



# MONTHLY MORBIDITY REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS and  
DIVISION OF DISEASE CONTROL

## NETWORK OF REGIONAL GENETICS CLINICS OPEN

The Genetics Section of the Division of Personal Health Services invites you to consider the referral of families for genetic counseling. It is estimated that 0.5-1.0% of newborns have a chromosomal abnormality; 1% have an inborn error of metabolism; and as many as 3% have some congenital malformation. Ultimately, as many as 10% of individuals will develop some inherited or familial problem. Among the pediatric-age population an estimated 20% of hospital admissions have an underlying genetic cause.

Calculating the estimated annual incidence of major groups of genetic disorders in Louisiana can be done by applying reported rates of various conditions to the 1980 statistics of approximately 80,000 births - 56,000 white and 24,000 black. The most common problem would be the 2,400 newborns with various congenital anomalies, some minor, but most of them being rare as an individual diagnosis. There are over 3,000 described inheritable syndromes, with the list growing all the while. Of the 2,400 newborns, there would be 155 with spina bifida, 80 with clubfoot, 120 with cleft lip, and/or palate, and 150 with the more common forms of heart defect, leaving 1,900 with lesser known varieties in need of a specific diagnosis. There would be 400 children with a chromosomal abnormality. The most common, Down's Syndrome, would account for 80. There would be approximately 800 children with inborn metabolic errors. Some, such as the 60 with sickle cell disease, 19 congenital hypothyroidism cases, 4 PKU and 1 galactosemia would be diagnosable in the neonatal period. Others would show symptoms or signs later on. With the incidence of new cases each year in addition to existing cases, the prevalence of genetic disorders is sizeable.

Recognizing the great need for genetic diagnosis and counseling, the Office of Health Services and Environmental Quality seeks to play a coordinating

role for the development of counseling services for families having or suspected of having genetic disorders. The services of three medical geneticists in Louisiana have been enlisted, one from each of the three medical schools: Dr. Harold Chen at LSU Shreveport, Dr. Emmanuel Shapira at Tulane University in New Orleans and Dr. Ted Thurmon at LSU New Orleans. It was felt best to provide access to genetic counseling services as close to home as possible. Consequently, one or more clinics have been organized to meet periodically in each region of the state where such services are not otherwise readily available. The medical geneticists are under contract to the Office of Health Services and Environmental Quality to attend these clinics to offer genetic counseling. Figure 1 defines genetic counseling.

Figure 1

Genetic counseling is the process of education concerning:

- The impact of genetic disease on an individual and/or family.
- Once a diagnosis is established, the long-term outlook for the individual.
- The risk of recurrence for patients, brothers and sisters, other relatives.
- For the affected individual, advice on management of the disorder.
- The option of prenatal diagnosis when applicable.

Figure 2

### WHO SHALL BE REFERRED

Who are the patients that should be referred for genetic services?

- Patients with a clinical suspicion or picture of a chromosomal disorder. For example, if a patient is known or suspected to have Down's Syndrome, it is important to determine if the cause is an extra intact chromosome (47 chromosomes) or translocation which could be inherited from a carrier parent.
- Children with a major malformation - cleft lip or palate, absence of a part, heart defect, etc.
- Children with multiple congenital anomalies or couples with a history of a child with anomalies who died without chromosomal studies.
- Children with suspected metabolic disorders, PKU, Maple Syrup Urine Disease, Lipid or Glycogen Storage Disorders.
- Small for gestational age babies with several dysmorphic features.
- Children with motor or mental regression without underlying infectious or traumatic episodes to account for it.
- Families with several members affected by a common disorder - i.e., seizures, mental retardation, peculiar features, etc.
- Infants with failure to thrive or children with exceptionally short stature at any age.
- Patients with ambiguous genitalia.
- Families having one or more members with hereditary anemias, or bleeding disorders.
- Pregnant women 35 years and older at EDC.
- Consanguineous couples.

