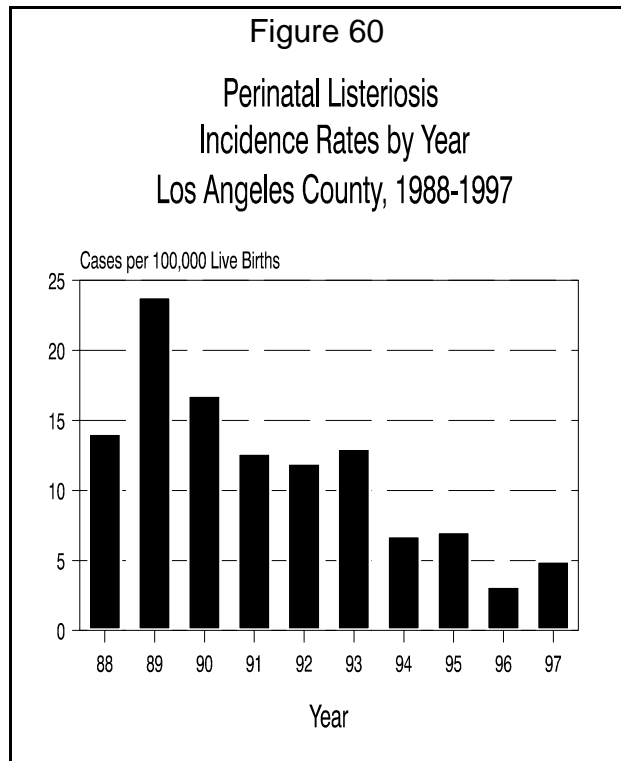


## LISTERIOSIS, PERINATAL

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	8
Annual Incidence <sup>a</sup>	
LA County	5.0
United States	N/A
Age at Onset (Maternal)	
Mean	32
Median	31
Range	23-46 yrs
(Infant Gestational)	
Mean	31.4
Median	32.0
Range	14-36 wks
Case Fatality	
LA County <sup>b</sup>	20%
United States	N/A



<sup>a</sup> Cases per 100,000 live births.  
<sup>b</sup> Includes 1 fetal death.

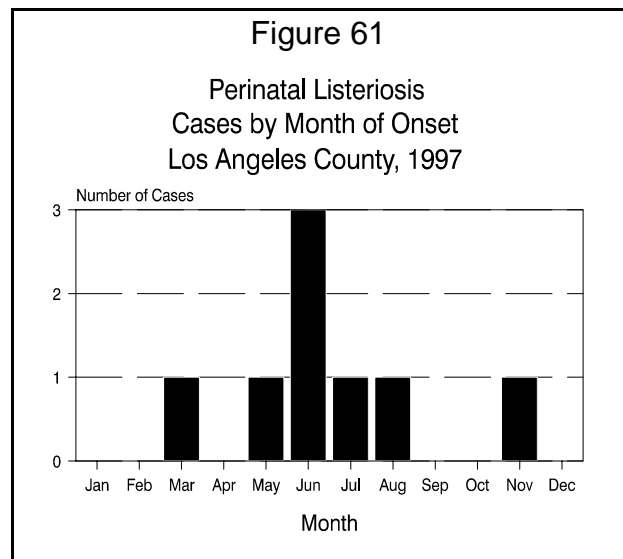
### ETIOLOGY

*Listeria monocytogenes* is a gram-positive bacterium.

### DISEASE ABSTRACT

A perinatal listeriosis case is defined as a pregnant woman or her fetus or neonate with infection of a sterile site with *Listeria monocytogenes* before or at the time of delivery or whose infant was diagnosed with *L. monocytogenes* infection between the ages of 0 and 6 days.

The overall perinatal listeriosis incidence rates have continued to decline since the epidemic peak in 1989 although the 1997 rate was higher than 1996.



## STRATIFIED DATA

**Trends:** The annual incidence of perinatal listeriosis had been decreasing since 1989; however, the rate increased 56% between 1996 and 1997, from 3.2 per 100,000 live births in 1996 to 5.0 cases per 100,000 live births (Figure 60).

**Seasonality:** None (Figure 61).

**Age:** Perinatal listeriosis incidence was greatest among women aged 35 and older (8.7 per 100,000 live births) followed by women aged 30 to 34 (7.9 per 100,000 live births) (Figure 62).

