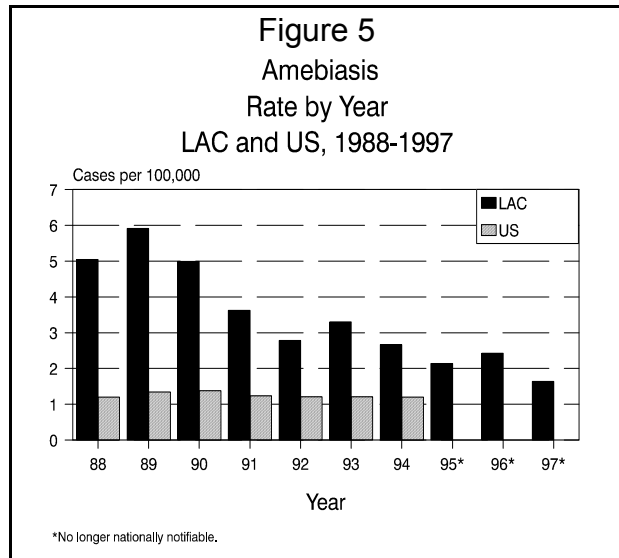


## AMEBIASIS

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	148
Annual Incidence <sup>a</sup>	
LA County	1.64
United States	N/A
Age at Onset	
Mean	32
Median	32
Range	2-83 yrs
Case Fatality	
LA County	0.0%
United States	N/A

<sup>a</sup> Cases per 100,000 population.



### ETIOLOGY

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

### DISEASE ABSTRACT

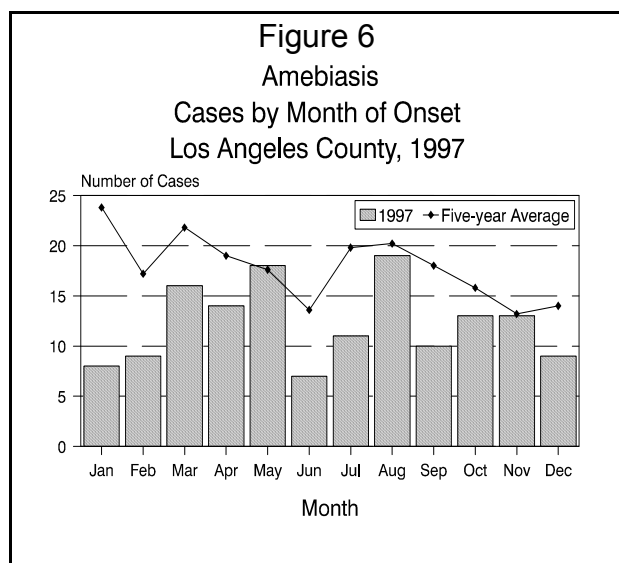
The 1997 amebiasis rate has continued its historic downward trend since 1983.

### STRATIFIED DATA

**Trends:** The 1997 amebiasis incidence of 1.64 per 100,000 population is the lowest on record in Los Angeles County (Figure 5).

**Seasonality:** Monthly case counts were equal to or lower than the five-year monthly averages. The January peak seen for the past several years was absent (Figure 6); this peak has been hypothesized to be associated with holiday travel to endemic countries, but no data exist for support.

**Age:** Rates dropped in every age group except the 1-to-4-year-old bracket. The highest rates were found among adults from 15 to 54 years of age. There were zero cases in the <1 year-



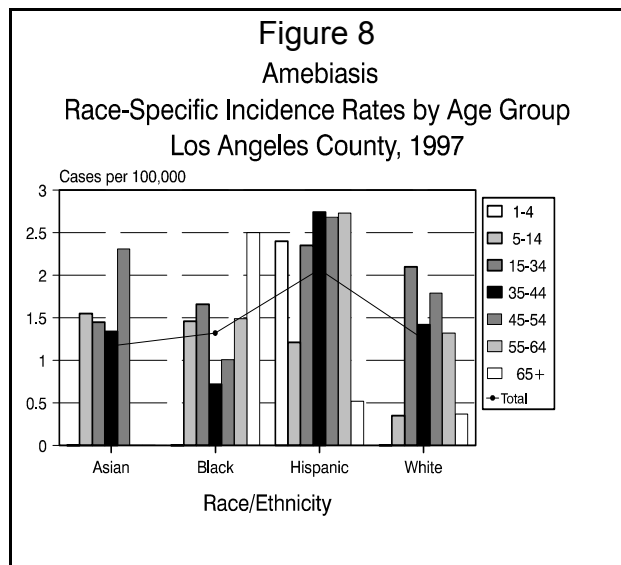
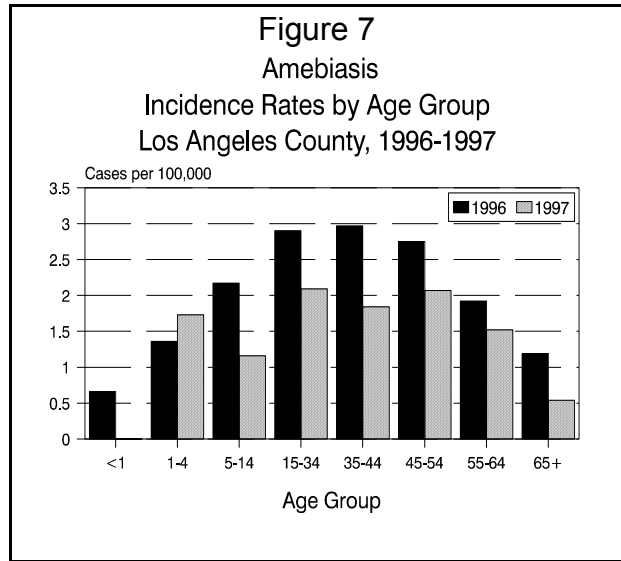
age group (Figure 7). Among Hispanic cases, 25% were under the age of 15; as in past years, 75% of pediatric cases (0-14 years) were Hispanic.

