

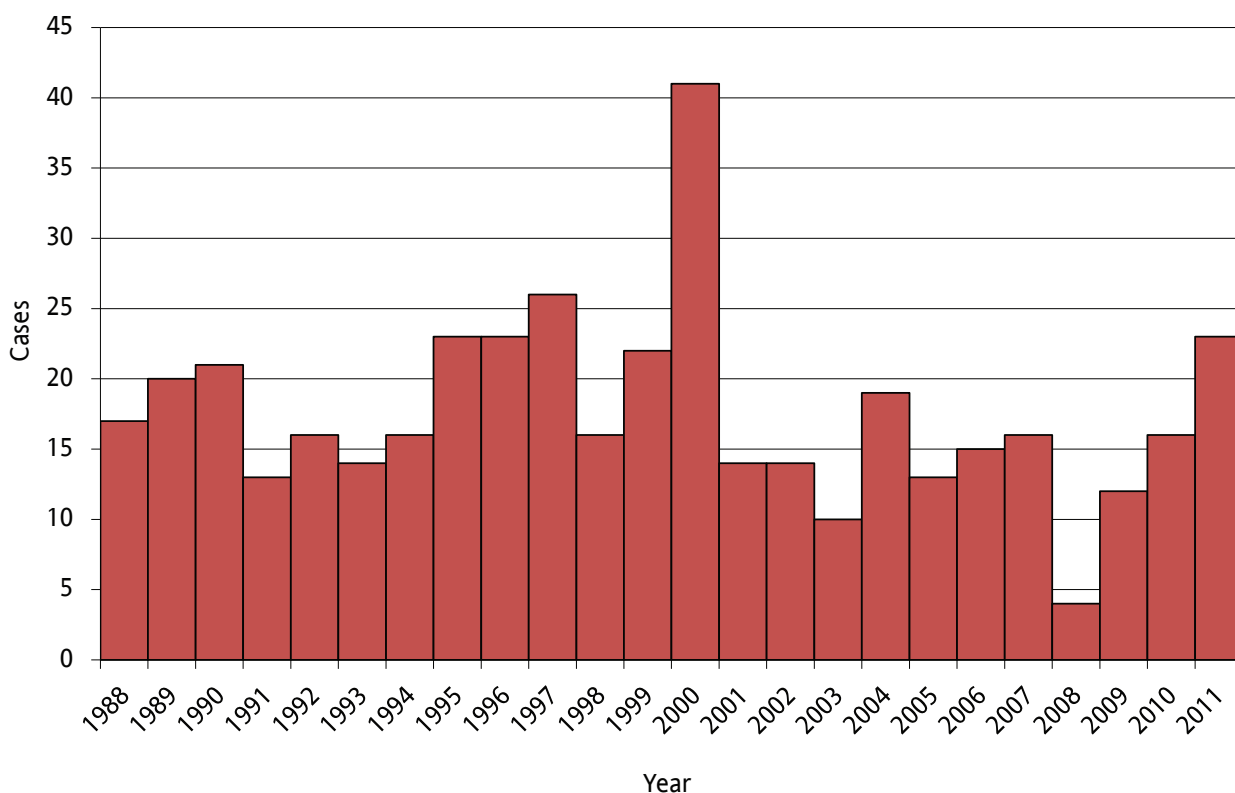
Malaria

Worldwide, malaria is one of the most devastating of the communicable diseases, causing perhaps 1 million to 2 million deaths annually, not to mention an enormous burden of disability and medical costs. While transmission has not been documented in Oregon for decades, malaria is reported every year in our state; all cases have resulted from exposures outside the United States. Competent *Anopheles* mosquitoes are resident in Oregon, so limited local transmission remains a remote possibility.

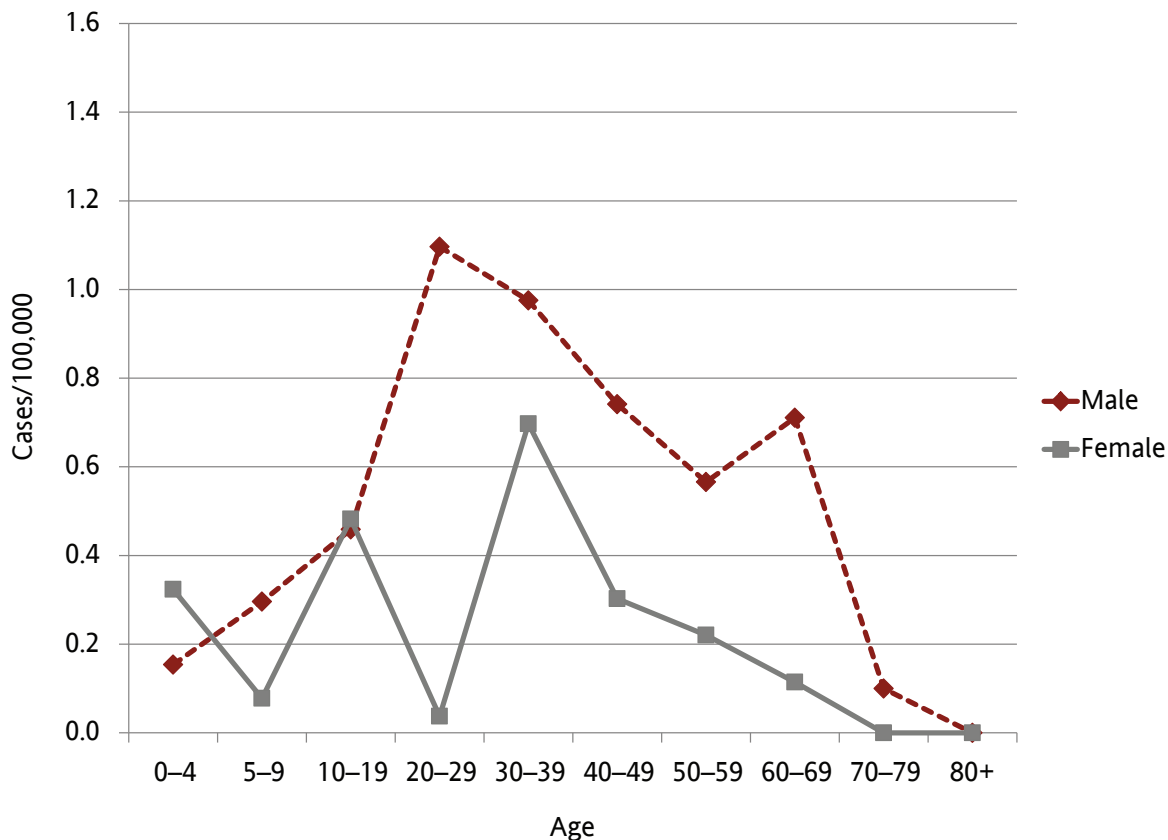
Twenty-three cases were reported in Oregon in 2011, up from 16 in 2010 and four in 2009. Oregon surveillance data contribute to the national database, which is used to tailor recommendations for prophylaxis and treatment. *Plasmodium falciparum* (the worst kind to have, and the most common worldwide) continues to be the most common species identified in Oregon cases; 13/23 cases in 2011 (57%). Of the 21 Oregon cases reported in 2011 who gave a travel history, 20 (95%) reported pre-onset travel in Africa. Competent advice about behavioral and chemical interventions can reduce risk to travelers.

