

SOUTH AMERICA**ARGENTINA***Population: 13,518,239**Area: 1,078,278*

The National Department of Health (1939) reports 327 new cases for 1938, bringing the total of known cases to 3,579. These were distributed as follows: Federal Capital, 697; Buenos Aires, 395; Santa Fé, 787; Córdoba, 414; Corrientes, 359; Entre Ríos, 265; Misiones, 258; and Chaco, 137. The leprosaria are built on the mixed hospital plan: Posadas, in Misiones, has 140 beds; San Francisco del Chañar, in Córdoba, has 140; Isla del Cerrito, in the Chaco, has 300; General Rodriguez, in Buenos Aires, has 645; Diamante, in Entre Ríos, with 260, and a small asylum in the Province of Salta, will soon be constructed.

Reviriego (1941) gives prevalence rates for 1938 in six provinces in which leprosy is considered most frequent: Misiones, 2.4 per 1,000; Formosa, 1.5; Corrientes, 0.7; Santa Fé, 0.6; Chaco, 0.5; and Entre Ríos, 0.4.

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

1939. Report of the Departamento Nacional de Higiene for 1938. *La sanidad en Argentina*. Bol. sanitaria, 3, 172. Abstract in *Internat. J. Leprosy*, 1941, 9, 124.

REVIRIEGO, A. J.

1941. Contribución al estudio de la lepra en Entre Ríos. *Semana méd.*, 48, 231-235. Abstract in *Internat. J. Leprosy*, 1942, 10, 160.

BOLIVIA*Population: 3,426,296**Area: 537,792*

Suárez (1944) states that there were 230 known cases in 1943. San Juan leprosarium housed 60 patients, and three dispensaries treated 170 out-patients. He estimates that there are approximately 1,150 cases. The area of heaviest infection is in the central most densely populated region of the country.

McKinley (1935) cites a report by Dr. Emilio Quiroz that there are isolated cases at Santa Cruz, Beni, and Chuquisaca. No figures are given.

MCKINLEY, E. B.

1935. *A Geography of Disease*. George Washington University Press, Washington, D. C., ed. 1, p. 294.

SUÁREZ, JORGE.

1944. Personal communication to the Acting Editor.

BRAZIL*Population: 41,356,605**Area: 3,275,510*

Barreto (1940) gives the number of cases as of June 1938 as 35,241. The figures were still incomplete, and for some states represented only reasonable estimates. On the basis of these statistics the regional prevalence of leprosy was given as follows:

North: Acre, Amazonas, Pará, and Maranhão: 2.05 per 1,000.

Northeast: Piauí, Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Alagoas, Sergipe, and Baía: 0.20 per 1,000.

Center: Esperito Santo, Estado do Rio, Federal District, Minas Gerais, Goiás, São Paulo, and Mato Grosso: 1.13 per 1,000.

South: Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul: 0.49 per 1,000.

Estimated number of cases of leprosy in Brazil by states, 1938:

Acre	400	Baía	300
Amazonas	1,250	Esperito Santo	527
Pará	4,000	Estado do Rio	557
Maranhão	1,130	Federal District.....	1,084
Piauí	200	Minas Gerais	8,700
Ceará	764	São Paulo.....	10,545
Rio Grande do Norte.....	168	Paraná	1,069
Paraíba	200	Santa Catarina	654
Pernambuco	1,000	Rio Grande do Sul.....	800
Alagoas	100	Mato Grosso	500
Sergipe	89	Goiáz	1,104
		TOTAL.....	35,241

Weaver (1943) reports that since 1935, 22 modern preventoria with facilities for 2,500 children living in contact with leprosy or born in a leprosarium have been constructed.

Souza-Araujo (1942) reports in a News Item in the JOURNAL that the Leprosy Control Service of the state of Maranhão has completed the first general census of persons suffering from leprosy. There were recorded 1,211 cases, a prevalence of 1.02 per 1,000. Reports on the clinical types found were as follows: Lepromatous, 287 or 24 per cent; neural, 615 or 51 per cent; mixed, 214 or 17.7 per cent; and suspected cases, 95 or 7.8 per cent.

Ortenberg (1936) reports an interesting fact, that the German colony of southern Brazil is the most severely affected with leprosy.

BARRETO, J. BARROS.

1940. Leprosy control in Brazil. *Internat. J. Leprosy*, **8**, 61-68.

SOUZA-ARAÚJO, H. C. DE.

