Rabies Control in the United States

Many systems work together to keep people safe from rabies. Each year, in the United States:

**PREVENTION:**
- 10 Million rabies vaccines are given to wild animals by wildlife biologists
- 40 Million dogs and cats are vaccinated against rabies by animal health experts
- Hundreds of scientists are working to develop new method to prevent rabies

**DANGER:**
- 4 Million Americans report being bitten by animals
- 800,000 Americans receive medical attention and consultations from local and state health departments
- 60,000 Americans are thought to be exposed to rabies, and receive treatment

**IMPACT:**
- Less than 3 rabies deaths reported in the US
- 95% decline in human rabies deaths from their peak in 1945
- $1 billion saved in healthcare cost

**RESPONSE:**
- 100,000 veterinarians, animal control staff, and public health workers assess rabies risk in animals and people
- 130 specialized laboratories test 100,000 animals for rabies
- >4,000 animals test positive for rabies – mostly bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, cats, and dogs

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention