**BELIZE**

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**BASIC COUNTRY DATA**

Total Population: 344,700

Population 0-14 years: 35%

Rural population: 47%

Population living under USD 1.25 a day: 13.4%

Population living under the national poverty line: no data

Income status: Lower middle income economy

Ranking:High human development (ranking 93)

Per capita total expenditure on health at average exchange rate (US dollar): 223

Life expectancy at birth (years): 76

Healthy life expectancy at birth (years): 60

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

VL has never been reported, but CL by *L.mexicana* is a well known disease in the northern area of the country [1]. In 1984, *L. braziliensis* was reported for the first time among British military personnel, infected in the southern part of Belize [2]. The infection frequency among soldiers is rising and suggests that the vector is a highly anthropophilic species, such as *Lu. ovallesi* or *Lu. Cruciata* [1].

Cutaneous leishmaniasis is an emerging health problem among travelers to Belize [3]. The nearby area in Mexico, Quintana Roo, is one of Mexico's most important endemic areas.

**PARASITOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Leishmania* species**  | **Clinical form**  | **Vector species** | **Reservoirs** |
| *L. braziliensis*  | ZCL  | *Lu. ovallesi*  | Unknown  |
| *L. mexicana*  | ZCL  | *Lu. olmeca olmeca*  | *Heteromys sp., Nyctomys sp., Ototylomys sp., Sigmodon sp., Oryzomys sp.*  |

**DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, MAPS AND TRENDS**

Data not available

**ACCESS TO DRUGS**

The antimonials Pentostam, GSK (SSG) and Glucantime, Sanofi (meglumine antimoniate) are not registered.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

1. Desjeux P (1991). Information on the epidemiology and control of the leishmaniases by country or territory. WHO/LEISH/91.30.

2. [Evans DA](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%22Evans%20DA%22%5BAuthor%5D), [Lanham SM](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%22Lanham%20SM%22%5BAuthor%5D), [Baldwin CI](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%22Baldwin%20CI%22%5BAuthor%5D), [Peters W](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%22Peters%20W%22%5BAuthor%5D) (1984).The isolation and isoenzyme characterization of Leishmania braziliensis subsp. from patients with cutaneous leishmaniasis acquired in Belize. Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg.78(1):35-4.

3. Herwaldt BL, Stokes SL, Juranek DD (1993). American Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in U.S. Travelers. Annals of Internal Medicine 118 (10): 779-84.