

# Epidemiological Investigation and Analysis of Anthrax Epidemic in Jingxi City Guangxi from 2000 to 2020

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**To cite this article:**

Wang Fuchun. Epidemiological Investigation and Analysis of Anthrax Epidemic in Jingxi City Guangxi from 2000 to 2020. *International Journal of Animal Science and Technology*. Vol. 5, No. 1, 2021, pp. 13-18. doi: 10.11648/j.ijast.20210501.13

**Received:** January 27, 2021; **Accepted:** February 9, 2021; **Published:** February 23, 2021

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**Abstract:** Objective Analyze the epidemiological characteristics of anthrax in Jingxi City, Guangxi, and Provide a Scientific basis for formulating anthrax Prevention and control measures in the future. Methods Through the National Disease Surveillance Information Management System, collect anthrax epidemic surveillance data in Jingxi City from 2000 to 2020, and use descriptive epidemiological methods for statistical analysis. Results A total of 18 anthrax cases were reported in the city from 2000 to 2020, including 1 death, with an average annual incidence rate of 0.19 per 100, 000 and a case fatality rate of 5. 56%; the onset time was concentrated from April to August, with 17 cases reported; There were case reports in 5 towns including zhong longlin Town, Quyang Town, xinjia Township, kuixu Township and Ludong Town in 19 towns in the City, including 5 cases in longlin Town, Quyang Town and xinjia Township (I case of anthrax death in Longlin Town), the number of cases in kuixu Township and Ludong Township were 2 and 1 respectively. There were 16 males and 2 females. The ratio of male to female was 8: 1; 16 cases occurred between the ages of 30 and 69, accounting for 88. 89%. Occupationlly, 17 cases of farmers were the most common, Accounting for 94. 44%, The main routes of infection were slaughter, Processing, and stripping. There were 16 cases of infected Persons who were directly contacted by animal husbandry who died of food, Sickness and livestock, accounting for 88. 89%. Conclusion The anthrax epidemic in Jingxi City is mainly sporadic, and the population is mainly young and middle-aged and farmers. In the future, it is necessary to strengthen the surveillance of anthrax epidemic, and immunize high-risk Populations in key areas and susceptible animals such as horses, cattle, pigs and livestock. Effectively Prevent and control the occurrence of anthrax.

**Keywords:** Anthrax, Epidemiological Investigation, Analysis

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## 1. Introduction

Anthrax is a zoonotic natural infectious disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, with endemic characteristics [1]. Anthrax has been one of the most important acute infectious diseases that seriously endanger the health of humans and animals in Jingxi City, Guangxi for many years. Since the 1980s and 1990s, Jingxi City has been a high-incidence area of anthrax in Baise City, Guangxi. The incidence showed a downward trend after 2000, but it is still one of the counties with a high incidence of anthrax. In order to understand the characteristics of anthrax fluidity in Jingxi City, and to provide a reference for formulating anthrax prevention and control measures, the analysis of the anthrax epidemic monitoring data in Jingxi City from 2000 to 2020 is as follows.

### 1.1. Background

Guangxi Jingxi City is located on the Sino-Vietnamese border with a border line of 152.5km in the South and Vietnam. It is a subtropical area with a warm and humid climate. The average altitude is above 750m and the annual average temperature is 19.1°C. It has 8 townships and 11 towns with a total population of 670,000. There are 11 ethnic groups including Zhuang, Han, Miao and Yao, among which the minority Zhuang population accounts for 99.40%. The border ports with Vietnam are Longbang Port (national first-class port) and Yuexu Port (national second-class port). Longlin Street, Longlin Town, is a rural market for animal husbandry trade such as horses and cattle, and Dajia street, Xinjia Township, is a rural market for horse meat and other animal husbandry meat sales and trade markets, horses, cattle and other animal

husbandry or horse meat and other animal husbandry meat markets. The source of this category is Jingxi City and its surrounding counties. The movement of people and Livestock trade are frequent. The livestock farming is dominated by free-range horses, cattle, sheep and captive pigs in rural areas. Since 2000, large-scale livestock breeding households have gradually increased. Most rural residents go out to work to increase their income, their economic and cultural living standards are low, their awareness of hygiene and disease prevention is weak, they still have bad habits of slaughtering, processing, selling, and eating dead animals, animal husbandry and veterinary hygiene and epidemic prevention are weak, population and susceptible animals are prevented vaccination is not implemented.

