

# Prevalence of lameness and type of lesions in sows in Spanish farms

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## Introduction:

Since the implementation of EU Animal Welfare Legislation an increase of culling of sows because of lameness has been steadily detected.

Moreover, almost **40% of non-clearly defined reproductive problems** as cause of culling might be highly associated with lameness.

**The objective** of this study was to provide a description of the current incidence of lameness and the kind of lesions in sows.

## Materials and Methods:

A total of 187 sows from 8 Spanish farms were evaluated.

Lameness assessment was conducted following a specific scoring system used by Zinpro Corporation. Data were collected using the [www.lamenesscontrol.com](http://www.lamenesscontrol.com) platform.

Total percentage of each lesion and percentage by parity were calculated and compared by chi-square test (Proc FREQ, SAS v9.0).



### Lameness assessment

**HOE:** Heel overgrowth & erosion



**HSC:** Heel-sole crack/separation



**WL:** separation at the white line



**CWH:** horizontal crack in toe wall



**CWV:** vertical crack in toe wall



**T:** Toe length &  
**DC:** length/lesion in dew claw



Zinpro® Corporation Scoring System

**Severity score:** 1 = low, 2 = moderate, 3 = severe

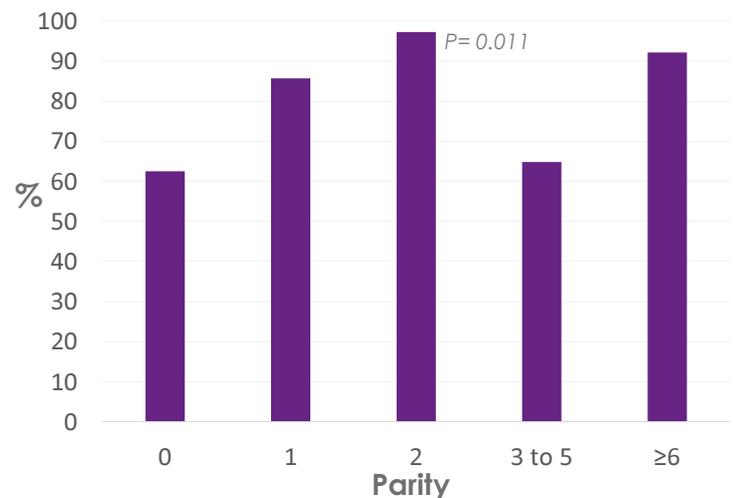
## Results:

**A 91.98 % of scored sows were affected by some kind of claw lesion.**

**Table 1:** Percentage each kind of injury

Lesion	HOE	DC	CWH	WL	CWV	T	HSC
%	71.76	62.6	38.5	26.2	23.5	20.3	17.1

**Figure 1:** Percentage of injured sows by parity



## Conclusions:

The percentage of sows with some kind of claw lesion is **very high, more than 90%**.

The incidence of lameness and of claw injury are **extremely high in parity 2 sows**. It could be related to the **second parity syndrome**. This needs to be confirmed by further research.

The **lamenesscontrol** platform is useful to collect data faster and to take decisions at an earlier stage.