

# PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DIARRHEA CAUSED BY *SALMONELLA SPP.* IN SLOVAKIA (SR)

**Janka Poracova**, Presov University in Presov, Excellence Centre of Human and Animal Ecology, Slovakia;

**Tatiana Kimakova**, Pavol Jozef Safarik University in Kosice, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Public Health, Slovakia

**Marta Blascakova**, Presov University in Presov, Excellence Centre of Human and Animal Ecology, Slovakia

**Lucia Frankova**, Presov University in Presov, Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences, Department of Biology, Slovakia

**Background:** Salmonella infections are caused by non-typhoid salmonellas which are transmitted from animals to human with typical clinical symptoms including severe diarrhea with fever, etc. (Bálint et al., 2000). They are Salmonellas primarily adapted to animals causing zoonoses. Apart from other characteristics of pathogenicity and virulence factors common also for typhoid salmonellas they increasingly produce enterotoxin which is similar to enterotoxin *E. coli*. Together with cytotoxin of other invasive enteropathogens they cause inflammatory type of diarrhea. The source of infection include warm-blooded and cold-blooded vertebrates (Rovný et al., 1995).

**Material and methods:** The diagnosis of salmonellosis is confirmed by the clinical picture testing stool, urine, hemocultivation, cultivation of pus or other liquid, obtained by puncturing.

**Results:** During years 2000 - 2006 salmonellosis mostly occurred in Slovakia in months May -September with the highest incidence of 2886 cases (June 2000), 2819 (July 2001), 2449 (June 2002), 2265 (June 2003), 2086 (September 2004) and 1879 (September 2005). In October no occurrence of salmonellosis was monitored during the whole period. The increase was recorded in months November - December (1675-1438, 2000; 1535-1552 in year 2001; 962-1118 in year 2002; 947-1213 in year 2003; 1126-1127 in year 2004; 1071-734 in year 2005). The most frequent causes of salmonellosis included infected households (28% of cases), public supply (25%) school meals (20%), catering (8%), hospitals (5%), social institutions (2%), import (2%), other (4%).

**Conclusion:** Sustainability of good health is the main objective of the European Union and the organizations which through their activities are involved in processes to improve public health, disease prevention, and identifying sources of health hazards.

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