Step I: Problem definition: zoonotic diseases (zoones)

Contact with the environment places Inuit at higher risk for contracting infectious diseases conveyed by wildlife. Table I gives a brief description of the eight zoonoses investigated in this project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zoonoses investigated in Nunavik, Inuit Health Survey, 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trichinosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toxocariasis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Echinococcosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q fever</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brucellosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leptospirosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tularemia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yersiniosis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table I

Theoretical background

The conceptual model in figure 1 shows the steps involved in assessing the existence of a health problem prior to the implementation of a preventive intervention.

Figure 1

Step VI. Intervention strategy

The results of this study will offer novel insight into the epidemiology of zoonotic infections in Arctic regions and baseline information on the current seroprevalence of these diseases in Nunavik. From a public health perspective, the research project will contribute to the description of zoonoses of concern in northern Quebec and the identification of risk factors for infection. In addition, data provided by the study will assist local organizations in the definition of effective intervention strategies including education activities and promotion of safe practices.

To understand the impact of culture and ecological context on zoonoses, qualitative interviews will be conducted with local informants. This process will help to define concrete goals from the perspectives of Inuit and regional organizations. It will also provide information about measures available to support the prevention of zoonotic diseases in Nunavik communities.

Perspectives...

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A first report is scheduled for completion in June 2006. However, complete results will only be available after their dissemination in Inuit communities due on November 2006.

References


Statistical analyses

Descriptive analyses such as comparison of proportions are used to depict the general portrait of zoonotic seroprevalence. Logistic regression will be used to determine the relationships between positive serologies and socio-demographic variables, fishing and hunting practices as well as raw and traditional food consumption trends. The results of these analyses will contribute to identify the significant determinants of the prevention of zoonotic diseases in Nunavik.

Steps IV-V. Intervention objectives and effective measures

Qualitative interviews

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Step III. Sufficient understanding for intervention

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