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| **Promoting Health and Preventing Brucellosis in the Bedouin Minority Society in Israel (2014-2017)** |
| **Background**: Brucellosis is an infectious disease, endemic in the Bedouin minority population of southern Israel, where traditional dairy food preparations, animal breeding methods and poor hygiene are the main contributory factors for its spread. The raising of livestock has great importance in Bedouin culture. Commonly, herds of sheep, goats and camels are maintained in close proximity to living accommodations, resulting in a higher exposure to the disease.  **The Objectives** of this study is to prevent Brucellosis in the Bedouin Society, by locating the source of infection and providing health education and promotion activates to families and Society**.**  **Methods:** In Israel, Brucellosis is mandatorily notifiable since 1951. New cases are reported to the District Health Office (DHO) of the Ministry of Health and subsequently incidence rates or summarized. Epidemiological investigations that attempt to locate the source of infection, preform control measures as a prevention program with health education and promotion. All events are concurrently reported to the Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Agriculture for termination of infected herds if required with concurrent fair compensation of farmers.  **Results Discussion and Actions:** The incidence of the disease is on the rise within this population. In 2003 the incidence was 18 per 100,000, yet in 2013 the incidence rate increased almost sevenfold. To control the problem, the Southern DHO established an ongoing prevention program. Veterinary services and Bedouin community leaders collaborated with public health officials in order to improve herd’s vaccination rates, and to locate and eliminate infected stock. Despite these steps, the incidence continues to rise, reaching 142/100,000 in 2014, declining partly to: 99/100,000, 70/100,000 and 68/100,000 in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.  **Conclusions:** In order to eradicate brucellosis among the Negev Bedouins and insuring health and wellbeing, health education steps are necessary, but not sufficient and a comprehensive health promotion intervention program must be integrated as part of overall policy, including the proper examination of livestock, termination of infected herds, compensation of farmers and advanced culturally and socially sensitive media interventions.  **Keywords:**  Brucellosis, Infection disease, Bedouin, Health Promotion |