

LOUISIANA MONTHLY MORBIDITY

DISEASES REPORTED DURING MONTH OF **JUNE, 1971** BY PARISH OF RESIDENCE

MERCURY POISONING - JEFFERSON PARISH

In April, 1971, the Louisiana State Department of Health received a report of a case of acrodynia, a syndrome of mercury intoxication, occurring in a four year old girl in Jefferson Parish. Her symptoms included insomnia, irritability, mild hypertension, low grade fever and acral and facial erythema. Clinical impression was confirmed by demonstration of abnormally elevated urine mercury levels. She was treated with penicillamine and progressively improved over a period of 2 months.

Investigation of the home environment eliminated from consideration most of the products and materials frequently associated with mercury poisoning as a cause of her symptoms. Fungicides, algicides, mercury-containing ointments, paint with phenyl-mercuric-propionate, and broken electric
(Continued on Page 3)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -

- LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RELEASED July 6, 1971	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHtherIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTIONOUS	INFECTIOUS AND SERUM HEPATITIS	MEASLES	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	POLIOMYELITIS, PARALYTIC	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RHEUMATIC FEVER	RUBELLA *	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
TOTAL TO DATE 1970	22	12	15	11	333	87	55	10	0	45	8	147	18	1	31	2	366	5566	371
TOTAL TO DATE 1971	24	11	5	6	333	1614	44	26	0	20	2	279	11	6	54	0	403	6668	340
TOTAL THIS MONTH	9	0	1	3	48	75	4	11	0	1	0	5	2	1	13	0	59	1245	57
ACADIA					1													13	
ALLEN																		2	
ASCENSION																			
ASSUMPTION					1										1				
AVOYELLES					1													1	
BEAUREGARD																			
BIENVILLE																		1	1
BOSSIER						1												9	2
CADDO						8											3	107	6
CALCASIEU					5	5							1		1		4	43	1
CALDWELL																		1	
CAMERON																			
CATAHOULA					1														
CLAIBORNE										1								1	
CONCORDIA																			
DESOTO					1													7	
EAST BATON ROUGE					4	9									1		6	51	1
EAST CARROLL																			
EAST FELICIANA					1														
EVANGELINE																		3	
FRANKLIN							1										1		
GRANT																			2
IBERIA																	1	6	
IBERVILLE																	1	4	

*Includes Rubella, Congenital Syndrome

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Louisiana Department
Louisiana State Library

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JACKSON					1														1
JEFFERSON	3				1	13		2					1		3		2	104	6
JEFFERSON DAVIS																		6	
LAFAYETTE				1		13						2					5	6	
LAFOURCHE																		11	
LASALLE					1														
LINCOLN					3													2	1
LIVINGSTON					1													2	
MADISON																			
MOREHOUSE																		32	
NATCHITOCHES					1												1	11	
ORLEANS	5		1	1	11	7		8						1	7		23	445	24
OUACHITA					1	1											2	101	2
PLAQUEMINES								1										3	
POINTE COUPEE																		2	
RAPIDES				1	2	1	1											28	5
RED RIVER																			
RICHLAND																		20	1
SABINE						4												1	
ST. BERNARD					1	2											1	11	
ST. CHARLES	1											1						7	1
ST. HELENA																		8	
ST. JAMES																		2	
ST. JOHN																	2	2	
ST. LANDRY																	1	14	2
ST. MARTIN					1		1										1	2	
ST. MARY																		2	2
ST. TAMMANY					3												2	20	
TANGIPAHOA					1	10												32	
TENSAS																			
TERREBONNE																		3	
UNION																		5	
VERMILION																	1	1	
VERNON					4	1	1					2					1	39	1
WASHINGTON					1													16	
WEBSTER																	1	8	
WEST BATON ROUGE																			
WEST CARROLL																		2	
WEST FELICIANA																		40	
WINN																		6	
OUT OF STATE																			

From January 1 through June 30, the following cases were also reported: 1 Brucellosis, 1 Leprosy, 3 Leptospirosis, 32 Malaria (contracted outside U.S.A.), and 1 Typhus Fever, Endemic.

current meters, thermometers, detonators and percussion caps were all ruled out. Four months prior to onset of her symptoms, her 12 year old brother had spilled part of a small bottle of mercury on a carpet in his bedroom, which was cleaned and vacuumed. However, measurements of the ambient air above the carpet in April, 1971, showed up to 200 micrograms of mercury vapor per liter of air, in excess of the acceptable threshold limit value of 100 micrograms per liter. The brother's urine mercury excretion rate was found to be four times that of his sister, yet he remains symptom-free.

(Reported by C. Harrison Snyder, M.D.)

MALARIA SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY, USA, 1970

In 1970, 3,997 cases of malaria were reported in the United States. This represents a 5.0 percent increase over the 3,806 cases reported during a similar time period for 1969. This increase was due entirely to a greater number of military cases imported from Vietnam. In 1970, 96.2 percent of all cases reported in the United States were acquired in Vietnam. As in previous years, imported Plasmodium vivax infections were more common than imported P. falciparum infections (81.6 vs. 12.5 percent).

Army personnel accounted for 82.9 percent of all Vietnam-acquired infections in 1970, and the total number of Army cases (3,182) represented a 13.8 percent increase over 1969. This increase in Army cases could not be attributed to improved reporting or to increased numbers of returnees, for the number of Army returnees was lower in 1970 than in 1969. The Marines accounted for 10.9 percent of all Vietnam-acquired cases, compared to 19.2 percent in 1969.

Sixteen persons acquired their malaria infections within the United States, the highest total since 1953, and at least nine of these infections were related to malaria cases imported from Vietnam. Two were introduced cases due to P. vivax. Six cases, five with P. vivax and one with P. falciparum, were induced by the sharing of syringes and needles among heroin users. Eight cases were induced by blood transfusion.

There were only three malaria deaths, compared with nine in 1969, and all were due to P. falciparum. All occurred in persons who had recently returned from Africa: two foreign seamen and an American tourist.

Abstracted from "Malaria Surveillance, 1970 Annual Report" published by Center for Disease Control, Public Health Service, Atlanta, Georgia, May 1971.