

Injuries by animals among children and adolescents

Data for a nationwide campaign in Germany

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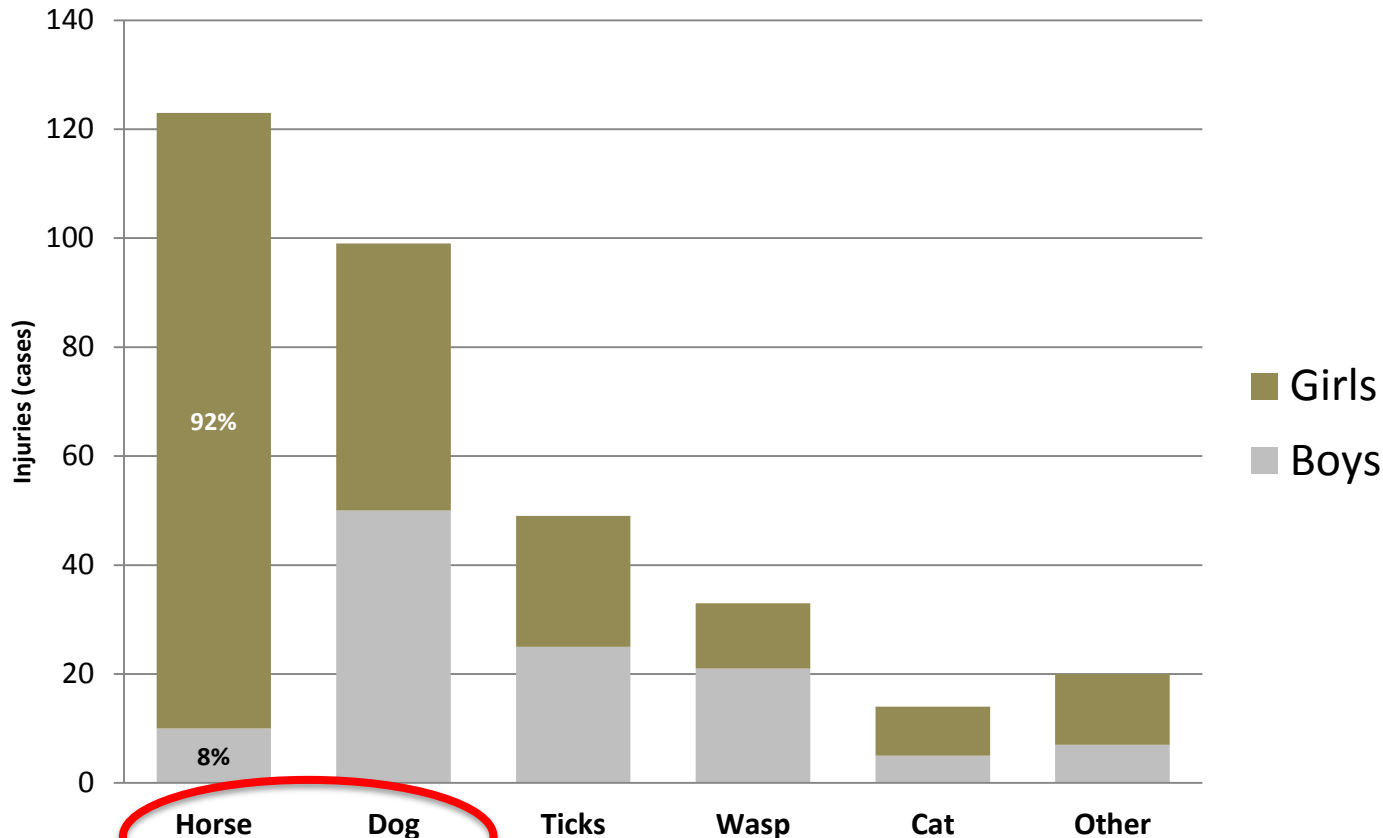
EU-IDB information on injury morbidity

- Standardized hospital based data collection on all injuries and all age groups
- Germany (FDS): 3 hospitals collecting data on the cause and circumstances of injuries
- Brandenburg Department of Health responsible for maintaining the data base

- Injury mechanism
- Place of occurrence
- Activity when injured
- Type of sports when sport
- Triggering product
- Injury causing product
- Details on road accident
- Details on acts of violence
- Details on acts of self-harm
- Verbal description of incidence
- National add-ons: e.g. use of personal protective equipments, influence of alcohol

Animals are involved in 2.5% of all injuries (n= 13.323, <18 ys)

Injuries and animals by species and sex of child (n=338)



- Injuries by animals require **significantly more** hospital admissions compared to other injuries!

- Horses and dogs count for two thirds of all injuries caused by animals**

- Girls** have more than 90% of all accidents with horses!

Advantage of the German IDB

Injury circumstances

➤ Dogs:



- **Common event**

„Child has been bitten by the dog into the head region whilst competing for a toy during play“

— Average hospital stay: 5 days

Dog bites leave life-long defacing scars and trauma

➤ Horses:



- **Common event No 1:**

„Child has fallen from horse“

— Average hospital stay: 5 days

- **Common event No 2:**

„Child has been kicked by horse“

— Average hospital stay: 10 days

Messages for the nationwide campaign

- Familiarity with an animal does not prevent accidents
- Often accidents with pets occur whilst playing
- Young children are unable to judge how their behavior is conceived by a pet
- Adults must continually supervise very young children interacting with dogs
- Horse trainers should emphasize how children need to behave safely while grooming