1942. Census of leprosy in Maranhão, Brazil. *News Item, Internat. J. Leprosy*, **10**, 148-149.

ORTENBERG, H. VON.

1936. Die Verbreitung der Lepra und ihre Behandlung in den deutschblütigen Bevölkerungskreisen Süd-Brasiliens. *Arch. f. Schiffs- u. Tropen-Hyg.*, **40**, 503-505.

WEAVER, A.

1943. Preventoria in Brazil. *News Item, Internat. J. Leprosy*, **11**, 75.

CHILE

Population: 5,000,782

Area: 296,717

Soule (1944) confirms a report by Suárez that there is no leprosy in Chile.

A report by the Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana (1940) states that Easter Island, belonging to Chile, and 2,000 miles out in the Pacific, is practically a leper colony in which hundreds of leprous persons enjoy unrestricted liberty.

OFICINA SANITARIA PANAMERICANA.

1940. Number of lepers in the world. *Consultas, Bol. Of. San. Panamer.*, Año 19, May, 508-509.

SOULE, M. H.

1944. Information obtained from a personal visit, January 27, 1944.

COLOMBIA

*Population: 9,523,200**Area: 448,794*

Cepeda (1944) reports that on January 1, 1944, 7,470 patients were isolated. There were 4,656 in the Aqua de Dios Leprosarium, 514 in the Cano de Loro Leprosarium, and 2,300 in the Contratacion Leprosarium.

Soule (1944) quotes an estimate by Orozco that the total number of leprosy persons in Colombia is about 20,000.

Londoño (1941) states that of 960 cases discovered in a special survey, 644 were open and 316 closed.

CEPEDA, R.

1944. Personal communication to Perry Burgess. Information obtained and authorized from Dr. Alfonso Orozco of the Ministerio de Trabajo y Prevision Social, Colombia.

LONDOÑO, M. BERNAL.

1941. Report presented at second annual conference of the Anti-leprosy Service, Colombia, 1940. Summary in *Leprosy News and Notes*, *Internat. J. Leprosy*, **9**, 109-111.

SOULE, M. H.

1944. Information obtained from a personal visit, February 29, 1944.

ECUADOR

*Population: 3,085,871**Area: 275,936*

Soule (1944) quotes an estimate by Izquieta that there are 1,000 persons with leprosy in Ecuador. There were 124 patients in the Leprocomio Verde Cruz.

SOULE, M. H.

1944. Information obtained from a personal visit, February 17, 1944.

GUIANA, BRITISH

*Population: 354,219**Area: 89,480*

Rose (1938) states: "The disease affects roughly 2.27 per 1,000, or if cases of incipient leprosy be excluded, 1.5 per 1,000. It has shown a substantial decrease in the last 13 years, probably because of the anti-leprosy campaign launched in 1926."

Muir (1942) reports that there were 374 patients in isolation and an estimated 1,000 unisolated. There is a Colony, and a series of out-patient clinics have been established.

MUIR, E.

1942. *Leprosy in the British West Indies and British Guiana*. *Internat. J. Leprosy*, **10**, 96-106.

ROSE, F. G.

1938. *Leprosy in British Guiana; an experiment in prophylaxis*. Given at the Cairo Conference, 1938. Abstract in *Internat. J. Leprosy*, **6**, 435.

GUIANA, DUTCH

Population: 177,980

Area: 54,291

Wade (1938) states that in Surinam (Dutch Guiana) there are three asylums with nearly 500 patients and an out-patient service for about 300 others. Special interest is taken in children of leprosy patients. Since the population is only about 150,000 the actual prevalence is unusually high, over 5 per 1,000.

WADE, H. W.

1938. South America and leprosy. *Editorial, Internat. J. Leprosy*, 6, 553-560.

GUIANA, FRENCH

Population: 30,906

Area: 34,740

Achard (1940) states that lacking a thorough census it is difficult to say how many cases there actually are in this colony. He quotes a report by Tisseuil that there were 770 known cases. There exist several village settlements. The Acarouany Leprosarium, founded in 1828, still had 36 patients at the time of the report. On the island of St. Louis another leprosarium under the administration of penal authorities had 136 patients, 74 free and 62 prisoners. In Cayenne, a part of the hospital is occupied by leprosy patients; there were about 200 leprosy children in this town.

Delinotte (1939) states that in 1937 there were 609 known leprosy cases.