**Sex:** For the first time the male-to-female rate ratio dropped below 2:1. This probably represents a continued drop among men who have sex with men, a pattern first noted in the mid-1980s.

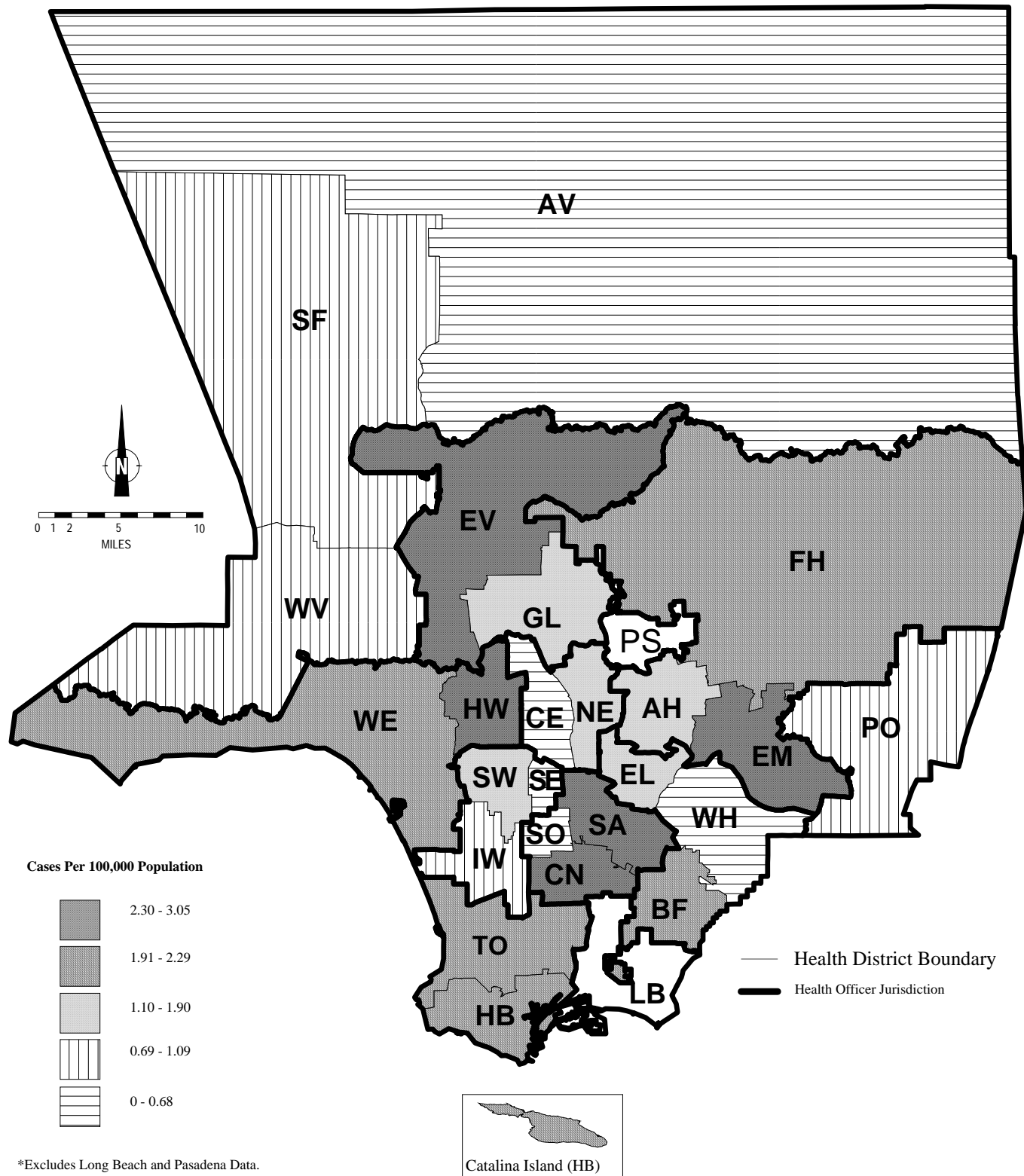
**Race/Ethnicity:** Hispanics continued to experience the highest rate of amebiasis (2.05 per 100,000 population). Overall, Blacks, Whites, and Asians had rates similar to those of the previous year (1.33, 1.27, and 1.21 per 100,000, respectively). However, marked differences existed between age groups within each racial group (Figure 8). Among Blacks, for example, older teens and young adults ages 15-34 had the lowest rate, while among Hispanics this occurred among children 5-14 years of age; this age group among Whites had the highest rate.

**Location:** Although amebiasis incidence in the Hollywood-Wilshire Health District dropped from 9.9 to 3.1 per 100,000 population, it remained the most affected district. Other districts reporting a high incidence of amebiasis included East Valley, Compton, and San Antonio. The rate in Central District dropped from 4.3 to 0.7 cases per 100,000 (Map 2).

**Comments:** Amebiasis was removed from the national list of notifiable diseases in 1995 by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. In Los Angeles County, risk factor data have not been systematically collected, making further analysis difficult.



## MAP 2. Amebiasis Rates by Health District, Los Angeles County, 1997\*



\*Excludes Long Beach and Pasadena Data.