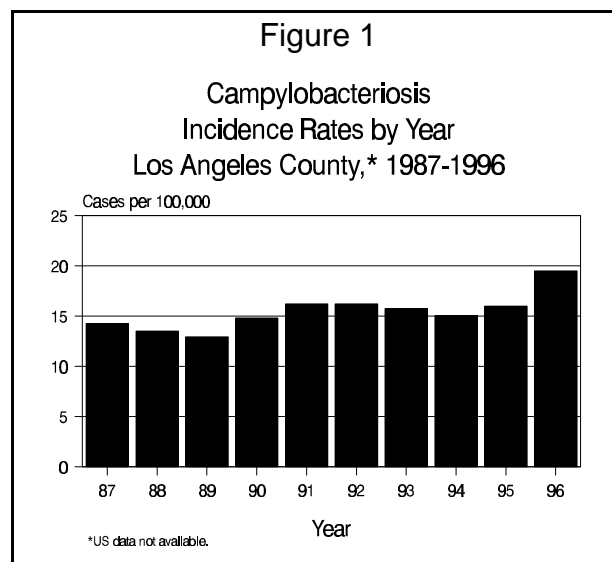




CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	1,731
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	19.5
United States	N/A
Age at Onset	
Mean	27.9
Median	25
Range	< 1 - 95 yrs.
Case Fatality	
LA County	0.2%
United States	N/A

^aCases per 100,000 population.



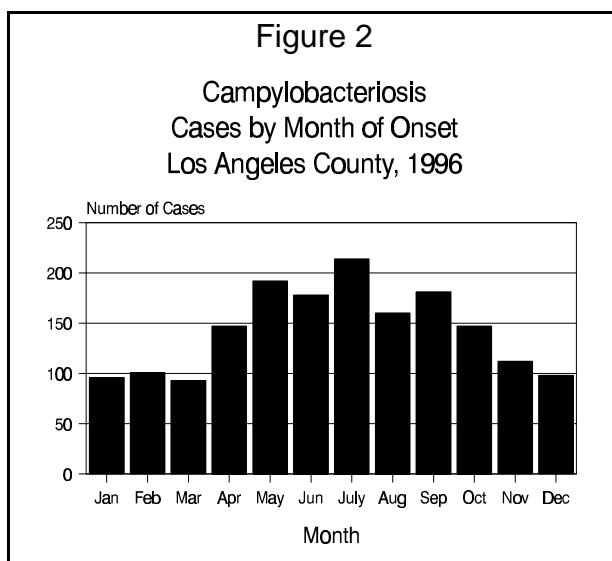
ETIOLOGY

Campylobacter, a gram-negative bacillus.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

Campylobacteriosis rates increased over all in 1996. Rates remained highest in the very young and significantly higher in Hispanic children under age five. Though the numbers among Asians is comparatively low, their rate increased significantly over the 1995 rate. *C. jejuni* was overwhelmingly the species most frequently identified.

STRATIFIED DATA





Trends: Campylobacteriosis rate of 19.5 cases per 100,000 population, the highest in the past ten years, continues a two-year upward trend and represents an increase of 22% over the 1995 rate (Figure 1).

Seasonality: The number of cases typically increased in the spring, with incidence peaking during July (n= 214). Incidence was lowest during the winter months (Figure 2).

Age: Rates increased for the second year since 1994 in all age groups, except among infants less than one year of age where the rate decreased 16% since 1995. Still, the rate among infants (52.7 per 100,000) was the highest of any age group (Figure 3). The age-adjusted rate for Hispanic infants (74.8 per 100,000) was the highest overall.

Sex: The male-to-female ratio was 1.3:1.

Race/Ethnicity: Campylobacteriosis age-adjusted rates were highest among Whites (24.3 per 100,000) followed by Hispanics (18.2 per 100,000). Rates increased in all ethnic groups - 55% among Asians, 44% among Blacks, 11% among Hispanics, and 32% among Whites (Figure 4).

Location: Health districts with the highest rates in 1996 were the same as those in 1995: Harbor (42.1 per 100,000), San Fernando (30.1 per 100,000), and Torrance (26.1 per 100,000). While the case rate in the Torrance District was similar to that in 1995, the San Fernando rate increased by 20% and the Harbor rate increased by 40% in 1996.

COMMENTS

Data analysis revealed no definitive reasons for the 22% increase in the campylobacter

Figure 3

Campylobacteriosis
Incidence Rates by Age Group
Los Angeles County, 1995-1996

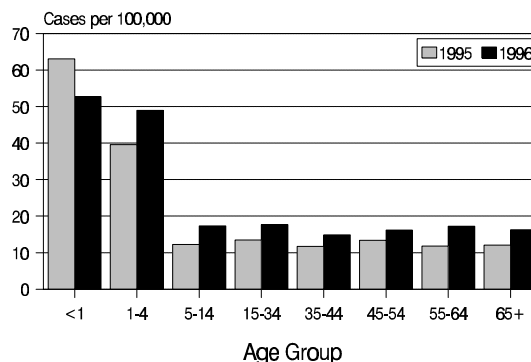
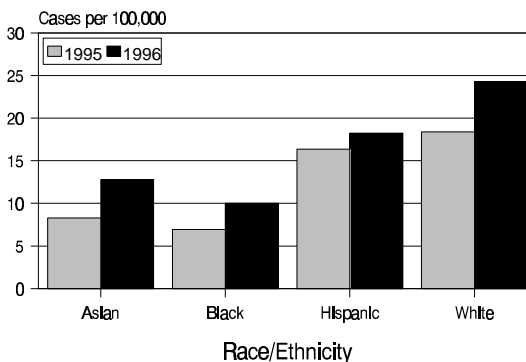


Figure 4

Campylobacteriosis
Incidence Rates by Race/Ethnicity
Los Angeles County, 1995-1996





incidence rate, which reflects a general increase seen throughout all ethnic groups and ages, except infants. A close examination of the dietary customs of Hispanic infants and young children may be helpful in identifying factors which contribute to the disproportionately high rate of campylobacteriosis in this population. The 55% increase noted among Asians may be exaggerated by their comparatively small number of cases ($n=132$), and should be interpreted with caution.

No clusters or confirmed outbreaks of campylobacteriosis were reported in 1996, although it was suspected in one restaurant-associated foodborne illness.