

# Burden of animal bites in human populations, predisposing factors and rabies control efforts in Mubende district

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## Introduction

Humans acquire rabies through bites and scratches from infected animals. Worldwide, about 55,000 humans die of rabies annually of which 24,000 (44%) are from Africa. Uganda reported 12,718 cases and 203 deaths from animal bites and suspected rabies in 2010 with 82 cases from Mubende district. This study describes the burden of animal bites in human populations, predisposing factors and rabies control efforts in Mubende district.

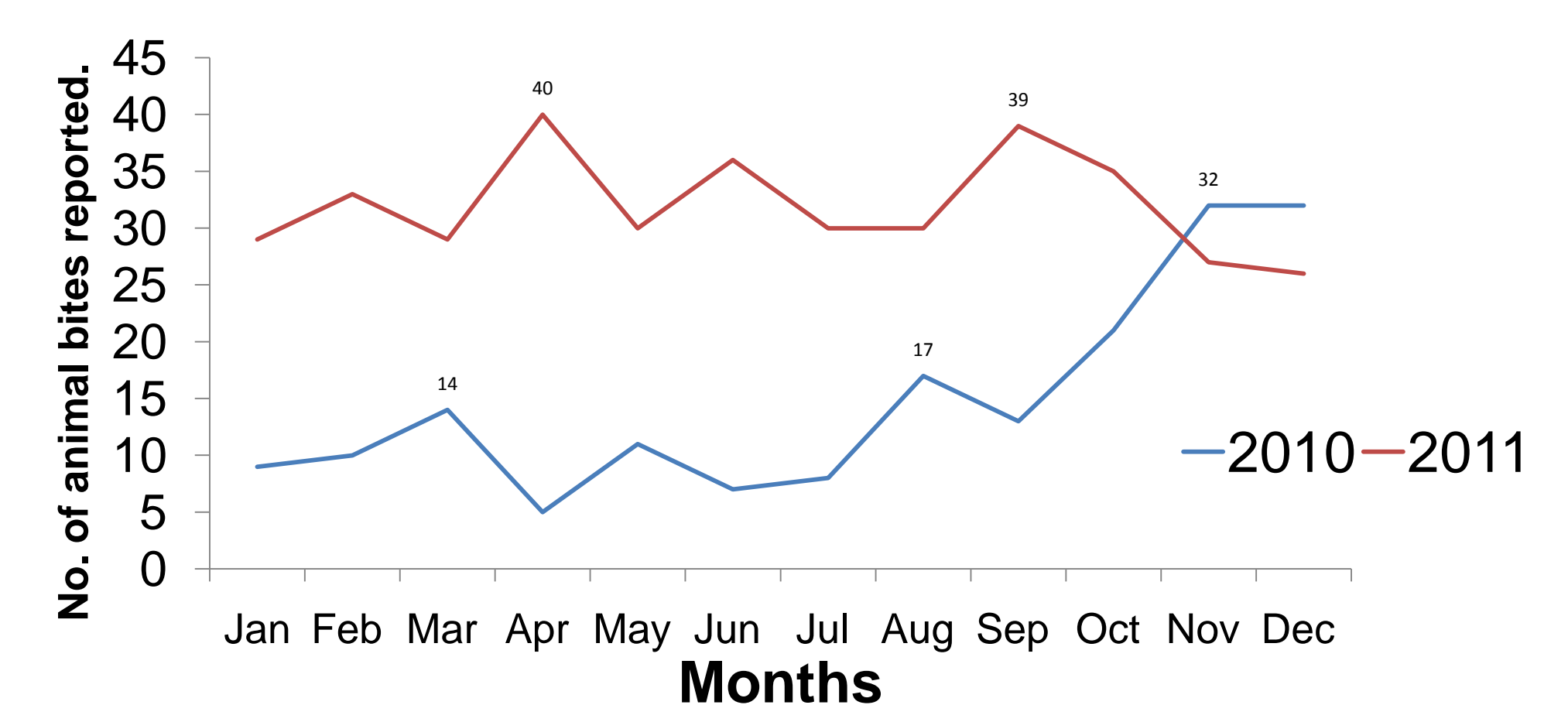
## Methodology

- We conducted a cross sectional study in which we reviewed and abstracted reported animal bites from Mubende hospital and Veterinary records from 2010 to 2011, conducted community survey from selected sub counties, Interviewed key informants from both Veterinary and health departments
- Data was entered and analysed using stata version 9.0 software to generate proportions and odds ratios for various variables.

