



# BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION (BPHC)

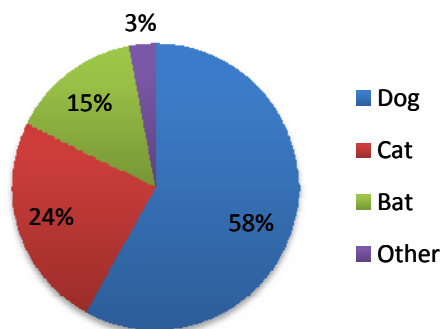
Communicable Disease Control Division

1010 Massachusetts Ave - Boston, MA 02118

Phone: (617) 534-5611 - Fax: (617) 534-5905

## Animal Bites Reported to BPHC: Boston Residents, 2013

### Reported Animal Exposures in Boston Residents, 2013



In 2013, there were **538 animal exposures** reported to the Boston Public Health Commission. Of these, 312 (58%) were **dog** bites and 131 (24%) were cat bites. Additionally, there were 79 reports of bat exposures (15%).

The majority of incidents involve dogs owned by other persons (71%). There were 72 reports in children less than 15 years of age (26%). Of the 72 children bitten by dogs, 32% were bitten by a family pet.

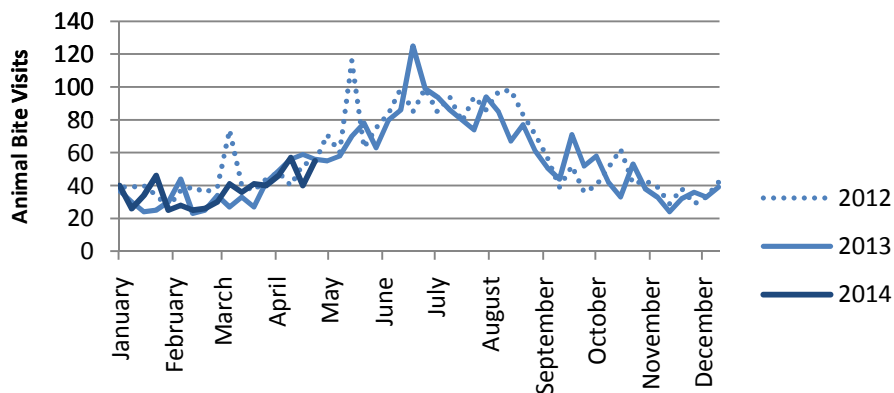
**All dog and cat bites are reportable in the City of Boston, as well as exposures (scratches, handling) to animals suspected to be rabid.** Regardless of pet vaccination status, if the dog or cat cannot be monitored for 10 days following the exposure, rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is usually recommended for the person exposed.

### Dog Breeds Most Frequently Found in Bite Reports

1. Mixed breed
2. Pit bull
3. Chihuahua
4. German Shepherd
5. Poodle
6. Boxer
7. Labrador Retriever
8. Terrier (unspecified)
9. Yorkshire Terrier
10. Boston Terrier

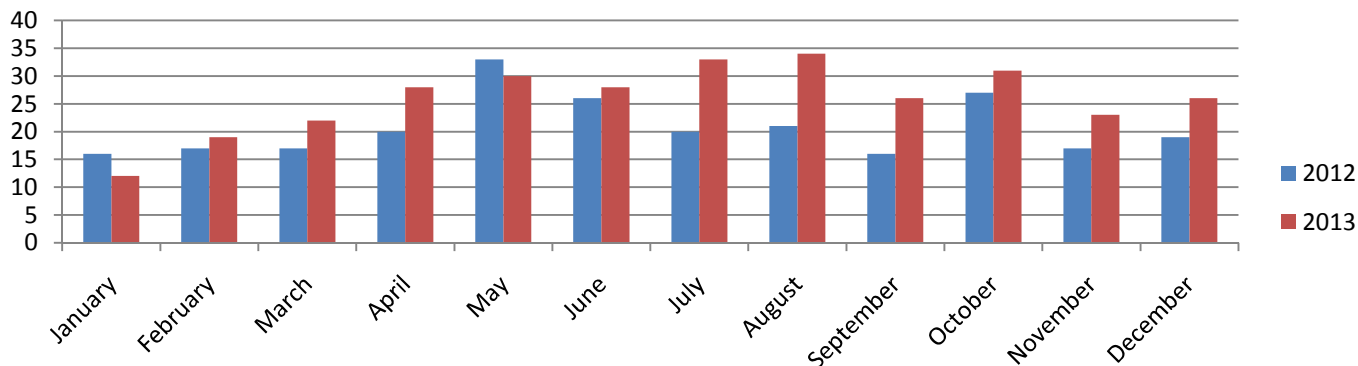
*Note: Aggression is not related to any particular breed.*

