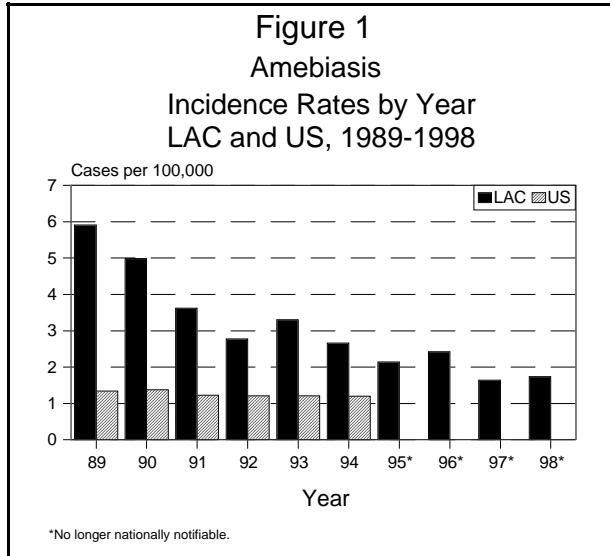


AMEBIASIS

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	158
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	1.74
United States	N/A
Age at Onset	
Mean	32.6
Median	34
Range	0-77 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

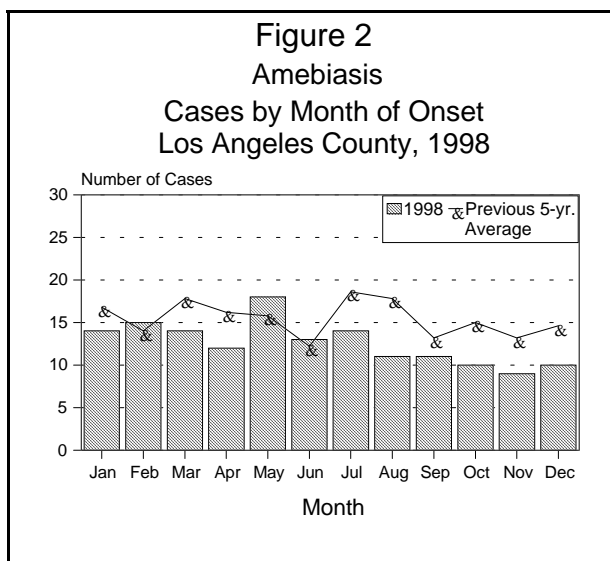
The 1998 amebiasis rate rose slightly but remained at the second lowest rate since 1983.

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: The 1998 amebiasis incidence of 1.74 per 100,000 population is the second lowest on record in Los Angeles County (Figure 1).

Seasonality: Monthly case counts were generally lower than the previous five-year monthly averages. Most cases occurred during the first half of the year (Figure 2).

Age: Rates rose in 1998 among children 5-14 and all adult age groups from 35 to 64 years (Figure 3). The sharp rise in the infant rate represents only 2 cases. As in previous years, nearly one quarter of Hispanic cases, 23%, were under the age of 15, and three quarters of pediatric cases (0-14 years) were Hispanic (76%).



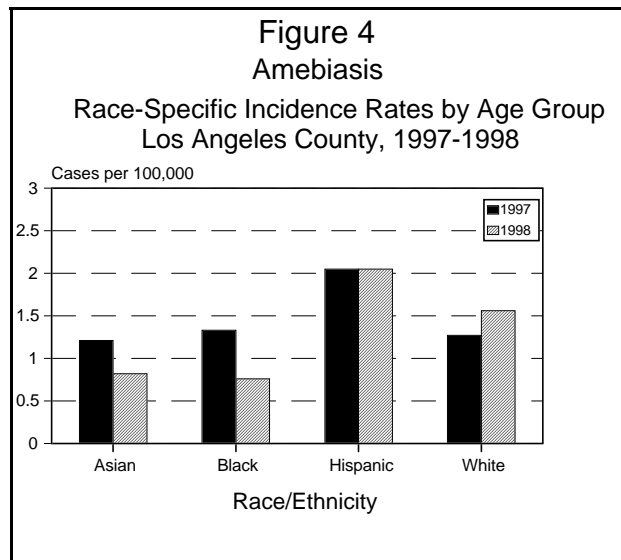
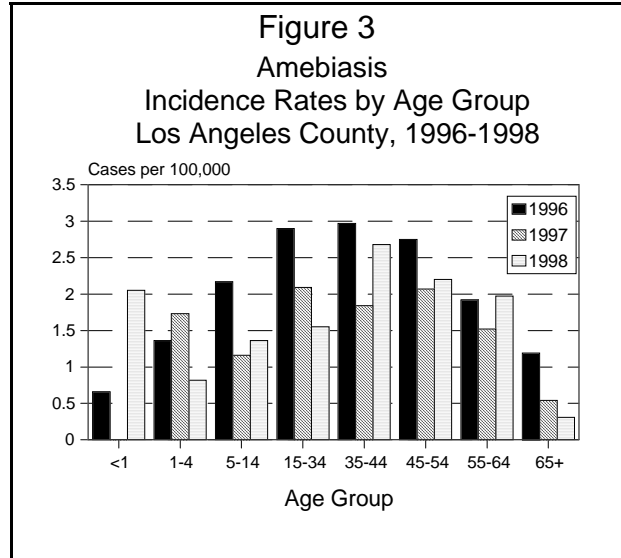
Sex: For the second year the male-to-female rate ratio was below 2:1, at 1.7:1, continuing a trend started in the early 1990s.

