

## Investigating awareness and preventive practices related to zoonotic diseases in poultry workers

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### Abstract

**Background and objective:** Emerging zoonotic diseases are of increasing regional and global importance. Poultry workers are at risk of becoming infected with these diseases. Preventing occupational exposure to zoonotic diseases protects workers as well as their families, communities, and the public health. The main objective of this study was to assess the awareness and preventive practices related to zoonotic diseases.

**Methods:** This study is a across-sectional study conducted for a period of four months starting on 25 May till 25 September 2023 among poultry workers in the North of Iran. The questionnaire was designed to obtain information on awareness and preventive practices about zoonotic diseases among poultry farm workers and slaughterhouse workers. Data was analyzed in the SPSS version 26.

**Result:** The mean age for poultry farm workers was  $32.84 \pm 8.21$  and  $31.35 \pm 9.81$  for slaughterhouse workers. 90.8% ( $n = 227$ ) of the respondents had a formal education and 81.2% ( $n = 203$ ) had worked on the farm for more than 1 year. Out of the 250 respondents only 36.4% ( $n = 91$ ) were having some awareness about zoonotic diseases. The level of respondents preventive practices were identified acceptable in this study.

**Conclusion:** The respondents poor awareness make them as a vulnerable group to expose the zoonotic diseases. Bringing awareness among the poultry workers about the threat of zoonotic diseases, their modes of transmission, prevention and control measures should be considered as most important protecting interventions.

**Key words:** awareness, preventive practices, zoonotic diseases, poultry workers.