### 1.2. Literature Review

Anthrax is a natural foci infectious disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, which is common to humans, livestock and wild animals. Humans are infected by contact with diseased livestock and their products or eating meat from diseased livestock, skin necrosis, ulcers. Scorching Extensive edema and toxemia of the scab and surrounding tissues are the main symptoms. If they are not treated promptly and effectively, the mortality rate is high. Anthrax is an ancient disease. It is recorded in the “Huang Di Nei Jing” in China. In 1849, the famous German Scholar first discovered *Bacillus anthracis*, and then anthrax has spread or broke out many times around the world. Anthrax is distributed all over the world, especially in Pastoral areas such as South America, Asia, and Africa. It is endemic as a natural foci, once a country or region is contaminated by *Bacillus anthracis*, it is extremely difficult to eliminate. In the contaminated area, Animals will continue to be infected, threatening humans. In recent years, as the processing of animal skins in various countries in the world is concentrated in cities and towns, anthrax has also broken out in cities, becoming one of the important occupational diseases. According to statistics, there are currently 20,000 to 100,000 people infected with anthrax every year in the world. The anthrax epidemic in China was severe before 2000. After 2000, the incidence of anthrax showed a downward trend. The incidence fluctuates between 400 and 1,000 people nationwide. At present, the areas with high incidence of anthrax are mainly concentrated in the northwest and southwest regions, Guizhou, Xinjiang, Sichuan, Yunnan. The incidence in Guangxi, Qinghai, Xizang, Gansu, Inner Mongolia and other Provinces (regions) accounted for more than 90% of the total incidence in the country. Since Guangxi included anthrax in the epidemic report in 1956, anthrax has occurred every year, ranking third and fourth in the country. Since 2000, the anthrax epidemic has been mainly sporadic and the number of cases has decreased significantly.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Data Sources

Through the “National Disease Surveillance Information

Reporting Management System”, and “Public Health Emergency Reporting Management Information System”, the monitoring data of anthrax epidemics in Jingxi City from 2000 to 2020 were collected. The 2000-2020 Population data comes from Jingxi Municipal Statistics Bureau.

### 2.2. Case Diagnosis

According to the “Anthrax Diagnostic Criteria” of the Ministry of Health, case diagnosis and epidemiological investigation, monitoring and treatment are carried out [2].

### 2.3. Methods

The descriptive epidemiological method was used to collate, count and analyze the anthrax epidemic data in Jingxi City from 2000 to 2020.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Epidemic Situation

A total of 18 anthrax cases were reported in Jingxi City from 2000 to 2020, With an average annual incidence rate of 0.13 Per 100,000, 1 death, and a case fatality rate of 5.56%. In 21 years, only 2004 (7 cases) and 2007 (3 cases), 2008 (4 cases), 2012 (1 cases), 2016 (3 cases, including 1 death), there were case reports, and the annual incidence rates were 1.19/100,000, 0.49/100,000, and 0.64/100,000, 0.15/100,000, 0.45/100,000, see Table 1.

### 3.2. Time Distribution

The 18 anthrax cases were mainly distributed from April to August, including 3 cases in April, 5 cases in May (1 death), 2 cases in July and August, and 1 cases was reported in January. See Table 2.

### 3.3. Regional Distribution

The number of reported cases in Zhonglonglin Town, Quyang Town, and Xingjia Township in the 19 towns under the jurisdiction of Jingxi City is 5, the number of reported cases in Kuixu Township is 2, and the number of reported cases in Ludong Town is 1 cases. See Table 3.

### 3.4. Population Distribution

The youngest age of onset is 9 years old and the oldest is 74 years old, mainly in the 30-69 years old (16 cases). There are 16 males and 2 females. The male to female ratio is 8:1. The occupation distribution includes 17 farmers and 1 primary school student. See Table 4.

### 3.5. Route of Infection

In the 18 cases of anthrax by the route of infection, 17 cases were clinically diagnosed as skin anthrax, accounting for 94.44%, and 1 suspected case of anthrax died, accounting for 5.56%; the route of infection was direct contact (slaughter, processing, stripping), 16 dead livestock, Accounted for

88.89%. 2 cases had indirect contact with sick and dead livestock, accounting for 11.11%, See Table 5.

