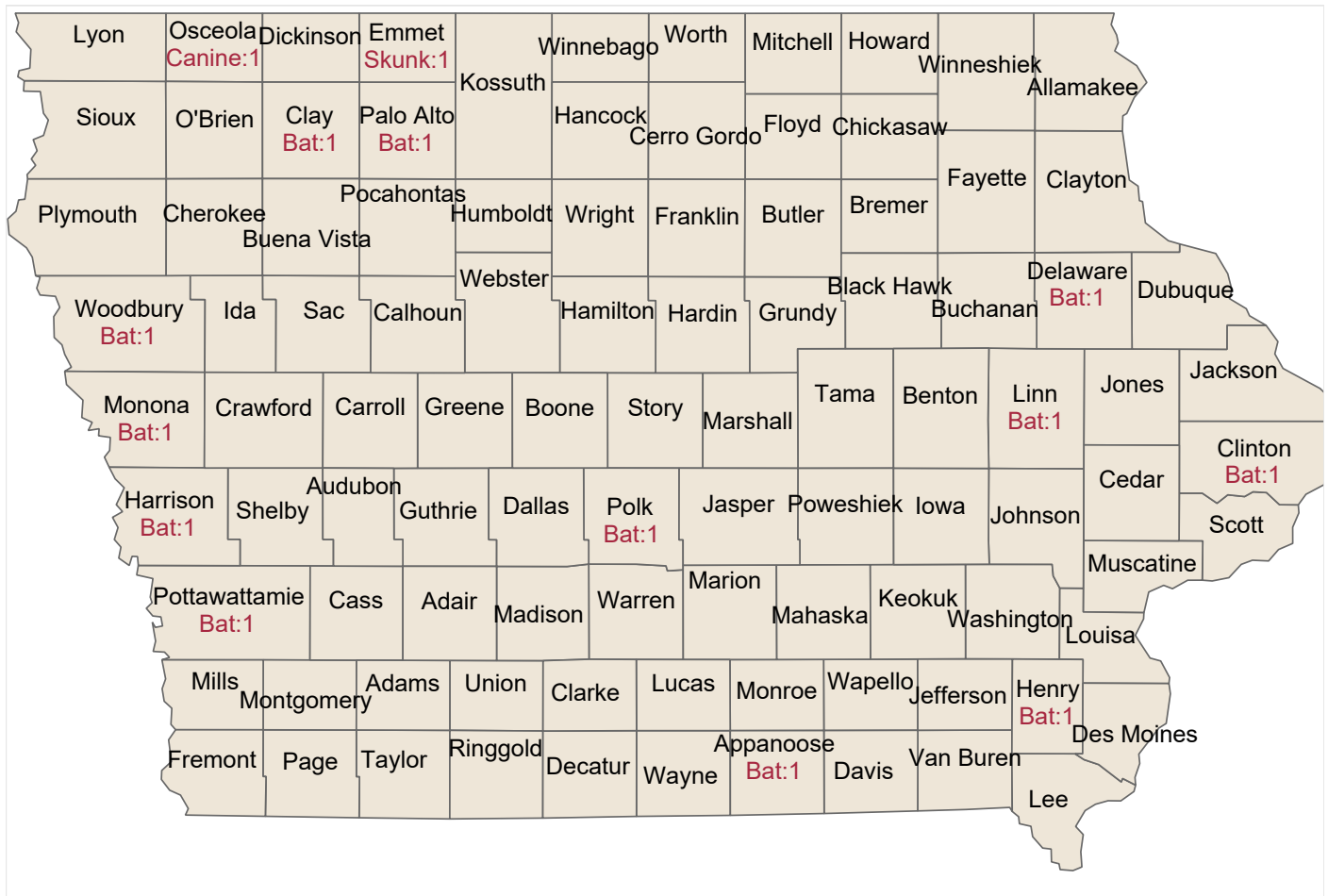
Species	Positive	Total Tested	% Positive
Bat	12	440	2.73%
Dog	1	358	0.28%
Skunk	1	9	11.11%

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 2023

Species	Positive	Total Tested	% Positive
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	8	222	3.60%
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	0	3	0.00%
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	1	3	33.33%
Unknown Bat	3	215	1.40%

2023 RABIES MAP



Species Count

Bat	12
Badger	0
Bovine	0
Canine	1
Equine	0
Feline	0
Fox	0
Human	0
Skunk	1
Squirrel	0

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

- State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa (tested 621 Iowa animals in 2023)
- Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (tested 611 Iowa animals in 2023)

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.

Rabies information is accessible on the Iowa HHS website, visit

hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/center-acute-disease-epidemiology/rabies-information-public-providers-and-veterinarians
 The Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology provides 24/7 rabies consultation at 800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours
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