

## **Retrospective Investigation of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in Thi-Qar Province from Year 2022 to 2023**

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### **Abstract**

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is a tick-borne disease that poses a significant threat to public health in Iraq. This study aimed to investigate the epidemiology of CCHF in humans, focusing on occupational exposure, mortality rates, and temporal distribution. The retrospective analysis identified 290 confirmed cases reported between 2022 and 2023, with a total incidence case estimate of 13.5 per 100,000 individuals. The highest proportion was found among housewives (36%), followed by animal ' owners (21%) and animal ' sellers (16%). The mortality rate was estimated to be 2.1 per 100,000 individuals, with a case fatality rate of 15.5%. The temporal analysis revealed a peak incidence in June 2022 (1.86 per 100,000 individuals) and May 2023 (1.53 per 100,000 individuals), highlighting the seasonal patterns in disease transmission. The suggested control program should include the application of acaricides to reduce tick infestations, enforcing regulations to prevent illegal animal slaughtering, and public awareness campaigns to improve knowledge about the disease.

**Keywords:** CCHF outbreak, Thi-Qar province, case-fatality rate, annual incidence, occupational exposure.