

## Malaria

2008 Case Total	5	2008 Rate	0.14 per 100,000
2007 Case Total	10	2007 Rate	0.29 per 100,000

Five cases of malaria were reported to the Oklahoma State Department of Health in 2008. Diagnosed malaria cases in Oklahoma each were a result of travel to endemic countries: four (80%) cases reported traveling to Africa (Uganda [2], Nigeria [1], and Sudan [1]) and one (20%) to South America during their exposure periods. Since 2001, the majority of reported cases in Oklahoma had a history of traveling to Africa (70%) or Asia (15%) during their exposure period (refer to table). Among the five cases reported in 2008, three (60%) reported taking malaria prophylaxis; however two of these took an unknown medication that was purchased abroad. One case described taking doxycycline as recommended. The CDC Travelers' Health website has recommendations regarding malaria prophylaxis and other travel-related diseases at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>.

Malaria can be a severe, potentially fatal disease (particularly when caused by *Plasmodium falciparum*) and treatment should be initiated as soon as possible. It should be considered in persons experiencing fever of unknown origin, chills, and/or flu-like illness, with recent travel to a high-risk area, especially international travelers, immigrants, adoptees, military personnel, and international visitors. Most clinical labs are capable of performing preliminary identification. Specimens are required to be sent to the OSDH Public Health Laboratory (PHL) for confirmatory testing and speciation. Thick and thin slides prestained with Giemsa or Giemsa-Wright stain are required for examination. Specimens for the five reported cases in 2008 were submitted to the OSDH PHL for confirmation: four (80%) were identified as *Plasmodium falciparum* while one (20%) was identified as *Plasmodium vivax*.

**Demographic and Clinical Summary of Reported Malaria Cases, Oklahoma, 2008 (N = 5)**

	Number (%)	Incidence Rate per 100,000
Gender		
Male	4 (80%)	0.22
Female	1 (20%)	0.05
Age	Median = 43 years (range: 32 – 51 years)	
Race (N=4)		
White	2 (50%)	0.07
Black	2 (50%)	0.69
Hispanic Ethnicity	0	--
Hospitalized	4 (80%)	--
Died due to malaria	0	--
Travel history		
Africa	4 (80%)	--
South America	1 (20%)	--

**World Region of Malaria Acquisition Reported by Oklahoma Cases, 2001-2008 (N=69)**

Region	Number (%)
Africa	48 (69.6%)
Asia	10 (14.5%)
Central America	1 (1.5%)
Oceania	1 (1.5%)
South America	1 (1.5%)
Unknown	8 (11.6%)