

# MALARIA

Malaria is a parasitic infection of red blood cells caused by *Plasmodium* species. The disease is vectorborne and is transmitted to humans by the bite of the infected female *Anopheles* mosquito. Malaria is characterized by cycles of chills, fever, headache, and sweating. Depending upon the species, acute illness may develop into a variety of syndromes with severe complications including coma and death. Malaria also may be transmitted transplacentally. The disease may recur over a period of 50 years.

## **Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:**

- Demonstration of malarial parasites in blood films.

## **Class Classification**

**Confirmed:** An episode of microscopically confirmed malaria parasitemia in any person (symptomatic or asymptomatic) diagnosed in the United States, regardless of whether the person experienced previous episodes of malaria while outside the country.

## **Comment**

A subsequent attack experienced by the same person but caused by a different *Plasmodium* species is counted as an additional case. A subsequent attack experienced by the same person and caused by the same species in the United States may indicate a relapsing infection or treatment failure caused by drug resistance.

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## **Epidemiology**

<b>Kentucky 2003</b>	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>	<b>Cases by Gender</b>	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>
Cases 11	0.2	Female 1	0.05
		Male 10	0.5
<b>U. S. Rate (2002)</b>	0.51		

Two of the cases were associated with military duty. Eight of the cases were in African visitors to this country or in persons who traveled to Africa, Central or South America. In one case the origin is unknown.

**Malaria Cases, Kentucky  
1994-2003**

