

Avian Influenza Surveillance in Central Asia: A Possible Reporting Gap for Uzbekistan Relative to Kazakhstan

Inhalt

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b has been repeatedly reported in Central Asia. WOAHA data show 27 outbreaks in Kazakhstan during 2005-2023 (20 poultry, 7 wildlife), plus detections in southern Siberia. Uzbekistan lies on the same Central Asian flyway, linking Siberian breeding areas with South/Southwest Asian wintering grounds, where wild bird migration and duck density have been linked to HPAI risk. Despite comparable exposure, our structured English-language search of WOAHA/WHOIS, FAO EMPRES-i, WHO risk assessments, and peer-reviewed literature found no comparable dataset for Uzbekistan - an absence that may reflect limited indexing, language barriers, or a true surveillance gap.

Objective: To characterise the Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan reporting asymmetry along the shared flyway and its implications for regional HPAI surveillance.

Methods: Structured review of WOAHA/WHOIS, FAO EMPRES-i, WHO risk assessments, and peer-reviewed English-language literature, cross-checked against regional surveillance reviews.

Findings: Kazakhstan has publicly accessible documentation of 27 outbreaks; no equivalent Uzbekistan dataset was identified. Evidence cannot yet distinguish under-ascertainment, limited data accessibility, and a true surveillance gap.

Conclusion: Improving access to national surveillance data and strengthening cross-border collaboration within a One Health framework would support fuller assessment of HPAI circulation along this flyway.

Keywords

Avian influenza (H5N1); Central Asian flyway; Uzbekistan; Kazakhstan; Surveillance gap; One Health

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Yes, I am a junior scientist.

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