

Central Oregon Public Health Quarterly

Communicable Disease Update for Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties

First Quarter Report, 2025:

2024 Highlights & Animal Bites Spotlight

24/7 Communicable
Disease reporting lines:

Crook
County:
541-447-5165

Deschutes
County:
541-322-7418

Jefferson
County:
541-475-4456

Communicable Disease Case Counts and Rates: Year in Review

Reportable Disease or Condition	2024				2019-2023			
	Oregon		Central Oregon		Oregon		Central Oregon	
	Case count	Rate per 100,000 population	Case count	Rate per 100,000 population	Average annual case count	5-year rate per 100,000 population	Average annual case count	5-year rate per 100,000 population
Chlamydia	13,991	330.5	585	233.1	16,316	383.9	754	299.5
Campylobacteriosis	1,159	27.4	129	49.4	1,007	23.7	107	42.3
Hepatitis C (chronic)	2,878	68.0	117	44.8	3,793	89.2	191	75.7
Gonorrhea	4,462	105.4	87	33.3	5,836	137.3	156	61.9
Syphilis	1,695	40.0	69	26.4	1,809	42.6	46	18.3
E. coli (ETEC)*	200	4.7	55	21.1	91	2.1	34	13.6
E. coli (STEC)*	359	8.5	47	18.0	296	7.0	37	14.6
Salmonella (non-typhoidal)	518	12.2	46	17.6	349	8.2	34	13.7
Giardiasis	349	8.2	45	17.2	322	7.6	41	16.3
Lead poisoning [†]	745	17.6	26	10.0	319	7.5	8	3.2
Shigella	420	9.9	22	8.4	199	4.7	7	2.7
Yersinia	111	2.6	22	8.4	52	1.2	11	4.3
CRE*	199	4.7	17	6.5	238	5.6	14	5.4
HIV	214	5.1	15	5.7	217	5.1	6	2.5
Cryptosporidium	160	3.8	11	4.2	145	3.4	14	5.6
Vibrio	43	1.0	8	3.1	40	0.9	7	2.9
Cyclosporiasis	30	0.7	5	1.9	7	0.2	5	1.9

Table above summarizes **2024** case counts for selected reportable communicable diseases (CDs) with Central OR regional case counts (Crook; Deschutes; Jefferson Co) of **5+**, listed in order of prevalence with comparisons to previous 5 years. Rates calculated using the latest *American Community Survey* (ACS) population estimates. All data current as of April 7, 2024. **Note:** Due to known delays from a small number of testing sites in Central OR, numbers above may be subject to later correction.

* E. coli=Escherichia coli bacteria; STEC=Shiga-toxin producing E. coli; ETEC=Enterotoxigenic E. coli; CRE=Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae

† **Note:** Prior to 2024, the cut point for blood lead test follow-up on children (<18yrs) was 5ug/dL, now all results 3.5ug/dL+ are reported/investigated.



