

Assessment of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Communities to Rabies in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

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Background

Rabies is an endemic zoonosis in the developing countries. It is one of the viral diseases most virulent and mortal both for human and animal. In Ouagadougou more than 4,000 dog bites persons are reported per year. However, few studies on the pathways of rabies control have been carried out in Burkina Faso.

Objectives

This study was conducted to generate data to inform rabies control strategies. Specifically, it aimed to estimate the size of the dog population, and evaluate the knowledge, attitudes and practices of people on rabies in the city of Ouagadougou.

Methodology

A cross-sectional survey was conducted in 616 households selected randomly from 12 sectors in the town (Fig 1). An adult person was interviewed in each household. The bivariate analysis including X^2 test were used through R 3.1.2 for data analysis.

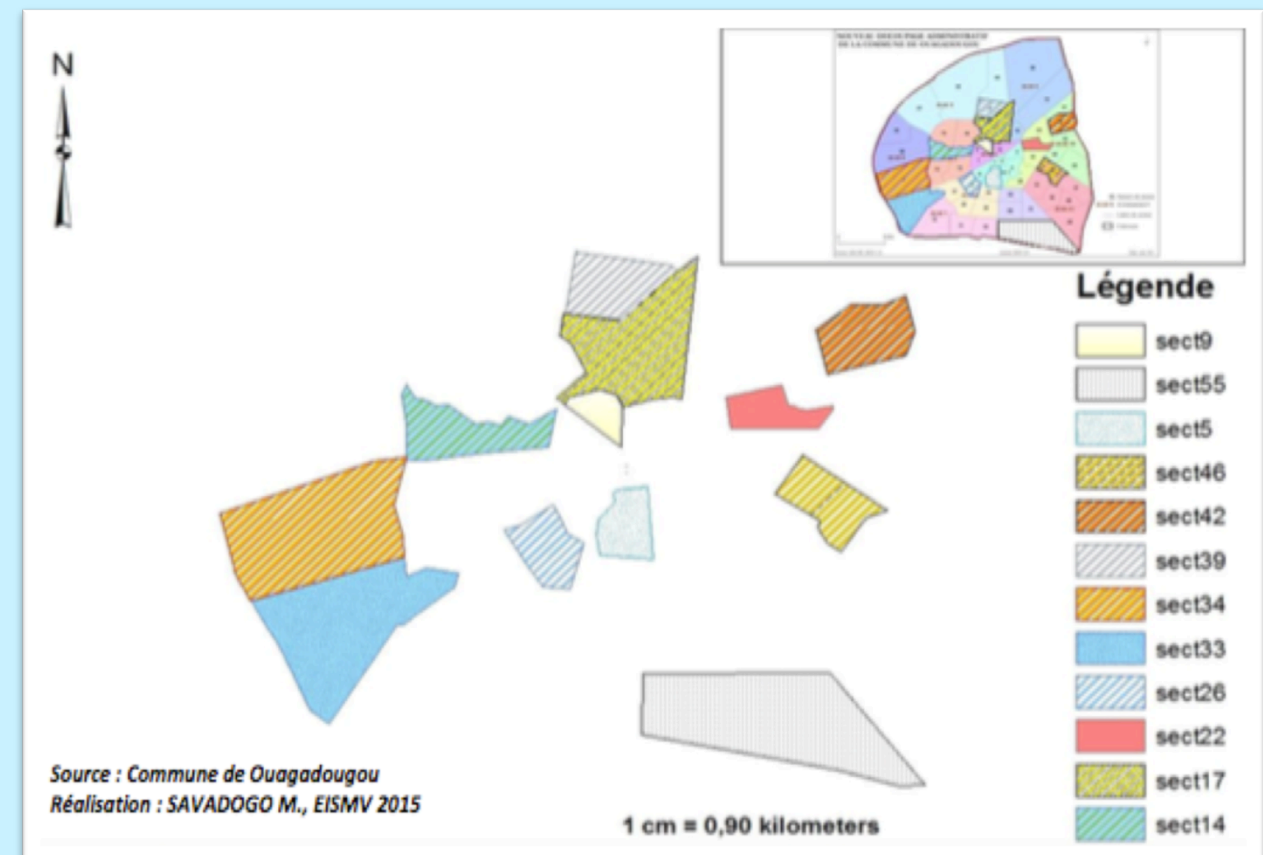


Fig 1: Study area in Ouagadougou

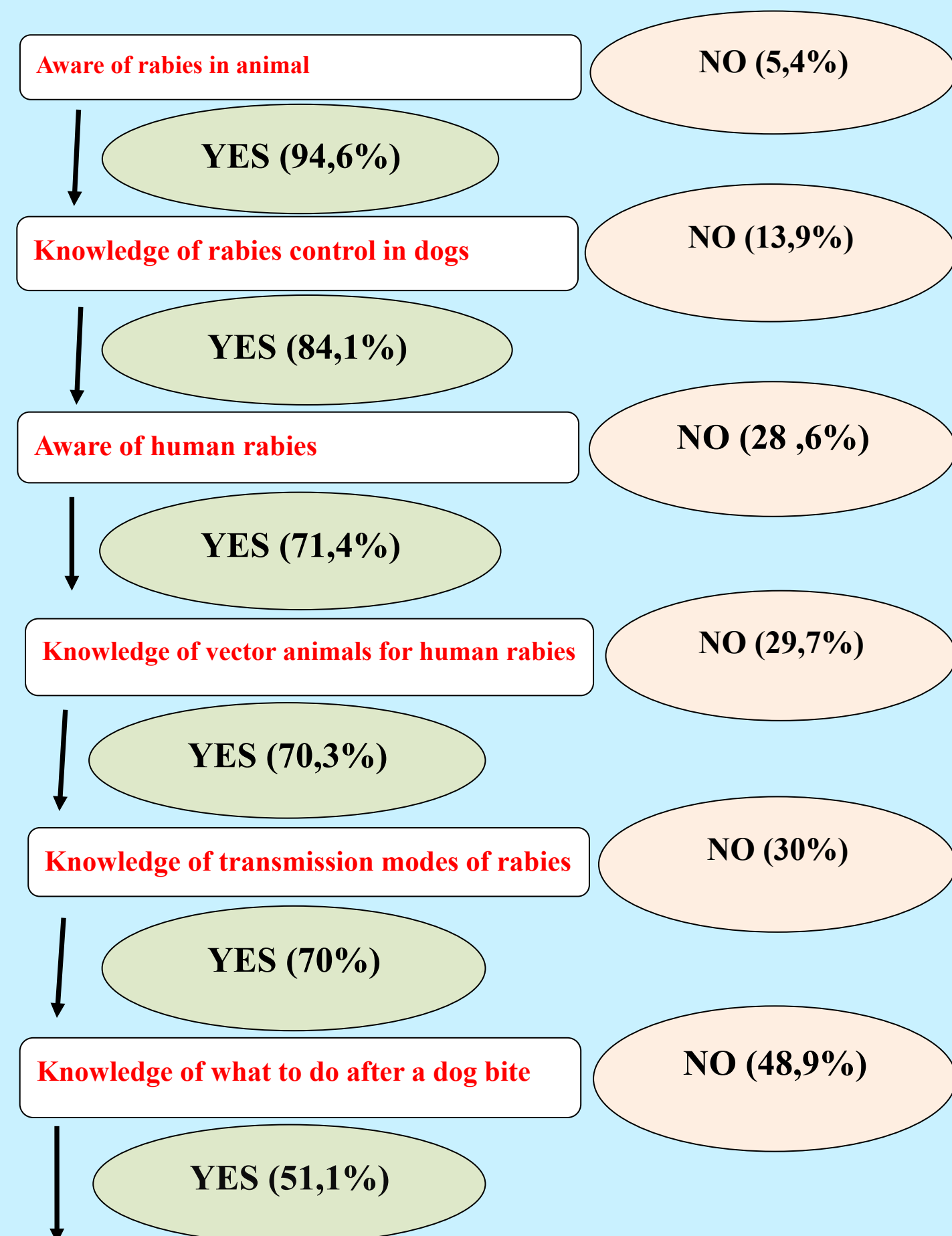


Fig 2: Combined analysis using 6 criteria of knowledge

Results

Dog population

About 57,6% of households owned a dog. Owned dogs' population was estimated to be 2113 dogs (95%CI: 1973-2253) in the city. People living in individual habitation were more likely to own dogs compared to those in collective habitation ($p < 0,05$). Those with high education level were also more likely to own dogs compared to their counterparts with low or no education ($p < 0,05$).

Knowledge, attitudes and practices

Both males (57.4%) and females (42.7%) have been interviewed. A lot of people have heard about rabies both in animal (94.6%) and human (71,4%). The level of knowledge drops to 51.1% when considering 6 criteria for knowledge assessment (Fig 2).

Regarding to vaccination, 70% of dog owners felt the cost should be supported by government.

About 59% of dog's owners bring their pets for vet observation after it had bitten someone.

Moreover, 13% of dogs' owners can afford 7.6 euros per year for dog's healthcare and yet cost of vaccination is an average of 15 euros in the city.

Conclusion

These findings showed strong association between people and dogs. People knowledge on rabies was low and their behaviors were not suitable. A strategy based on community awareness is needed to engage them using the One Health approach for high impact interventions against rabies.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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