In just the past couple of years *Plasmodium knowlesi*, long known as a parasite of macaques, has been recognized as the fifth malaria species to regularly infect humans — primarily in Southeast Asia. No cases have been reported in Oregon yet. The first clinician to correctly report a lab-confirmed case will win a prize.

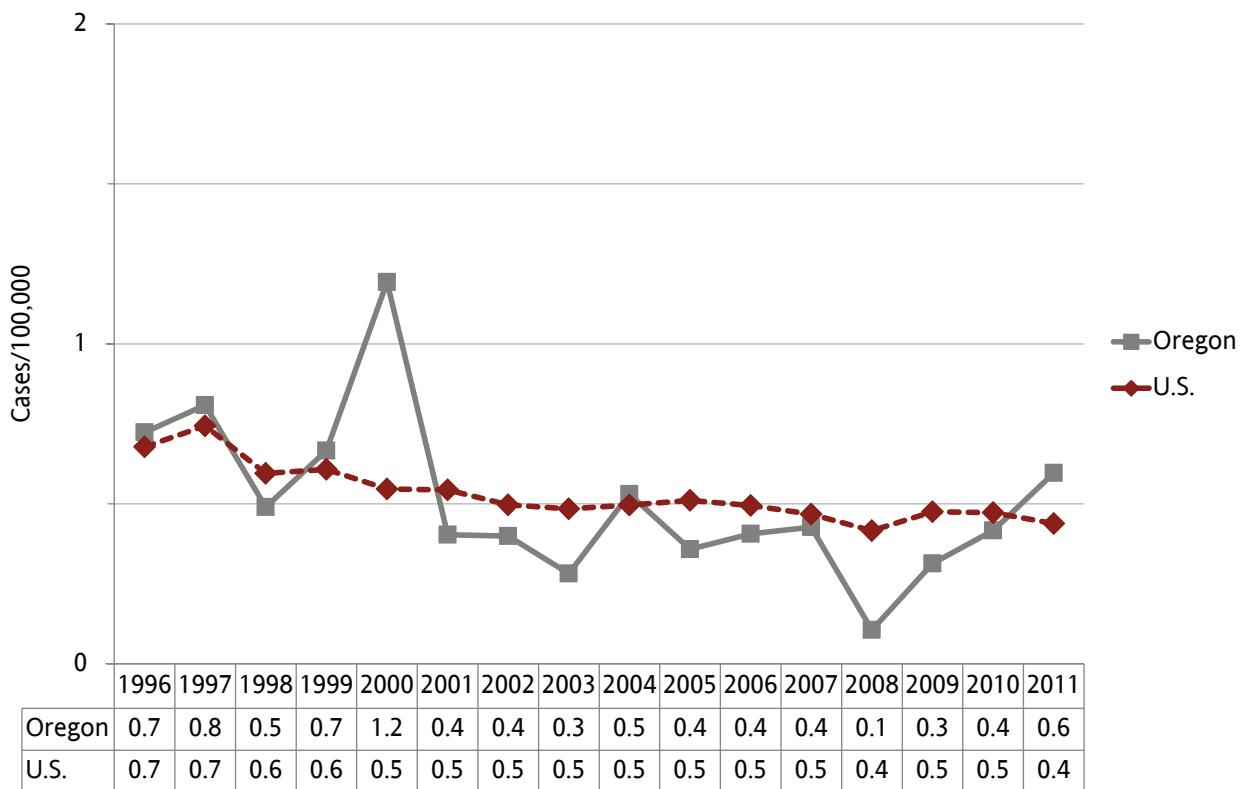
Malaria by year: Oregon, 1988–2011



Incidence of malaria by age and sex: Oregon, 2002–2011



Incidence of malaria: Oregon vs. nationwide, 1996–2011



Malaria cases by continent of acquisition: Oregon, 2011

