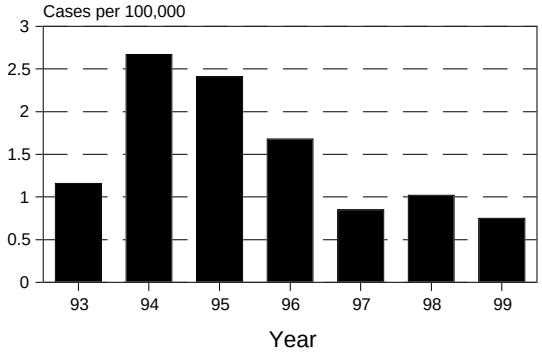
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	69
Annual Incidence[a]	
LA County	0.75
California	0.84
United States	0.87
Age at Onset	
Mean	36
Median	37
Range	1-64 yrs
Case Fatality	
LA County	0.0%
United States	0.0%

[a]Cases per 100,000 population.

Figure 15
Cryptosporidiosis
Incidence Rates by Year
Los Angeles County, 1993-1999



ETIOLOGY

Cryptosporidiosis is caused by ingestion of cysts of the parasite *Cryptosporidium parvum*.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

Cryptosporidiosis has been an AIDS-defining disease since 1983. The extent of HIV infection and other cryptosporidiosis risk factors has not been previously quantified. Reported cases have fallen since the advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy.

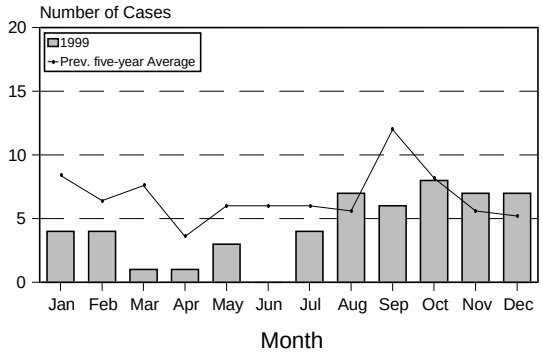
STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: The rate of cryptosporidiosis is at its lowest since 1997 with 0.75 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 15).

Seasonality: Cases were below the previous five-year average in every month except August, November and December (Figure 16). The typical peak seen in late summer with waterborne infections did not occur.

Age: The incidence of cryptosporidiosis was greatest in middle-aged adults 35 to 54 years of age, followed by the 45-54 aged group (Figure 17).

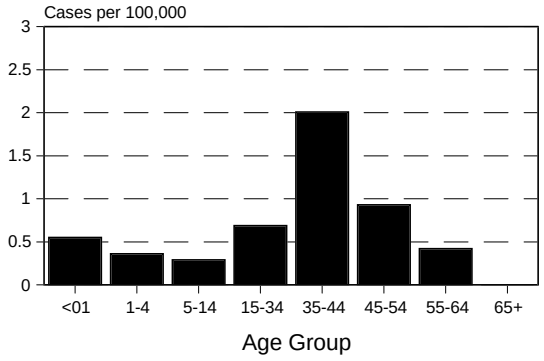
Figure 16
Cryptosporidiosis
Cases by Month of Onset
Los Angeles County, 1999



Sex: The male-to-female rate ratio increased to 4.8:1 compared to the 1998 ratio of 2.7:1.

Race/Ethnicity: Whites had the highest rate at 0.94 per 100,000 population (Figure 18), a slight drop from 1998. Hispanics followed with a rate of 0.66 per 100,000 population. The number of cases among Blacks (4) were too small for meaningful interpretation. No cases occurred among Asians. This variable was unknown for nine cases (13%).

Figure 17
Cryptosporidiosis
Incidence Rates by Age Group
Los Angeles County, 1999

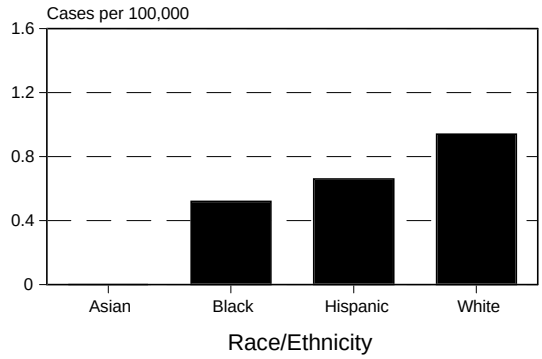


Location: Hollywood-Wilshire, Central, and Whittier Districts had the highest rates (5.7, 2.9, and 1.2 cases per 100,000, respectively). Hollywood-Wilshire district had the second highest AIDS incidence rate in 1999. Eight health districts reported cases and six districts reported no cases at all.

COMMENTS

Cases among persons with AIDS have decreased in other jurisdictions as a result of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) which has improved their immune status. This likely explains much of the cryptosporidiosis rate reduction seen in LAC during the last two years.

Figure 18
Cryptosporidiosis
Incidence Rates by Race/Ethnicity
Los Angeles County, 1998



Additional risk information was available on 52 cases (Table 1). Animal contact was the most commonly named risk factor, occurring in 37%. Foreign travel was reported by 29% of cases, outdoor camping or swimming was reported by 21% of cases and 15% were immigrants. Further details such as type of animal or nature of animal exposure, swimming location, country visited, or date of immigration were not provided. All other risk factors occurred in less than 10% of cases.