Race/Ethnicity: Hispanics continued to experience the highest rate of amebiasis (2.07 per 100,000 population), but the rate remained stable in 1998. Asians and Blacks had rates lower than those of the previous year, but the rate for Whites increased 23% from 1.27 to 1.56 per 100,000 (Figure 4).

Location: The Central Health District had the highest rate in 1998 (4.4 per 100,000), with 13 reported cases. Just 2 cases (0.7 per 100,000) were reported in 1997 and 14 in 1996 (4.3 per 100,000). This suggests 1997's drop was artificial, perhaps due to decreased reporting or reduced access to medical care. Hollywood-Wilshire and Southeast Health Districts also had much higher rates than average, 4.1 and 3.8 per 100,000, respectively (Map 1).

COMMENTS

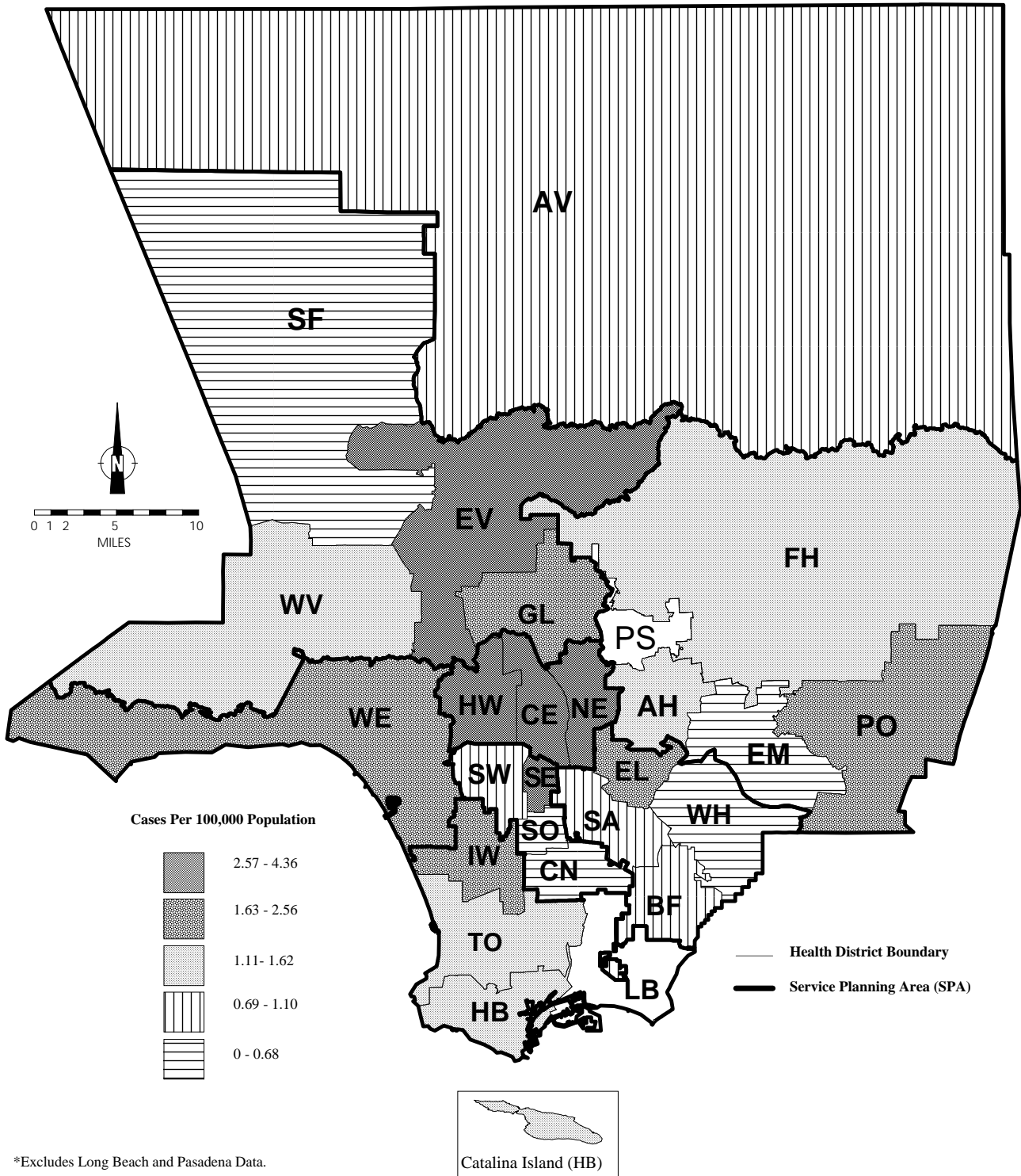
Amebiasis was removed from the national list of notifiable diseases in 1995 by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. The impact of a new laboratory test that distinguishes *Entamoeba histolytica* from *E. dispar*, a non-pathogenic amebic species, is unknown.



Map

MAP 1. Amebiasis

Rates by Health District, Los Angeles County, 1998*



*Excludes Long Beach and Pasadena Data.