

Malaria

2010 Case Total	6	2010 Incidence Rate	0.16 per 100,000
2009 Case Total	2	2009 Incidence Rate	0.05 per 100,000

All six cases reported in Oklahoma in 2010 had recent travel or residence in countries with endemic malaria. Since 2001, half of the reported malaria cases here had a recent history of traveling or living in Africa (refer to tables). None of the four malaria cases who were interviewed reported taking malaria prophylaxis. The CDC Travelers' Health website has recommendations regarding malaria prophylaxis and prevention of other travel-related diseases at the website www.cdc.gov/travel. These medications should be purchased in the US prior to traveling, because sale of counterfeit malaria prophylaxis medications has been discovered in other countries. Although humans are the reservoir for malaria, the vector is the mosquito; therefore, protection from mosquito bites while traveling is important.

Malaria can be a severe, potentially fatal disease (particularly when caused by *Plasmodium falciparum*) and treatment should be initiated as soon as possible. Malaria should be considered as a possible diagnosis in persons experiencing fever of unknown origin, chills, and/or flu-like illness, and who have a history of recent travel or residence in a high-risk area. This includes international travelers, immigrants, adoptees, military personnel, and international visitors.

Most clinical laboratories are capable of performing preliminary identification of the malaria parasite. Thick and thin slides pre-stained with Giemsa or Giemsa-Wright stain are required to be sent to the OSDH Public Health Laboratory (PHL) for confirmation and speciation. Specimens for five cases were submitted to the OSDH PHL: four were identified as *P. falciparum*, and one was *P. vivax*.

Demographic and Clinical Summary of Reported Malaria Cases, Oklahoma, 2010 (N = 6)

	Number (%)	Incidence Rate per 100,000
Gender		
Male	4 (67%)	0.22
Female	2 (33%)	0.11
Age	Median 42.5 years (range 17 – 67 years)	
Race		
Black	5 (83%)	1.68
White	1 (17%)	0.03
Ethnicity		--
Hispanic or Latino	0	
Not Hispanic or Latino	5 (83%)	
Unknown	1 (17%)	
Hospitalized	4 (17%)	--
Died due to malaria	0	--
Travel history		
Africa	5 (83%)	--
Asia	1 (17%)	--

World Region of Malaria Acquisition Reported by Oklahoma Cases, 2001-2010 (N = 77)

Region	Number (%)
Africa	50 (71%)
Asia	10 (14%)
Central America	1 (1%)
Oceania	1 (1%)
South America	1 (1%)
Unknown	8 (10%)