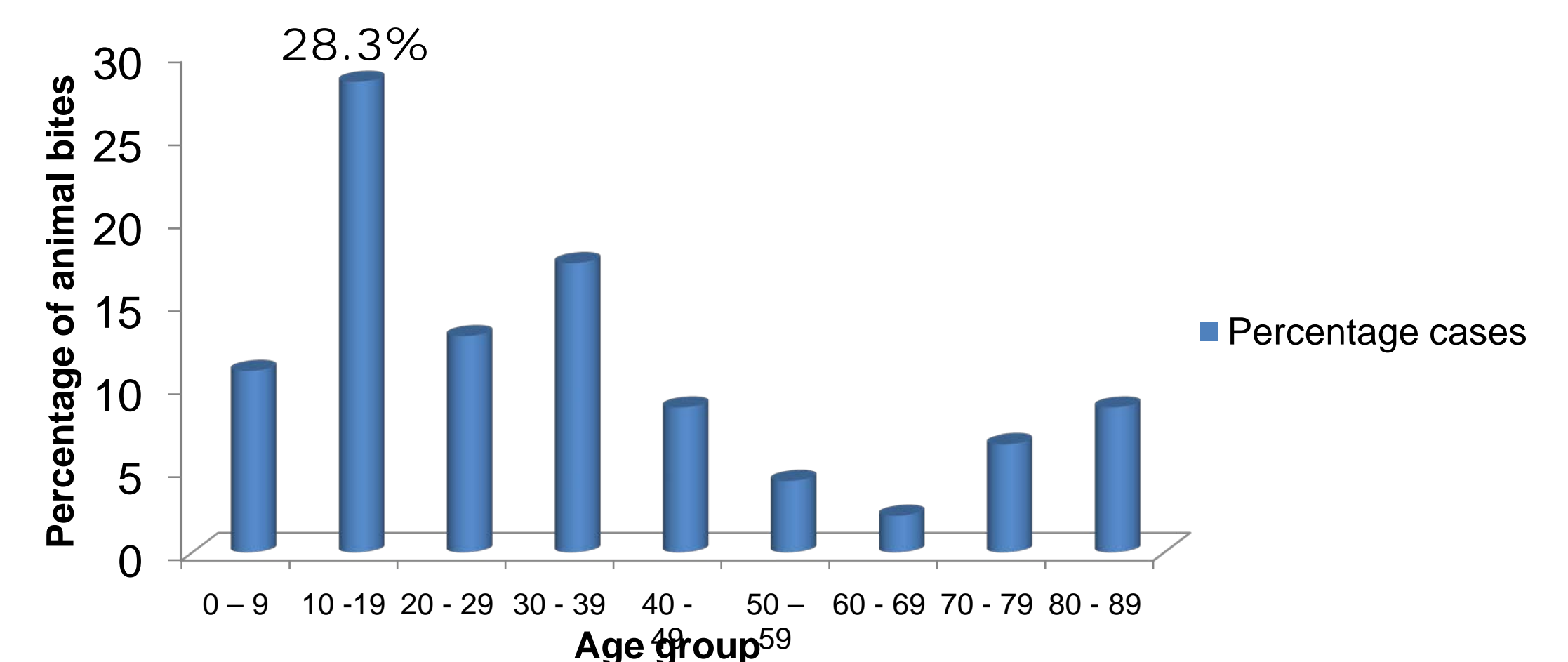
## Results

- In 2010 and 2011, 563 animal bite cases were reported
- 540 (96%) bite cases due to dogs and others (4%) bites due to cats, Jackals, goats and humans.
- Majority (52%) of the bite cases were females.
- Age groups, majority cases were 10-19 years (28.3%).
- 541 (96.1%) of the animal bite cases were treated with post exposure rabies vaccine.
- About half (48%) of the respondents were not knowledgeable on rabies and signs of rabid animals.
- Keeping dogs and cats (OR 5.9 95% CI 1.4-24.8) was a significant risk factor to animal bites.
- Control measures; dog vaccination and prophylactic treatment on human bite cases
- There was minimal inter-departmental collaboration between MRRH, District Health and Veterinary offices.

No. of animal bites reported in 2010 and 2011



Percentage of animal bite cases by age groups



Public health action in affected subcounties



## Conclusions and Recommendations

Majority of animal bites in humans in Mubende district are due to dogs. Rabies control measures were inadequate. Post exposure prophylaxis was inadequate. Sensitization of the public especially children on prevention, treatment and control strategies with mass vaccination of pets by combining efforts from both Veterinary and Medical staff (One Health approach) is desired. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries should provide vaccines to the district for mass dog vaccination, District recruit Veterinary staff, train VHT on zoonoses reporting and eliminate any stray dogs in the community.