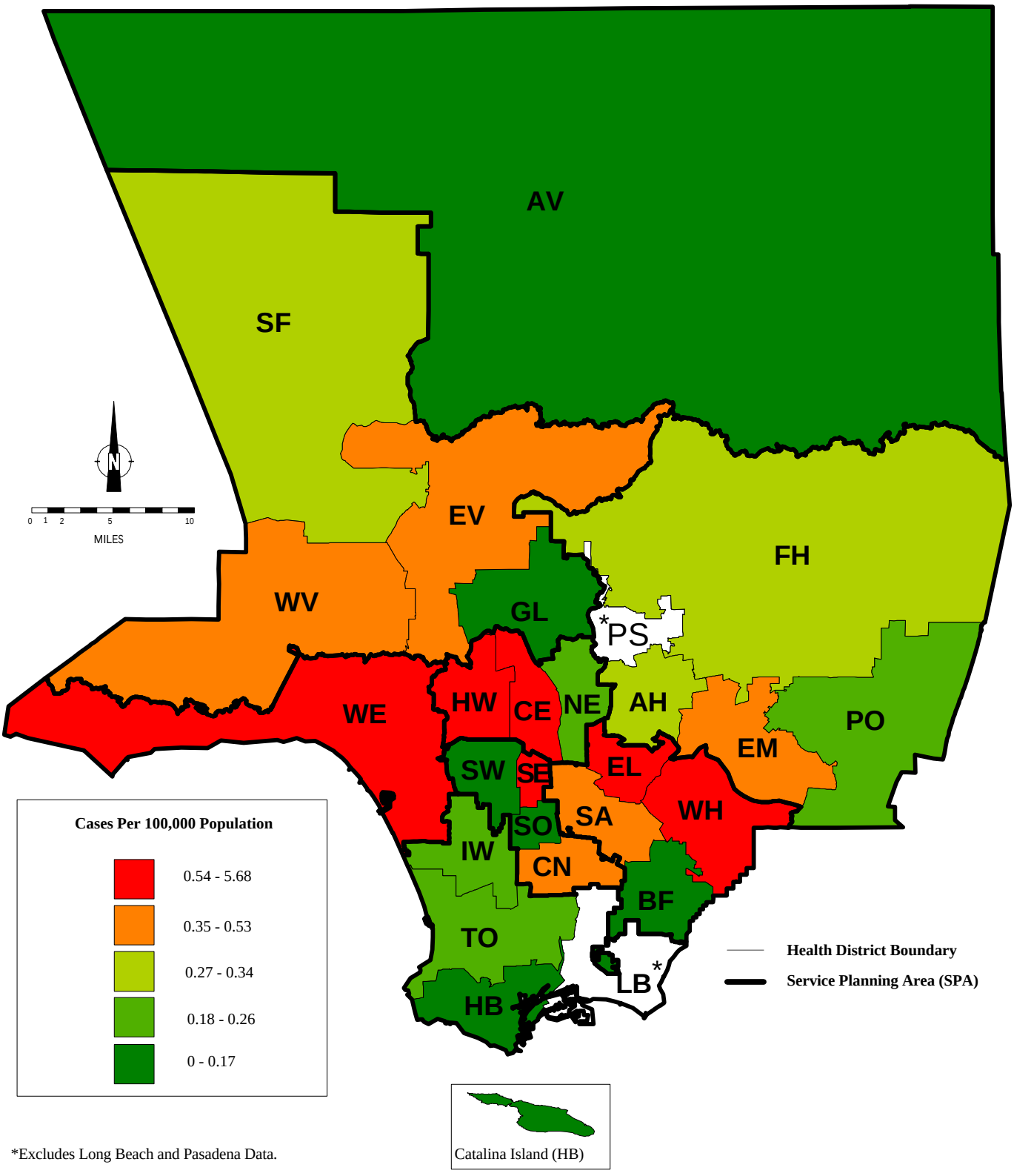
HIV infection was acknowledged by 36 cases (69%). Males were more likely than females to be HIV-positive (86% vs. 14%, OR=4.82, p=0.04). Male HIV-positive cases were more likely than male HIV-negative cases to admit to having male sexual partners (79% vs. 21%, OR=5.75 p=0.04).

These findings suggest that, while environmental sources may be the cause of many cryptosporidiosis cases, personal behaviors such as sexual activity also may play a role in transmission in Los Angeles County.

Table 1. Risk Factors for Cryptosporidiosis Cases by HIV Infection Status and Gender
Los Angeles County, 1999

	HIV Infected			Not HIV Infected		
Risk Factors	Male n=31	Female n=5	Total n=36	Male n=9	Female n=7	Total n=16
Immigrant	6/31	2/5	8/36	0/9	0	0/16
Contact to Case	2/31	0/5	2/36	0/9	1	1/16
Foreign Travel	6/31	2/5	8/36	3/9	4	7/16
Untreated Water	2/32	0/1	2/33	2/9	1	3/16
Developmentally Disabled	0/31	0/5	0/36	0/9	0	0/16
Day Care Center	0/31	0/5	0/36	0/9	0	0/16
Colonic Irrigation	2/31	0/5	2/36	0/9	2	0/16
Camping, Swimming	5/31	1/5	6/36	2/9	3	5/16
Unpasteurized Milk	1/31	0/5	1/36	0/9	0	0/16
Plumbing Trouble	4/31	0/5	4/36	1/9	0	1/16
Contact with Animals	13/31	3/5	16/36	3/9	0	3/16
Homosexual	23/29	0/4	23/33	3/8	0	3/15

MAP 3. Cryptosporidiosis
Rates by Health District, Los Angeles County, 1999*



*Excludes Long Beach and Pasadena Data.