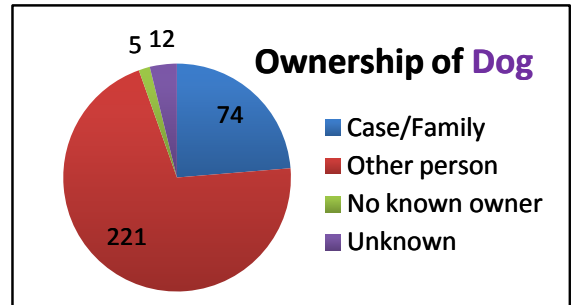
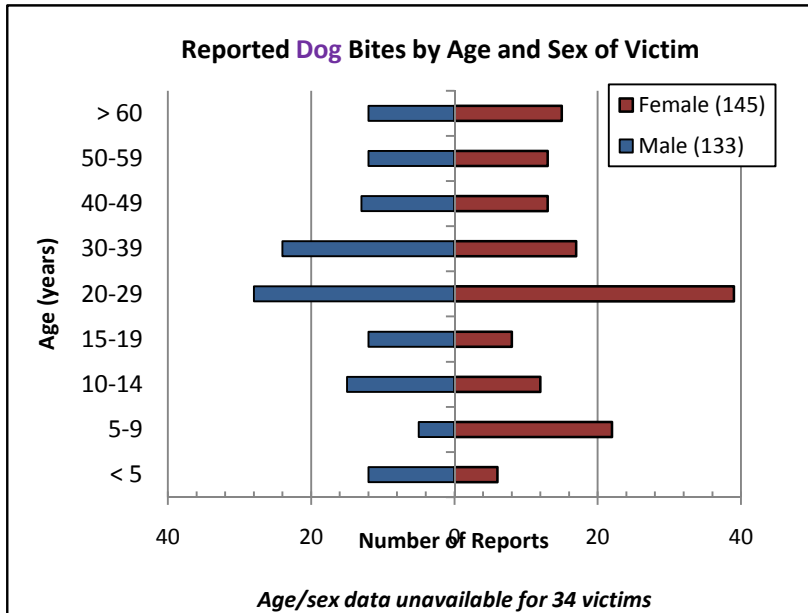
### Weekly Counts of Animal Bite Visits to Boston EDs\* 2012-2014



\*Boston Public Health Commission Syndromic Surveillance: Animal Bite Syndrome  
Includes all animals

### Reported Dog Bites by Month, 2012-2013

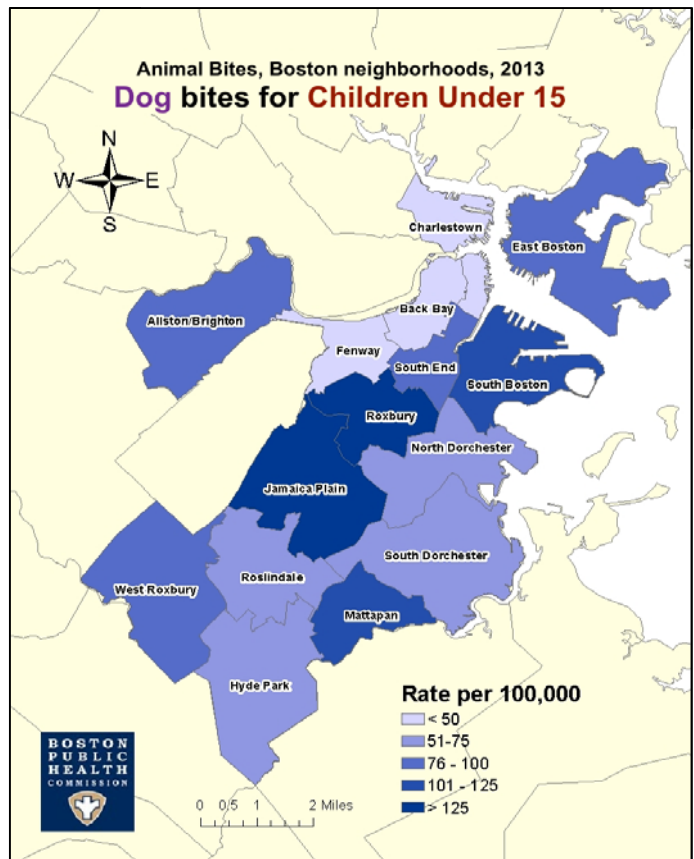
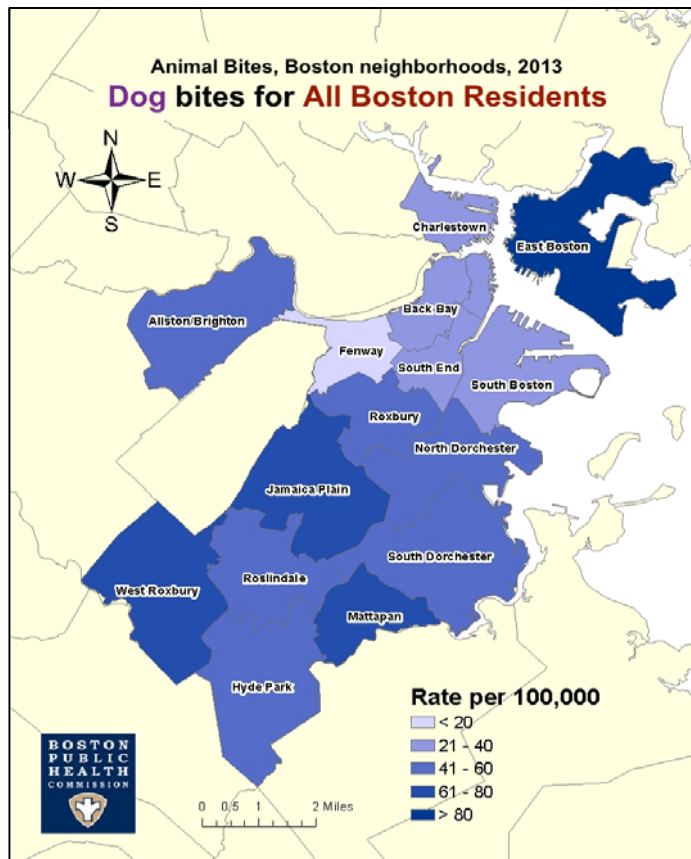




### Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for dog bite cases

Started PEP (% of total dog bites) 54 (17%)

PEP Status	Number of Cases	Percentage
Completed	34	63%
Declined/Incomplete	5	9%
Loss to follow-up	15	28%



**For more information about dog bite prevention, resources for parents and health care providers, and information about other animal to human diseases, please visit the BPHC website at <http://www.bphc/diseasesfromanimals>**