2024 Central OR Year-in-Review Highlights

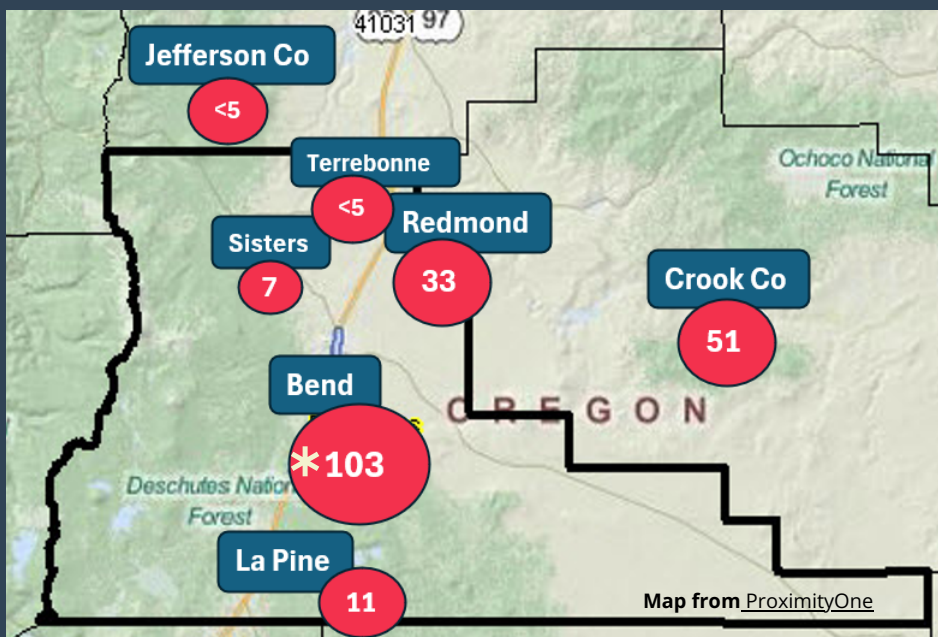


- 2024 Top 3 Central OR CDs
 - 1) chlamydia; 2) campylobacteriosis; 3) hepatitis C (chronic)
- Rate Trends in Central OR [2024 vs. (2019-2023)]
 - Elevated Rates:** [12/17 (71%)] of CDs had elevated rates in 2024 vs. prior 5-years; With particularly elevated rate increases noted for *lead poisoning*, *shigella* & *HIV* (2+ fold increases)
 - Diminished Rates:** [4/17 (24%)] of CDs had lower rates in 2024 vs. prior 5-years; With particularly diminished rates for *gonorrhea* (~2 fold decrease)

- 2024 Central OR vs. Oregon State Rates
 - In 2024, 6/17 (35%) of CDs in Central OR (case counts ≥ 5) had *lower rates* compared to the overall state rates, with particularly lower rates for *gonorrhea*
 - Among the 11 CDs with *higher rates* in Central OR in 2024; those with a **>3-fold** increase included: *E. coli* (ETEC) & *Yersinia*



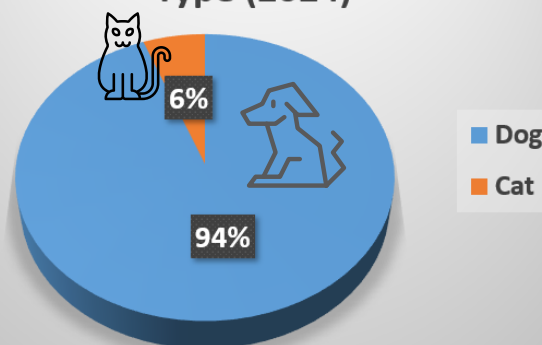
Spotlight on Animal Bites in Central OR



Animal Bites (2024): Overview

- Last year (2024), the majority of our Central OR animal bites occurred in Deschutes County (specifically around Bend*), followed by cases reported in Crook Co
- When looking across animals involved in bites reported in Deschutes Co, the majority occurred by **dogs (94%)** ...followed by **cats (6%)** (a small # of other animals [bats/skunks (<1%)] were also reported (not represented in graphic below due to small #s])

Animal Bites Reported in Deschutes County by Animal Type (2024)



