Table S1. Scoring system for quality assessment of selected studies.

Criteria	-	+	++
Selection	No description	Partial description	Full description
Study design	No description	Partial description	Full description
Risk of bias	No description of bias reduction	Partial description of bias reduction	Full description of bias reduction
Data collection	No description/reliable source	Partial description	Full description & reliable source
Observational time period	Less than a single year	Single year	Greater than 1 year
Analysis	Non-appropriate method for study design (correlation)	Not a fully appropriate method for study design (linear regression)	Appropriate method for study design (Poisson regression)
Interpretation of factors	No statistical test or measure	Statistically significant but with no reported measure	Statistically significant with measures
Funding of study	No description	Partial description	Full description
Applicability to review study question	Not applicable	Partially applicable	Applicable
Hantavirus diagnosis	No description	Partial description/suspected cases	Full description/laboratory confirmed cases

Grading: ++ for very high quality studies scoring more than 7 (++); + for high quality studies scoring at least 7 (++); for low quality studies scoring less than 7 (++).