You are invited to refer families for counseling on the inheritability of familial conditions or for assistance in syndrome identification. Some indications for referral are listed in Figure 2.

We are providing only genetic services, including laboratory studies for lysosomal enzymes, biochemical studies or karyotyping. Definitive care for the condition itself is to be given by the usual sources of care. All patients referred are welcome. Reimbursement of costs of services will be sought

through any available third party payments. The location of genetic services are designated below along with the contact person. Telephone contact may be made to ask for an appointment and a referral slip.

Should your medical society desire it, a speaker can be arranged to discuss genetics at your meeting. Call Dr. Flora F. Cherry, Medical Director of the Genetic Diseases Section, for information. The telephone number is (504) 568-5070.

GENETICS CLINICS  
OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

REGION I

WESTBANK

\* TIME

Jefferson Parish Health Unit  
1901 8th Street  
P.O. Box 478  
Harvey, Louisiana 70059

First Monday  
Monthly  
10:00 a.m.

Contact Person:

Jan Guilbeau  
(504) 361-6502  
LINC 632-6514

EASTBANK

Jefferson Parish Health Unit  
111 North Causeway Boulevard  
Metairie, Louisiana 70001

Third Monday  
Monthly  
10:00 a.m.

Contact Person:

Betty Blades, R.N.  
(504) 838-5125  
LINC 637-5100

REGION II

Florida Parish Sub-Region II HCS Office  
900 Southeast Central Avenue,  
P.O. Box 308  
Amite, Louisiana 70422

Second Monday  
Quarterly  
10:00 a.m.

Contact Person:

Margaret Neveaux, R.N.  
(504) 748-8142  
LINC 549-3846

Capitol Regional Handicapped Children's Service Office  
353 North 12th Street  
P.O. Box 762  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Fourth Monday  
Every Other Month  
10:00 a.m.

Contact Person:

Betty Cook, R.N.  
(504) 342-1722  
LINC 421-1722

REGION III

Teche Regional Handicapped Children's Services Office  
690 First Street  
P.O. Drawer 1359  
Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301

Second Monday  
Twice Quarterly  
9:00 a.m.

Contact Person:

Janice Ordoyne, R.N.  
(504) 448-0265-8  
LINC 626-1265

\* The times and dates the clinics are scheduled are subject to change; call for appointment.

GENETICS CLINICS - (continued)

REGION IV

\* TIME

Acadian Regional Handicapped Children's Services Office  
2100 Jefferson Street  
P.O. Box 52114 OCS  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70505

Second Friday  
Every Other Month  
10:00 a.m.

Contact Person:

Patricia Carriere, R.N.  
(318) 234-6377  
LINC 321-5301-3

REGION V

Calcasieu Parish Health Unit  
721 Prien Lake Road  
P.O. Box 3169  
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70602

First Wednesday  
Every Other Month  
10:00 a.m.

Contact Person:

Karen Fusilier, R.N.  
(318) 478-6020  
LINC 367-1137

REGION VI

Rapides Parish Health Unit  
1200 Texas Avenue  
P.O. Box 4087  
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301

First Friday  
Every Other Month  
10:00 a.m.

Contact Person:

Patsy Peterman, R.N.  
(318) 487-5282  
LINC 221-5282

REGION VII

Caddo-Shreveport Parish Health Unit  
1866 Kings Highway  
P.O. Box 3008  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71103

Third Tuesday  
Every Other Month  
2:00 p.m.

Contact Person:

Roma Caldwell, R.N.  
(318) 227-5240  
LINC 521-5240

REGION VIII

Ouachita Parish Health Unit  
2913 DeSaird Street  
P.O. Box 4460  
Monroe, Louisiana 71211

Third Friday  
Monthly  
9:00 a.m.

Contact Persons:

Jane Ferguson, R.N.  
and  
Debbie Rothchild, R.N.  
(318) 325-0454  
LINC 271-1101

\* The times and dates the clinics are scheduled are subject to change; call for appointment.