Animal Bite Reporting

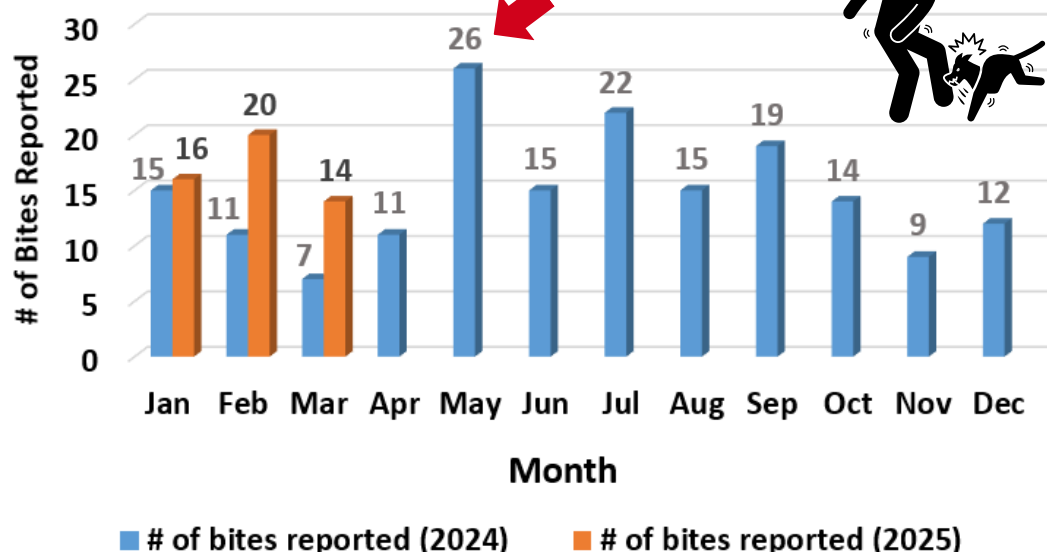
- According Oregon State Law ([ORS 433.345](#)), anyone seeking medical attention for an animal bite [whether at urgent care clinics or at a doctor's office] is required to complete specific animal bite forms & fax to local health dept. Report all bites to Deschutes Co Animal Control: [541-693-6911](tel:541-693-6911)
- Animal Quarantine:** After a bite, an animal should be isolated (~10 days) to observe for signs of disease (e.g. rabies) & ensure the animal doesn't pose a risk to public health. In Deschutes Co (2024), **40%** of animals implicated in a bite were quarantined (in many instances, owners of animal were unable to be reached/animal status was unknown)

★ See more on Deschutes Co Animal Bites Page [Here](#).

Animal Bites by Month (2024-25)

- While animal bites occur all year long, the majority of bites in Deschutes Co (in 2024) have occurred in May ...the fewest occurred in March
- When considering the most recent **2025** animal bite data, Jan-Mar have all had a higher # of bites reported vs. previous year
- Why we see more animal bites (esp. from dogs) in the spring/summer (?):
 - Increased Outdoor Time** (increasing chances for animal encounters)
 - Heat Stress & Irritability:** Warm weather can lead to stress/irritability in animals increasing likelihood for bites
 - Increased Activity of Rabies Carriers** (e.g. bats) in summer months--leading to more instances of rabies-related aggression [Read more in recent article [here](#)].

Animal Bites Reported in Deschutes County by Month (2024-2025)



*Deschutes County animal bite data provided by Deschutes Co Environmental Health Team (data current as of 4/10/25)

Spotlight on Animal Bites (cont.)

