



AMERICAN CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS IN PERNAMBUCO (2020–2024): CHALLENGES IN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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American Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (ACL) is a neglected infectious-parasitic disease endemic in nearly 90 countries, impacting the quality of life of vulnerable populations. In Brazil, incidence and prevalence rates of ACL remain high, especially in the North and Northeast regions. In the Northeast, the state of Pernambuco presents an incidence rate among the highest, with cases concentrated in the metropolitan area, Zona da Mata, and Agreste regions. In Pernambuco, epidemiological surveillance plays a fundamental role in infection control, case identification, trend analysis, and public health planning. This study aimed to describe the epidemiological (incidence rate) and clinical profile of ACL cases reported in Pernambuco between 2020 and 2024. It is a retrospective cross-sectional study based on data from the Notifiable Diseases Information System (SINAN), referring to new cases of ACL reported among residents of Pernambuco during this period. Analyses included sociodemographic variables (sex, age group, race/skin color), clinical forms, and municipal distribution. Between 2020 and 2024, a total of 1,032 new ACL cases were reported in Pernambuco. Geographical distribution by municipality showed Escada (n=121; 11.7%) with the highest incidence, followed by Moreno (n=59; 5.75%), Macaparana (n=55; 5.3%), Cabo de Santo Agostinho (n=44; 4.3%), Vicência (n=38; 3.7%), and Recife (n=37; 3.6%). Individuals who self-identified as mixed-race (pardo) represented 68.99% of the cases (n=712), with males accounting for 54.06% (n=558). Adults aged 20–39 years (n=305) and 40–59 years (n=281) comprised 56.78% of the new cases. Regarding clinical forms, 95.63% presented the cutaneous form (n=987), followed by the mucosal form (n=45). The analysis of the epidemiological and clinical profile of ACL cases in Pernambuco highlights a predominance in the Zona da Mata region, mainly affecting mixed-race men aged 20–39 years, with the cutaneous form being the most prevalent. The infection remains a major challenge for the State Health Department, which must continuously ensure patient care promotion, train healthcare professionals in completing official records, expand diagnostic availability, and strengthen surveillance to prevent underreporting.

Keywords: Pernambuco; American Cutaneous Leishmaniasis; New cases.

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