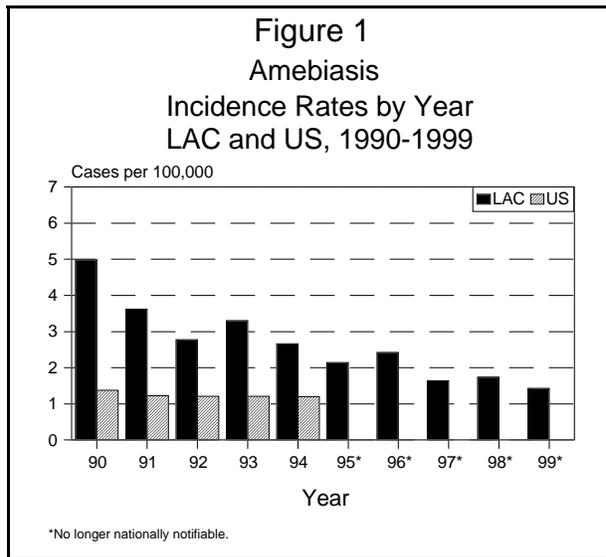


AMEBIASIS

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	131
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	1.43
United States	N/A
Age at Onset	
Mean	35.5
Median	36
Range	3-84 yrs
Case Fatality	
LA County	0.0%
United States	N/A

^aCases per 100,000 population.



ETIOLOGY

Amebiasis is caused by the protozoan parasite *Entamoeba histolytica*.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

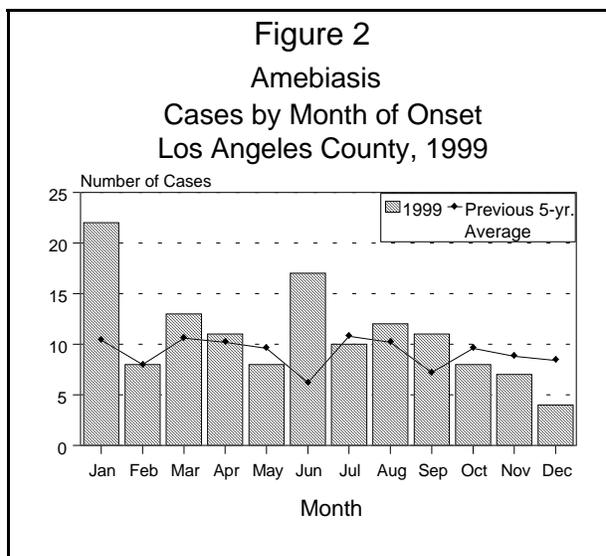
The 1999 amebiasis rate continued its gradual drop to the lowest rate since 1983. The disease occurs primarily in Hispanic children, although a substantial number of cases are seen among young and middle-aged White males in the Hollywood-Wilshire District. No amebiasis outbreaks were reported in 1999.

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: The 1999 amebiasis incidence of 1.43 per 100,000 population is the second lowest on record in Los Angeles County (Figure 1).

Seasonality: Monthly case counts followed the five-year trend, except in January and June where the number of cases substantially exceeded the expected (Figure 2). The January cases included a cluster (n=5) of Hispanic adults 19-50 years of age in the San Antonio District.

Age: Compared to 1997 and 1998 rates, all age groups but two had lower incidence rates in



1999. Rates rose again in 1999 for the second year among children 5-14, and the 1999 rate among the oldest age group exceeds the 1997 rate after falling in 1998 (Figure 3). As in previous years, nearly one quarter of Hispanic cases (24%) were under the age of 15. Only half of the pediatric cases (0-14 years) were Hispanic (48%), compared to three-quarters in the last two years.

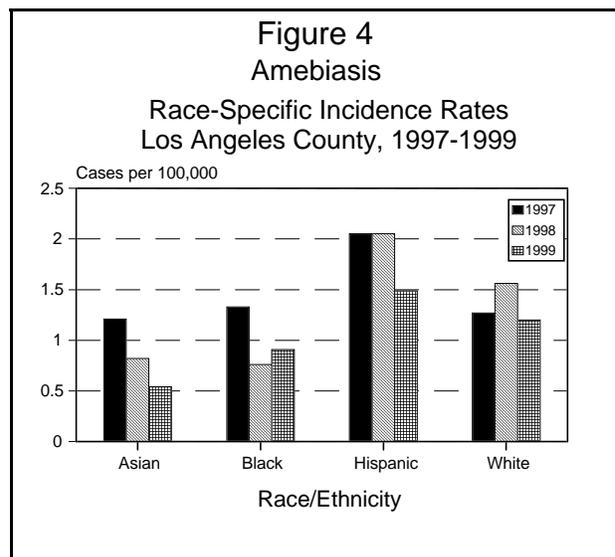
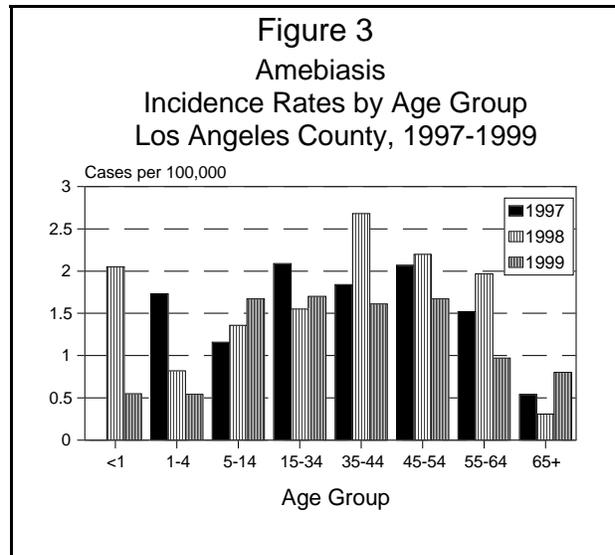
Sex: For the third year the male-to-female rate ratio was below 2:1, at 1.5:1, continuing a trend started in the early 1990s.