**Sex:** The male-to-female rate ratio among fetuses/infants was 1:1.

**Race/Ethnicity:** Among all races, Black women had the highest disease rate (6.9 per 100,000 live births). Hispanics and Whites had similar rates (2.0 and 1.6 per 100,000 live births). No Asian women had perinatal listeriosis (Figure 63).

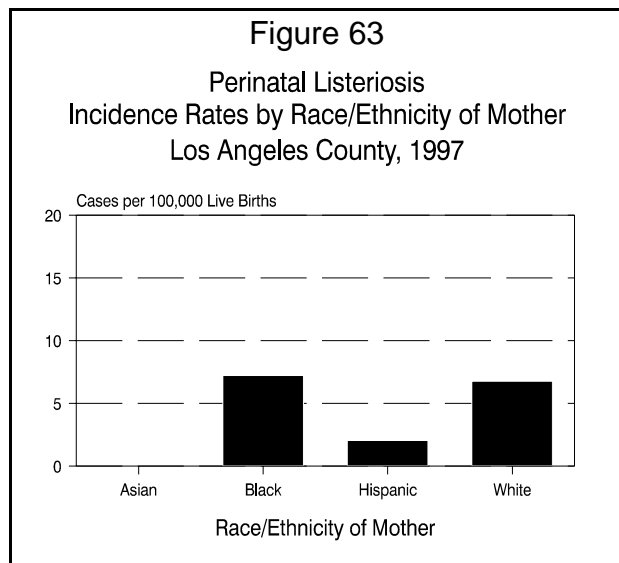
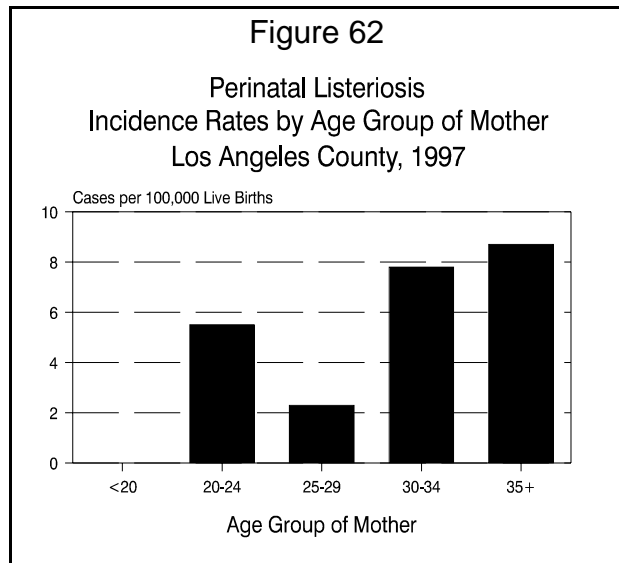
**Location:** Incidence rates were greatest in South, West, and Hollywood-Wilshire Health Districts (2.7, 2.1, and 1.9 per 100,000 live births, respectively).

**Type of Delivery:** Three of the deliveries were vaginal, and three were by caesarean section. Spontaneous abortion occurred in two cases.

**Culture Sites:** Sites of *Listeria monocytogenes* isolation were blood (100% and 63% for mother and infant/fetus, respectively) and placenta (38% in mother) (Table 3).

**Multiple Gestation:** None.

**Late Onset:** In 1997, there was no cases classified as late-onset.



**Table 3: Frequency (%)<sup>a</sup> of *Listeria monocytogenes* Isolates from Mothers and Infants, Los Angeles County, 1997**

Culture Site	Mother (n=8)		Infant (n=8)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Blood	8	100	5	63
Placenta	3	38	-	

<sup>a</sup> Percentages may exceed 100% as cultures were obtained from more than one site in some cases.

## PREVENTION

Studies have implicated soft cheeses (Mexican-style, Brie, Feta), food from store deli counters, undercooked chicken, paté, and pork tongue in jelly. These foods, as well as raw dairy products, other undercooked meats, and unwashed fruits and vegetables should be avoided by pregnant women. Cheese sold by street vendors or obtained from relatives or friends in other countries where food processing quality assurance is unknown especially should be avoided by pregnant women.