

Malaria

2011 Case Total	10	2011 Incidence Rate	0.27 per 100,000
2010 Case Total	6	2010 Incidence Rate	0.16 per 100,000

All ten cases of malaria reported to the Oklahoma State Department of Health in 2011 also reported recent travel or residence in countries with endemic malaria. Since 2001, the majority of reported malaria cases in Oklahoma had a history of traveling or living in Africa during their exposure period (refer to tables).

Of the eight cases interviewed, only one reported taking malaria prophylaxis as prescribed, although details about schedule and dosage were not known. Recommendations regarding malaria prophylaxis can be accessed on the CDC Travelers' Health website at www.cdc.gov/travel. These medications should be purchased in the US prior to traveling, because sale of counterfeit malaria prophylaxis medications has occurred in other countries. Although humans are the reservoir, the malaria vector is the mosquito, so protection from mosquito bites while traveling is also 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 an endemic 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. Specimens are required to be sent to the OSDH Public Health Laboratory (PHL) for confirmation and speciation. Thick and thin slides pre-stained with Giemsa or Giemsa-Wright stain are needed for these tests.

Demographic and Clinical Summary of Reported Malaria Cases, Oklahoma, 2011 (N = 10)

	Number (%)	Incidence Rate per 100,000
Gender		
Male	7 (70%)	0.38
Female	3 (30%)	0.16
Age	Median: 36 years (range 19 – 53 years)	
Race		
Black	7 (70%)	2.52
White	3 (30%)	0.11
Hispanic Ethnicity	0	--
Hospitalized	7 (70%)	--
Died due to malaria	0	--
Travel history		
Africa	10 (100%)	--
Species		
<i>P. malariae</i>	5 (50%)	--
<i>P. falciparum</i>	5 (50%)	--

World Region of Malaria Acquisition Reported by Oklahoma Cases, 2001-2011 (N = 81)

Region	Number (%)
Africa	60 (74%)
Asia	10 (12%)
Central America	1 (1%)
Oceania	1 (1%)
South America	1 (1%)
Unknown	8 (10%)