INTRODUCTION: Rabies is a zoonotic disease, affecting more than 130 countries and territories, present in all continents except Antarctica. Man is accidentally reached after a rabid animal’s bite, Rabies almost always leads to rapid death. In Morocco, rabies is a notifiable disease. A multisectoral national program against rabies was established in 1986, and its stakeholders are the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Interior. The objectives of this program are to fight against stray dogs, to reduce rabies in humans in the short term and to eliminate it in the long term. The objective of this study is to describe rabies in humans in Morocco.

METHODS: This study was conducted at the Department of Epidemiology and Disease Control, in charge of epidemiological surveillance of the population and programs of disease control. We conducted a retrospective descriptive study concerning all cases of rabies reported to the department of Epidemiology and Disease Control during the period from January 2003 to December 2012.

RESULTS: An accumulation of 212 cases of human rabies were notified from 2003 until 2012. The maximum number of cases was observed in 2007 (31 cases). The cases came from all regions of the kingdom, except two regions (Oued eddahab et laayoun-Boujdour-sakia lhamra) with a predominance of cases in rural areas (75.5%). The most affected age group was from 0 to 15 years (34%), with a predominance of male gender (81.6%). The most frequent vector was the dog (85.4%). The sites for the majority of bites were the upper limb (43.9%). The majority of cases didn’t receive vaccination (67.5%) neither serum therapy (72.6%). The median incubation period was 34 days [21; 58 days]. This period was shorter when the bite was localized at the upper limb ($P < 0.001$) or when the case didn’t benefit from serum therapy or vaccination ($P < 0.001$).

CONCLUSIONS: To reduce the incidence of rabies in humans, we have to concentrate our activity in the rural area and to educate the population and health professionals in the interest of vaccination.