Race/Ethnicity: Hispanics experienced the highest rate of amebiasis (1.5 per 100,000 population). Rates fell within each group except Blacks, but in all racial groups the 1999 rates fell below those for 1997 (Figure 4). Hispanics comprised the majority of cases in most health districts; in Hollywood-Wilshire District, 81% of cases were White.

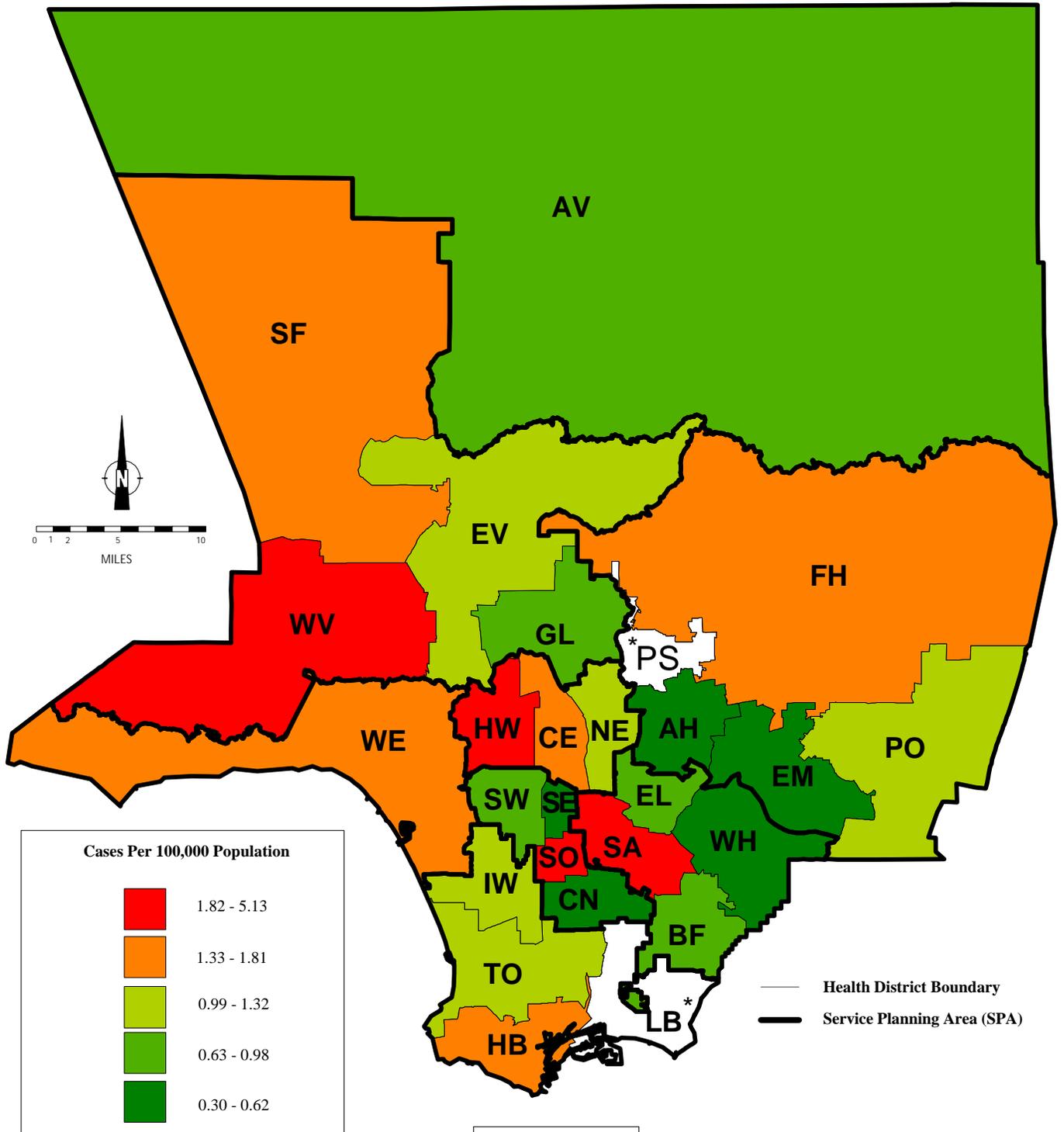
Location: The South Health District had the highest rate in 1999 (5.1 per 100,000), with nine reported cases; eight were Hispanic. Hollywood-Wilshire, as usual, also had a much higher rate than average, 4.5 per 100,000 with 23 cases. Three other districts counted more than six cases, West Valley (16), San Antonio (8), and West (8) (Map 1).

COMMENTS

The most commonly ordered parasite tests detect both *Entamoeba histolytica* and *E. dispar*, a non-pathogenic amebic species. The impact of new tests that can distinguish between these two species is unknown since such tests are rarely ordered. Amebiasis was removed from the national list of notifiable diseases in 1995 by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.



MAP 1. Amebiasis Rates by Health District, Los Angeles County, 1999*



*Excludes Long Beach and Pasadena Data.

