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2020 Statistics on Animal Experimentation

In 2020, the number of animals used for experiments has continued to decrease, especially in fundamental research.

The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office has published the 2020 statistics on animal experimentation on August 30th, 2021 ([DE/FR](#)). These figures show that the number of animals used for experiments has decreased by 2,8% compared to 2019.

Although certainly amplified by the restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, this decrease follows the trend observed since 2016.

The number of animals used for experiments in universities and hospitals accounts for 60% of the total number of experimental animals (333'555 out of 556'107). 75,2% of those 333'555 animals are mice.

Regarding the severity degrees, the situation in the universities and hospitals follows the global trend. The increase in the number of animals used in experiments of severity degree 3 is partly due to the reclassification of certain experiments to severity degree 3 following the 2018 update of the technical information of the FSVO on severity degrees. A simultaneous decrease in the number of animals used in experiments of severity degree 2 has indeed been observed.

Of note, the FSVO mentions the use of 1328 animals in 18 experiments on the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 or its associated disease, COVID-19, in Switzerland.

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