

# Description of the human-bat health complaints registered at the Instituto de Zoonosis Luis Pasteur. Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires. 2019-2023.

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## INTRODUCTION

Bats decrease their activity in winter and increase it as the temperature rises. There is a possibility that the aerial rabies virus present in infected bats could spread to different species and the disease could develop (spillover). Seasonality represents a critical nodal point for the management of actions relevant to the surveillance, prevention and control of this problem. The Instituto de Zoonosis Luis Pasteur (IZLP) receives health complaints due to human-bat contact. The aim of the study is to describe the situation of health complaints received by the IZLP referring to human-bat contact, in the Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, during the five-year period 2019-2023.

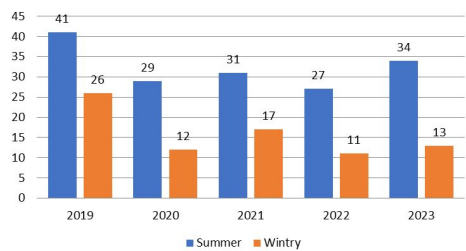
## METHODS

People who had contact with a bat made a report to the Operational Coordination Office (IZLP), providing the necessary information for follow-up. In some cases they referred the bat for a rabies diagnosis.

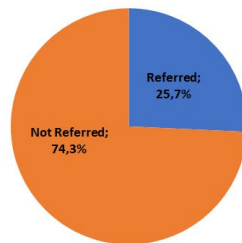
## RESULTS

241 complaints were received per contact. 25.7% (62/241) referred the bat for rabies diagnosis. In 19.4% (12/62) of the specimens, the rabies virus was detected by direct immunofluorescence techniques, Rt-PCR, qPCR and/or biological tests in cell culture. 3 were not diagnosed due to the absence of a brain in the bat. During the summer period, 66.1% (39/59) of the complaints were registered, the virus was detected in 23.1% (9/39) and in the winter period its presence was detected in 15% (3/20).

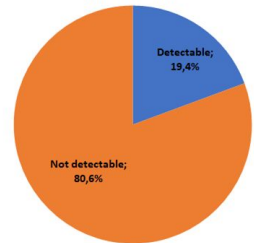
**Reports of Human-Bat contact 2019-2023. IZLP**



Percentage of bats referred and not referred. 2019-2023. IZLP



Percentage of samples detectable and non-detectable to the rabies virus. 2019-2023. IZLP



## CONCLUSION

During the warm months, bats increase the possibility of generating contact with man or another animal, which implies a high probability of producing the spillover effect. For this reason, it is of high relevance to report contact with a bat, in order to act accordingly and maintain consistent surveillance. This will allow prevention and health education campaigns to be carried out, raising awareness about the importance of the care and management of this species, minimizing the possibility of involuntary contact with it.