ACHARD, C.

1940. *Mission en Guyane. Rev. Palud. et méd. trop.*, 51-54. Abstract in *Internat. J. Leprosy*, 1941, 9, 374.

DELINOTTE, H.

1939. The fight against leprosy in the French overseas territories. *Internat. J. Leprosy*, 7, 517-547.

PARAGUAY

Population: 1,040,420

Area: 174,854

Normant (1944) states: "So far as I know, no surveys on leprosy in Paraguay have ever been made; no leprosy census has even been taken."

Boettner (1940) reports that the state leprosarium of Paraguay had about 180 patients. Paraguay has no districts with a great concentration of leprosy.

Wade (1938) states there to be a probable total of 2,000 or more cases.

BOETTNER, V.

1940. *Rev. méd. del Paraguay. Foreign Letters, J. A. M. A.*, 1942, 118, 63.

NORMANT, M. L.

1944. Personal communication to Perry Burgess, July 19, 1944.

WADE, H. W.

1938. South America and leprosy. *Editorial, Internat. J. Leprosy*, 6, 553-560.

PERU

*Population: 7,023,111**Area: 532,000*

Pesce (1939) states that Peru as a whole is little affected. "The important foci are limited to the 'Montana', in which the number of cases is estimated to be not more than 3,000." The construction of a modern leprosarium has been begun in Iquitos, to replace the deficient old San Pablo Leprosarium. There is a dispensary at Andahuaylas.

Soule (1944) cites an estimate made by Pesce that there were 1,835 cases in eastern Peru, 140 in the mountainous regions, and 100 along the coast. This made a total of 2,075.

PESCE, H.

1939. Vencer la lepra. Folleto de Propaganda Sanitaria, editado por la Campaña Antileprosa en Andahuaylas, Cusco, Peru, p. 12. Abstract in *Internat. J. Leprosy*, 1941, **9**, 248.

SOULE, M. H.

1944. Personal communication to Perry Burgess. Information obtained from a personal visit, February 14, 1944.

URUGUAY

*Population: 2,146,545**Area: 72,153*

A report by the Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana (1940) states that there are estimated to be from 500 to 1,000 leprosy cases in Uruguay (1940).

A News Item in the *JOURNAL* (1940) states that statistics of the last 40 years indicate a slow increase in the disease. "The first census in 1898 recorded only 47 cases for the whole republic. This number was increased to 180 in 1905; Rodriguez Guerrero in 1929 concluded that there were around 300 cases; but according to Dr. Cesar O. Arguello, a member of the Commission of Hygiene and Assistance of the Chamber of Deputies, a number four or five times as large would be more correct. A dangerous element in the situation has been the immigration of lepers from other countries, attracted by the benignity of the climate in Uruguay."

NEWS ITEM.

1940. Campaign in Uruguay. *Internat. J. Leprosy*, **8**, 520-521.

OFICINA SANITARIA PANAMERICANA.

1940. Number of lepers in the world. *Consultas, Bol. Of. San. Panamer.*, Año 19, May, 508-509.

VENEZUELA

*Population: 3,839,747**Area: 352,170*

Soule (1944) reports that there were 650 patients at Cabo Blanco hospital, and quotes an estimate by M. Vegas of less than 3,000 cases in the whole country.

Wade (1938) states that apparently leprosy is not really widespread in Venezuela. The two leprosaria together contained about 1,000 patients in 1938. "It is said that there is an especially interesting epidemiological feature in Venezuela

in that, while one of the two main foci of the disease is in the tropical lowlands in the northwest part of the country, the other is high in the mountains where conditions are extremely different."

A News Item in the JOURNAL (1939) is an authority for the following statement from the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance of Venezuela: "In the course of the three years (from 1938) there will be organized a leper colony, at Anare, and the existing hospitals at Cabo Blanco and the Providencia, which are now full, will be enlarged. It is expected that the proposed colony will permit a considerable increase in the number of segregated cases; they now number 1,211, and segregation of new cases has been suspended for lack of space in the leprosaria."

NEWS ITEM.

1939. Venezuela's three-year health plan. *Internat. J. Leprosy*, 7, 287.

SOULE, M. H.

1944. Personal communication to Perry Burgess. Information from a personal visit, February 25, 1944.

WADE, H. W.

1938. South America and leprosy. Editorial, *Internat. J. Leprosy*, 6, 553-560.