



## Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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### Follow-Up on Outbreak of Bat-Transmitted Human Rabies in Pará State, Brazil

To follow up on the outbreak of bat-transmitted human rabies detected in the city of Portel, state of Pará, Brazil, in January 2004, the last report from the Department of Health on 16 April indicates that 2 more cases have been confirmed since our update last week, bringing the total to 15 cases of confirmed human rabies. Another 2 people are considered suspected cases (see Table 1).

The samples of biological material taken for human diagnostic purposes have been submitted to the Evandro Chagas Institute as well as to the Pasteur Institute in São Paulo, which have identified the viral strain *Desmodus rotundus* in said samples.

The first case in this outbreak occurred on 2 March 2004; and the last, on 1 April. There are ongoing epidemiological investigations of new cases as well as identification of the colonies of bats in the affected municipalities. There has been continued vaccination of dogs and cats in the affected area, and the nearby cities considered at risk.

#### Additional Information

- [Rabies](#). Washington, DC: Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), Veterinary Public Health Unit.

**Table 1: Number of Human Cases and Deaths from the Rabies Virus (municipality of Portel, state of Pará, Brazil, as of 16 April 2004)**

	Cases	Deaths
Confirmed	15	15
Suspected	2	*1
Ruled out	63	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>

*Note:* The number of deaths is included in the number of cases.

\* Laboratory results pending.

*Source:* Reports to PAHO from the Department of Health, Pará (*Secretária da Saúde, Pará/SES-PA*) and the Department of Health Surveillance (*Secretária de Vigilância em Saúde/SVS*), Brazil.

- *Technical Note—16 April 2004: Human Rabies Transmitted by Bats in Pará State, Brazil* ([\*Nota técnica—16/04/2004: Raiva humana transmitida por morcegos no município de Portel, Estado do Pará\*](#)). Brasília: Ministry of Health, Department of Health Surveillance (Ministério da Saúde, Secretaria de Vigilância em Saúde;). (in Portuguese)

*Sources:* Reports to PAHO from the Department of Health, Pará (*Secretária da Saúde, Pará/SES-PA*) and the Department of Health Surveillance (*Secretária de Vigilância em Saúde/SVS*), Brazil.