**Table 1.** The report of anthrax cases from 2000 to 2020 in Jingxi City, Guangxi.

Years	Total Population	Number of cases	Incidence rate (1/100,000)	death Toll	Case fatality rate (%)
2000	385968	0	0.00	0	0.00
2001	391225	0	0.00	0	0.00
2002	392267	0	0.00	0	0.00
2003	394914	0	0.00	0	0.00
2004	399199	7	1.75	0	0.00
2005	401602	0	0.00	0	0.00
2006	408456	0	0.00	0	0.00
2007	416967	3	0.71	0	0.00
2008	429378	4	0.93	0	0.00
2009	443607	0	0.00	0	0.00
2010	458504	0	0.00	0	0.00
2011	464503	0	0.00	0	0.00
2012	465854	1	0.21	0	0.00
2013	472165	0	0.00	0	0.00
2014	472226	0	0.00	0	0.00
2015	472490	0	0.00	0	0.00
2016	472797	3	0.63	1	33.33
2017	472917	0	0.00	0	0.00
2018	476691	0	0.00	0	0.00
2019	478072	0	0.00	0	0.00
2020	486079	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	9255881	18	0.19	1	5.56

**Table 2.** The time distribution of anthrax cases from 2000 to 2020 in Jingxi City, Cruangxi.

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Number of cases	1	0	0	3	5	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	18
death toll	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Case fatality rate (%)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.56
Composition ratio (%)	5.56	0.00	0.00	16.67	27.78	27.78	11.11	11.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00

**Table 3.** The regional distribution fo anthrax cases from 2000 to 2020 in Jingxi city, Guangxi.

Township	Average annual population	Number of cases	Incidence rate (1/100,000)	Death toll	Case fatalityrate (%)
Xingjing	1358282	0	0	0	0
Huadong	310381	0	0	0	0
Tongde	426301	0	0	0	0
Hurun	355951	0	0	0	0
Yuxu	220059	0	0	0	0
Renzhuang	291606	0	0	0	0
Dizhou	358890	0	0	0	0
Longbang	287112	0	0	0	0
Anning	234864	0	0	0	0
Ludong	733929	1	0.13	0	0
Tunpan	291795	0	0	0	0
Nanpo	475272	0	0	0	0
Ande	646653	0	0	0	0
Longlin	589134	5	0.84	1	20.00
Guole	456771	0	0	0	0
Xinjia	608601	5	0.82	0	0
Quyang	604758	5	0.82	0	0
Kuixu	338436	2	0.59	0	0
Wuping	667086	0	0	0	0
Total	9255881	18	0.19	1	5.56

*Table 4. The ropulation distribution of anthrax cases from 2000 to 2020 in Jingxi City, Guangxi.*

Age	Number of cases	Number of cases		Death toll		Composition ratio (%)	Case fatality rate (%)
		Male	Female	Male	Female		
0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
5	1	0	1	0	0	5.56	0.00
10	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
20	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30	6	6	0	0	0	33.33	0.00
40	6	6	0	1	0	33.33	16.67
50	2	2	0	0	0	11.11	0.00
60	2	2	0	0	0	11.11	0.00
70	1	0	1	0	0	5.56	0.00
≥80	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Total	18	16	2	1	0	100.00	5.56

*Table 5. The route of infection of anthrax cases from 2000 to 2020 in Jingxi City, Guangxi.*

Years	Number of cases	Death toll	Route of infection			
			Direct contact	Indirect Contact	Processed fur	Inhalation of Dust, aerosol
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	7	0	6	1	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	3	0	3	0	0	0
2008	4	0	3	1	0	0
2009	0	0	0	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011	0	0	0	0	0	0
2012	1	0	1	0	0	0
2013	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	3	1	3	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18	1	16	2	0	0

### 3.6. Types of Clinical Infections

The clinical infection type of anthrax patients is mainly skin anthrax (17 cases), accounting for 94.44%, Suspected anthrax case death (1 cases), accounting for 5.56%, and the distribution period of incubation period is 1 to 5 days, there are 15 case, accounting for 83.33%, 6 to 8 days 3 cases, accounting for 16.67%.

## 4. Discussion

The analysis of the monitoring data of the anthrax epidemic report in Jingxi City of Guangxi in the 21 st century showed that the City's anthrax epidemics occurred from time to time, mainly sporadic, with occasional outbreaks in local villages [3]. The main source of infection of anthrax in the City is herbivores horses, sheep or livestock Pigs. The

high-risk Populations susceptible to anthrax are mainly rural residents who have come into contact with dead animals in natural epidemic areas, especially those involved in the slaughter, Processing, Stripping of dead animals, or those engaged in breeding. The average incidence of anthrax in 21 years was 0. 19 per 100, 000. There were no reports of anthrax cases in 2000-2003, 2005-2006, 2009-2011, 2013-2015, 2017, 2020. The rest of the years (2004, 2007, 2012, 2016).

