

## Epidemiological profile of pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis in the Federal District, Brazil, from 2019 to 2023

**Authors: Geila Marcia Meneguessi, Luísa Dorsch Ferreira, Isadora Alves de Vasconcelos, Milena Fontes, Fernanda Ledes, Renata Brandão, Marília Higinio**

### INTRODUCTION

In Brazil, pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis follows the technical standards of the Health Surveillance Guide of the Ministry of Health (MS), which provides guidance on the correct vaccination schedule for professionals whose occupational activities place them in permanent exposure to the rabies virus. Therefore, veterinarians, animal handlers, field biologists, speleologists, researchers and laboratory technicians who have contact with animal/human blood possibly contaminated with the rabies virus are the target group for this type of anti-rabies prophylaxis.

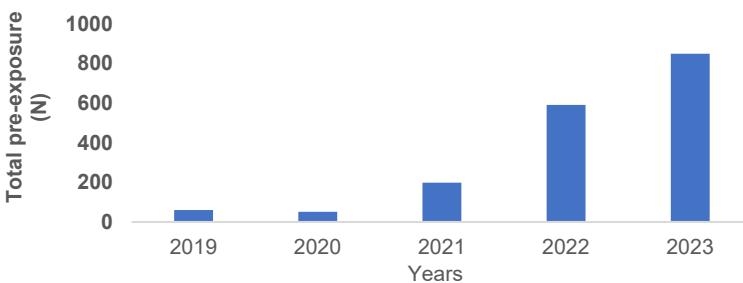
### METHODS

Descriptive, retrospective study on pre-exposure rabies prophylaxis care, with secondary data obtained from the Notifiable Diseases Information System (Sinan-net).

### RESULTS

Between 2019 and 2023, 66.441 anti-rabies treatments were carried out, of which only 1.749 (2,6%) corresponded to pre-exposure prophylaxis and 1.714 (98,0%) were for residents of the Federal District. There was an increase in notifications between the years 2022 which represented 33,8% and 48,5% respectively (Figure 1). The demographic characterization shows that most immunized individuals were female (68.4%), self-declared as white (31.9%), aged between 20 and 29 years (47.4%) and were students (64.2%), such as veterinarians (3.0%).

**Figure 1.** Total pre-exposure rabies immunization in individuals residing in the Federal District between 2019 and 2023.



Regarding the completion of the prophylactic schedule, 277 (16,9%) individuals did not complete the vaccination schedule.

### CONCLUSION

There was a greater demand from students, Young adults and women. Although there has been an increase in the last two years, the percentage of treatment incompleteness is high, which constitutes a risk for these professionals. Pre-exposure prophylaxis is still an underused rabies prevention tool.