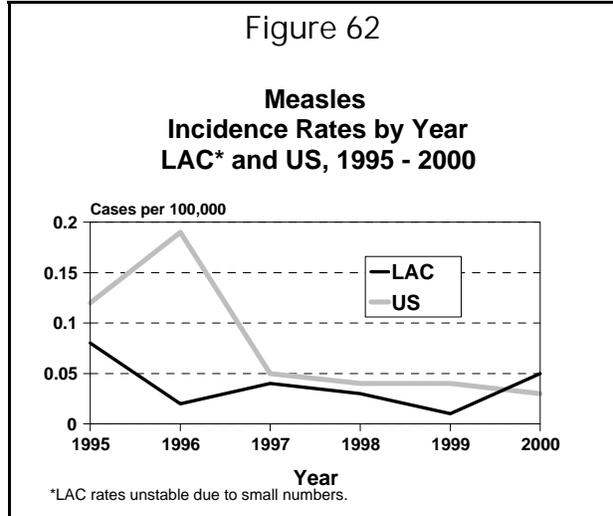


MEASLES

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	5
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	0.05 ^b
California	0.06
United States	0.03
Age at Onset	
Mean	16 years
Range	1 - 29 years
Case Fatality	
LA County	0.0%
United States	N/A



^a Cases per 100,000 population.

^b Rates based on less than 19 observations are unreliable.

ETIOLOGY

Measles is a vaccine-preventable disease caused by a paramyxovirus. Measles is transmitted by contact with respiratory droplets or by airborne spread. Common symptoms of measles include fever, cough, conjunctivitis, runny nose, photophobia, Koplik spots, and a generalized maculopapular rash. Severe complications are rare, but can include acute encephalitis and death from respiratory or neurologic complications. Immunocompromised individuals are more likely to develop complications.

The minimum clinical criteria for measles are fever of at least 101°F, a generalized rash lasting at least three days, and either cough, coryza, conjunctivitis, or photophobia. A case is confirmed by positive IgM titers or a four-fold increase in acute and convalescent IgG titers.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

- Although measles incidence increased in 2000 compared to the previous four years, the incidence rate remained at a low level in LAC.
- Measles incidence in LAC has decreased substantially since 1990, when the incidence reached 50 cases per 100,000 population.
- Of the 5 cases, 4 were not vaccinated against measles.

STRATIFIED DATA

In 2000, 5 confirmed measles cases were reported, 4 of whom were linked together as part of a cluster of cases in the Bellflower area of LAC during May and June.

Vaccination Status: Only one case had documented evidence of receiving the measles vaccine. All cases were aged over one year and were eligible to receive the MMR vaccine.

Importation Status: None of these cases were linked to an imported case and none had any recent travel or known contact with international travelers. Indigenous measles transmission is considered to have been eliminated in the US.

Hospitalization: Four cases were hospitalized, with an average length of stay of 5 days. One case was pregnant and gave birth two days after rash onset. No other complications were reported.

COMMENTS

The 2000 measles cluster included unvaccinated siblings aged 1 and 3 years. No source of infection could be identified for these siblings. While hospitalized, these cases infected a 24-year-old hospital employee. The index cases also infected a 9-month-old from Long Beach while this infant was visiting their home. A 29-year-old LAC resident developed measles after visiting the 9-month-old infant in a hospital. With the exception of the 9-month-old infant from Long Beach, all cases in this cluster could have been prevented with the measles vaccine.

An estimated 99% of individuals who receive two doses of the MMR vaccine will develop immunity to measles.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional information about measles is available from the National Immunization Program at www.cdc.gov/nip, the Immunization Action Coalition at www.immunize.org, and the Acute Communicable Disease Control website at <http://lapublichealth.org/acd/procs/b73/b73index.htm>.