A total of 18 cases of anthrax have been reported. The population is mainly male young adults and farmers aged 30-69. The onset season is mainly from April to August each year. The affected areas are mainly distributed in the natural foci of the old anthrax epidemic a rea. The main method of transmission is through direct contact with slaughter, processing, and animal husbandry.

There were 3 reported cases of anthrax in 2016, including 1

suspected anthrax death. The case died at home in a rural area due to not being admitted to the hospital in time. The time from onset to death was 3-4 hours due to lack of hospital clinical diagnosis and laboratory testing. According to the data, after consultation with relevant disease control medical experts from Guangxi province, Baise City, Jingxi City centers for Disease control and prevention and Baise City people's Hospital, it was diagnosed as a suspected case of anthrax. The possibility of death due to cardiogenic shock is high [4]. The clinical infection type of anthrax patients is mainly skin anthrax, and the incubation period of patients is 1 to 5 days. This is basically consistent with previous reports in china [5-8].

Anthrax mainly occurs in animal husbandry. Horses, cattle, sheep, camels and pigs are the most susceptible. Herbivores or livestock are in contact with, eating or drinking forage and water contaminated by *Bacillus anthracis*, and inhalation contains anthrax spores, *Bacillus* dust or aerosol can cause anthracnose among livestock [9-11].

Humans are generally susceptible to anthrax, usually due to (slaughter, processing, stripping) contact with diseased livestock and their products or eating meat from diseased livestock [12].

The occurrence of the anthrax epidemic in Jingxi City, Guangxi may be related to the following factors: (1) some towns in the city are natural foci of anthrax. Because of the strong resistance of *Bacillus anthracis*, it has long survived in the soil, water plants, trees and dead animal bones. Infection after contact with livestock becomes the source of anthrax infection [13-14]. (2) The city is an ethnic minority area and a sino-vietnamese border area. The economy and culture are relatively underdeveloped, the living standards of rural residents are still low, the awareness of health problems is not high, and the awareness of the serious harm of anthrax is insufficient, and rural residents still have direct contact (slaughter, processing, stripping) The bad habits of sick and dead animal husbandry, lack of effective personal Protection measures, resulting in direct or indirect cross-infection with *Bacillus anthracis* when exposed to broken skin, wounds or knives during the process of slaughtering, processing, and stripping sick and dead animal husbandry, causing cases of skin anthrax or intestinal anthrax. (3) The joint prevention and control mechanism of agricultural and rural animal husbandry and veterinarians, market supervision, food safety, and sanitation and health primary health institutions and other departments is not complete. In terms of livestock, anthrax vaccination of livestock animals in anthrax epidemic areas has not been fully implemented, and the epidemic report is not timely, strict disinfection and other measures are not implemented, animal husbandry and veterinary inspection and quarantine supervision and disposal are not strict, and the slaughter of sick and dead animals has not been banned and effectively and strictly disinfected, burned, and buried. (4) There are still blank susceptibility risks and weak links in anthrax vaccination for high-risk populations in towns and towns where anthrax occurs.

In order to effectively prevent and control the spread of

anthrax, a government-led joint prevention and control mechanism should be established and improved, and communication and coordination between agricultural and rural animal husbandry and veterinary, market supervision and food safety, health and health basic-level health institutions and other departments should be strengthened, and the relevant departments of each department should be actively performed; carry out anthrax epidemic monitoring, especially do a good job in the monitoring of animal husbandry and human anthrax epidemics in anthrax-affected areas, strengthen social publicity and education, raise the people's awareness of disease prevention, and make the people consciously achieve the "three in one persistence", that is, to do the same for anthrax animals No slaughter, no stripping, no processing and sales, adhere to effective and thorough disinfection, incineration, and deep burying of anthrax animal carcasses, and immunize high-risk populations and susceptible animals such as horses, cattle and pigs in epidemic areas to prevent and control anthrax epidemics The occurrence of [15].

## 5. Conclusion

The anthrax epidemic in Jingxi City, Guangxi is mainly sporadic. The infection rate of young adults and farmers in rural areas are high. Human anthrax is mainly infected by contact with livestock anthrax. Epidemic Surveillance should be strengthened, animal husbandry and veterinary inspection and quarantine mechanisms should be established, and all sick and dead animals should be disinfected, burned, and buried deeply; anthrax vaccination should be carried out for high-risk populations in epidemic areas and susceptible animals such as horses, cattle, and pigs to control the source of infection, cut off the transmission route, the fundamental measure to effectively prevent and control the anthrax epidemic.

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