

Why Divers Cancel Dives

The chart below is from an online survey completed by 1,982 divers conducted in early 2004 and shows the conditions cited by 383 divers who cancelled dives in 2003 for medical reasons. The total is more than 100% because some divers cancelled dives for more than one medical reason. *David Colvard M.D.*

Beginning with the June 2000 Bonaire Dive Festival, David F. Colvard, M.D., a private psychiatrist and clinical investigator in Raleigh NC, a divemaster, and a Sand Dollar Condominium Resort home-owner, has been conducting online surveys of thousands of divers around the world. His first study on diver panic in

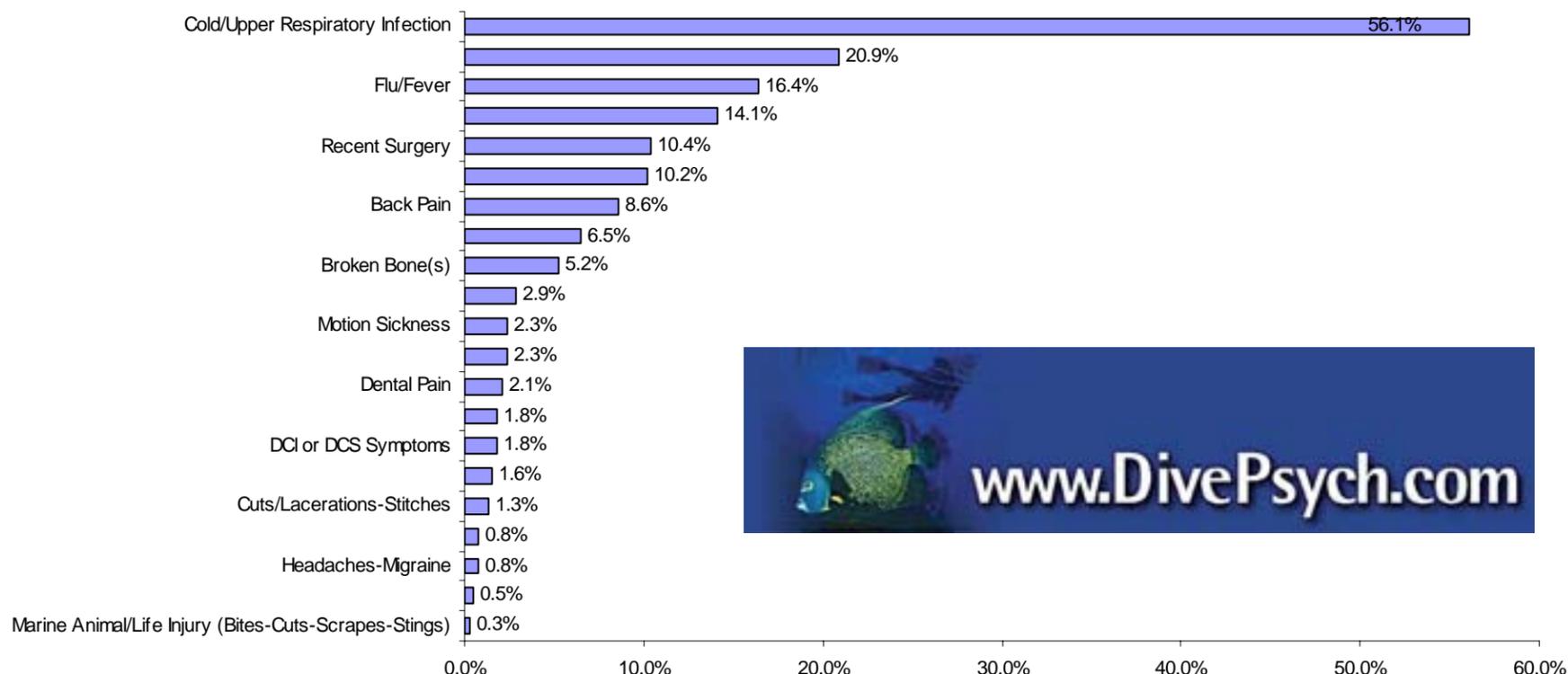


David Colvard

over 12,000 divers was sponsored by Rodale's *Scuba Diving* magazine and was supported by Drew Richardson at PADI. Dr. Colvard presented a poster and abstract at the 35th Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society Scientific Meeting in San Diego, CA, in June 2002. He and his wife Dr. Lynn Colvard, wrote *A Study of Panic in Recreational Divers* for *The Undersea Journal*, (Professional Journal of Professional Association of Diving Instructors), which was the feature article in the winter quarter 2003 issue. He has continued to conduct follow up online surveys of those divers and others on a variety of topics, including PTSD in the divers who survived the Decem-

ber 2004 Southeast Asian tsunami. Dr. Colvard recently completed a study of middle ear pressure equalization using SINUS RINSE™ for NeilMed Pharmaceuticals and represented the company at DEMA Show in Orlando. He has made several presentations to the staff of Divers Alert Network at Duke University Medical Center and is frequently quoted in *Scuba Diving* magazine and elsewhere. He hosts the website www.DivePsych.com which provides evidence-based information for divers on psychological and stress factors in scuba divers. For fun David enters underwater photography competitions.

Medical Reasons Divers Cancelled Dives in 2003*



(*Total is more than 100% because some divers had more than one problem)



Barracuda photo by Albert Bianculli

Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...
Barracudas 'dress' for their grooming appointments?

Barracudas, if large enough, can inspire fear and respect in the bravest of adventurers. But when it comes time for their cleaning, barracudas are as gentle as pussycats. If you've ever seen a barracuda turn very dark (instead of its normal silver color) and hover over a coral head, then you've witnessed a barracuda getting cleaned. Many fish change colors as a cue to cleaners that they're ready for their daily (or hourly) grooming. The

difficult part about understanding fish behavior is that you must be

familiar with the fish's normal coloration to be aware that they have changed colors and that indeed something interesting is taking place. Then you can observe the fish and search for the tiny cleaners flitting about on the fish's body or in and out of its mouth or gills. Now if you see a barracuda all dressed up in his 'cleaning suit', you know what's going on. *Caren Eckrich*

Biologist Caren Eckrich founded and runs *Sea & Discover*, Bonaire's marine education center specializing in guided dives and snorkels for adults and adventure programs for kids. You may call her at 717-5322.