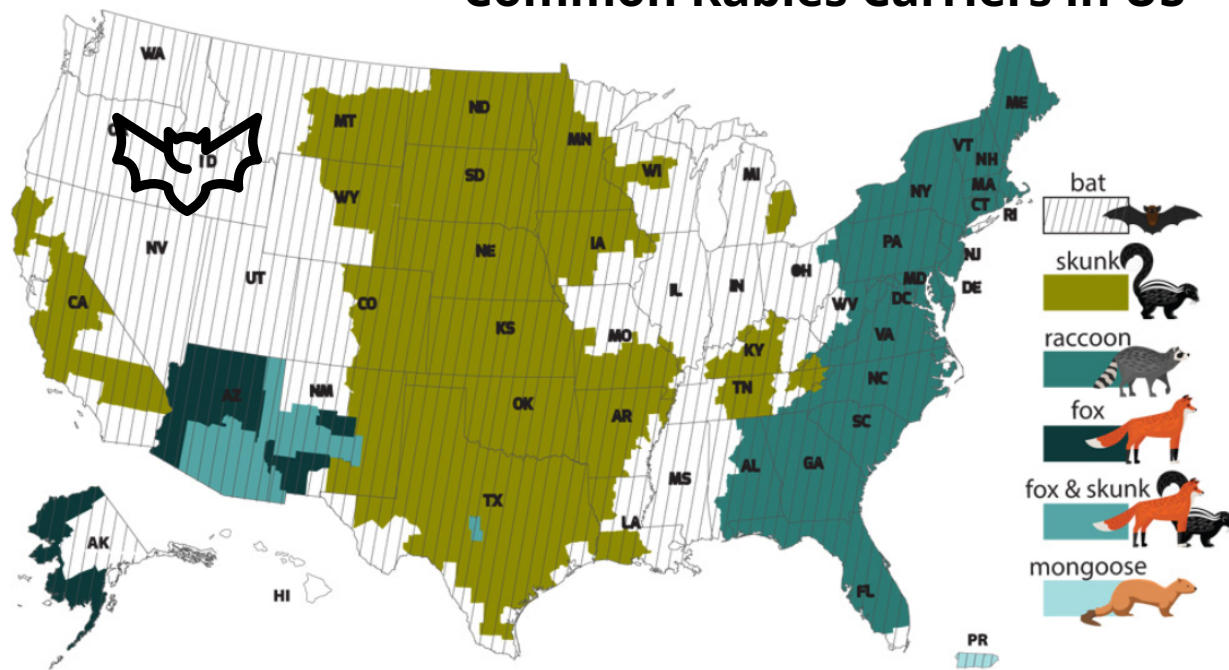


Rabies Virus

Image from: scientificanimations.com

Series: CDC Vital signs ; June 2019

Common Rabies Carriers in US



Note: There's never been a documented case of human rabies caused by a **rodent bite**

A Note on Rabies:*

- <10 people die each year (in US) from rabies
- 4,000 animal rabies cases reported (in US) each year (>90% in **wildlife**) ...a big change from the 1960s, when domestic dogs represented most rabies cases in the US
- **A note on rabies deaths:** Although rare, people still die from rabies ...often because they fail to get medical care soon after getting scratched/bitten (**NOTE:** bat bites can be easy to ignore as they often don't leave visible marks)

*Read more on OHAs Rabies [page](#) & CDC's National Rabies Surveillance System [here](#).

Data visualization (above) by the [National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases \(U.S.\)](#).

Rabies Protection: Best Practices

Preventing Rabies Exposure:

- **AVOID** contact with wild animals (esp. bats) **[alive or dead]**
- **REPORT** ALL animal bites to local health dept or animal control
- IF it can be done safely, **CAPTURE** stray/wild animals that have bitten people (& work with local authorities to decide if rabies testing is necessary)
- **VACCINATE** all domestic animals to create an immune barrier
- **CONTROL** populations of stray/unwanted animals



Pet Exposure to a Known/Suspected Rabid Animal

- **UNIMMUNIZED** dogs/cats with known contact to a rabid animal should be humanely euthanized [if not permitted by owner, animal must undergo supervised quarantine for 4mo (ferrets=6mo) with **rabies vaccine administered** at time of entry]
- **IMMUNIZED** dogs/cats/ferrets should be **revaccinated & quarantined for 45days**
- **A Note on Testing:** Animals that are tested for rabies are almost always tested because they are **acting abnormally & have bitten a human or other animal**
- **OTHER SITUATIONS** see: [National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians \(NASPHV\) Compendium of Rabies Control](#)



A Special Note on Bats



- In Oregon (& our neighbors WA & ID), bats are the **ONLY** reservoir species for rabies [occasionally bat predators (e.g. foxes/coyotes/cats) become infected from rabid bats]
- Of bats tested in OR over past 25yrs, **7.8%** tested (+) for rabies
- **Sick Bats:** Spotting a bat during the day may indicate it's sick (as bats are nocturnal) ...other signs a bat has rabies: erratic flying patterns (or in unusual places); being easily approached; clouded eyes [Read more [here](#)]
- **Bat Proof Your House:** cover large openings with screen wire; caulk holes <1cm diam; close fireplace dampers in warm months. More tips [here](#).
- Bats have a special role in our ecosystem: encourage bat colonies with **bat boxes** located **AWAY** from human habitations
- If you can't get a bat to leave your home/cabin, contact the **Wildlife Control Operators** for help ([access website here](#))



***OREGON REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Anyone with knowledge of a person **being bitten** by a potentially rapid animal is required to report such incidents to the Local Health Dept **within one working day**. Confirmed cases of **human rabies must be reported immediately** to the Local Health Dept or Oregon Health Authority (971-672-1111). **Note:** Per OHA, rodent & raccoon testing for rabies **not** generally recommended

* For more information on animal bites & rabies, see the current OR Investigative Guidelines [here](#)