## SELECTED REPORTABLE DISEASES (By Place of Residence)

STATE AND PARISH TOTALS <i>Reported Morbidity September, 1982</i>	VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES					ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	HEPATITIS A AND UNSPECIFIED**	HEPATITIS B	LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE	MALARIA***	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	SHIGELLOSIS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	UNDERNUTRITION SEVERE	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY	RABIES IN ANIMALS (PARISH TOTALS CUMULATIVE, 1982)
	MEASLES	RUBELLA*	MUMPS	PERTUSSIS	TETANUS														
TOTAL TO DATE 1981	4	9	5	5	2	82	705	262	1	6	102	82	318	2	147	1	17332	1262	31
TOTAL TO DATE 1982	2	1	6	18	6	101	713	225	0	4	55	74	290	2	135	5	18349	1458	30
TOTAL THIS MONTH	0	0	1	9	1	23	92	28	0	0	7	19	16	0	19	0	2114	162	2
ACADIA							3				1				2		12		
ALLEN													1				7		
ASCENSION							1										7		
ASSUMPTION																			
AVOUELLES																			
BEAUREGARD																	3		
BIENVILLE												1					16	1	
BOSSIER													1				7		1
CADDO						1	1	1					1	1			39	3	1
CALCASIEU							3	3				1	1		1		167	10	1
CALDWELL																	136	7	
CAMERON																	3		
CATAHOULA																	2		
CLAIBORNE							1										14		1
CONCORDIA													1				7		
DESOTO																	3		
EAST BATON ROUGE								2			1		1		1		174	13	1
EAST CARROLL								1									10	1	
EAST FELICIANA																	7	2	
EVANGELINE																	1		
FRANKLIN																	6		
GRANT													1				5	3	
IBERIA																	22	4	
IBERVILLE							16										2	1	
JACKSON																	3		1
JEFFERSON				3		4	16	4			1	1			4		130	8	
JEFFERSON DAVIS							8										10		
LAFAYETTE								1					1		1		55	16	
LAFOURCHE						2	1						1				4		
LASALLE																	3		
LINCOLN							1	1									3		
LIVINGSTON							1						1				13		3
MADISON																	4	2	
MOREHOUSE																	12		
MOREHOUSE							6										26	1	
NATCHITOCHE																	3		7
ORLEANS				4		2	7	4			2	2	2		2		720	62	
OUACHITA							12						3				155	2	2
PLAQUEMINES							1										2	1	
POINTE COUPEE																	1		
RAPIDES			1					1					1				81	1	5
RED RIVER						1											1		
RICHLAND								1									13		1
SABINE																	4		
ST. BERNARD																	5		
ST. CHARLES					1								1				9	1	
ST. HELENA																	3		
ST. JAMES																	9	2	
ST. JOHN				1				1									6	1	
ST. LANDRY						1	2										28	7	
ST. MARTIN						1	2								1		8	4	
ST. MARY							1					2					18	5	
ST. TAMMANY				1			1	1				1		3			18		
TANGIPAHOA												2			2		18		
TENSAS																			
TERREBONNE						10	3	6				5	1				17		
UNION																	6		5
VERMILION						1	1					2			1		11	1	
VERNON							2	1									8	1	1
WASHINGTON																	5		
WEBSTER											1						22	1	
WEST BATON ROUGE																	12		
WEST CARROLL							1								1		2		
WEST FELICIANA								1									1	1	
WINN																	3		
OUT OF STATE																	15		

\*Includes Rubella, Congenital Syndrome

\*\*Includes 19 cases of Hepatitis, Non A and Non B reported Jan. - Sept., 1982

\*\*\*Acquired outside United States unless otherwise stated.

From January 1, 1982 - September 30, 1982, the following cases were

also reported; 3 - Amebiasis, 8 - Brucellosis, 1 - Psittacosis, 5

2 - Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, 1 - Trichinosis.



Department of Health and Human Resources  
Office of Health Services and Environmental Quality  
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