

National Rabies Control Programme (Zoonosis Division)

Introduction: Rabies is endemic throughout the country with the exception of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands. Dog rabies is major public health problem accounting for about 96% of the mortality and morbidity. Estimates suggest that annual human rabies death incidence to be around 20,000 and the annual incidence of animal bites to be 1.7% (17.5 million per year). Control of rabies involves two components viz. elimination of human deaths and control of canine rabies to break down the transmission.

Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is implementing “National Rabies Control Program” approved during 12th five year plan, with an objective to prevent the human deaths due to rabies & to prevent transmission of rabies through canine (dog) rabies control. The program has two components human component and animal component. A brief description of the two components of the program is as under:-

Human Component- which is being implemented in all the states & UTs. National Centre for the Diseases control is the nodal agency for the Human Component of the program. The strategy for the human component are:

- Training of health professionals
- Implementing use of intra-dermal route of inoculation of cell culture vaccines
- Strengthening surveillance of human rabies
- Information Education & Communication
- Laboratory strengthening

Animal Component- which is being pilot tested in the Haryana & Chennai. The Animal Welfare Board of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests is the Nodal agency for the Animal Component of the program. The strategy for the animal component are:

- Population survey of dogs
- Mass vaccination of dogs
- Dog population management
- Strengthening surveillance