

LISTERIOSIS, NONPERINATAL

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	24
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	0.26
United States	N/A
Age at Onset	
Mean	63
Median	71
Range	10-86 yrs
Case Fatality	
LA County	21%
United States	N/A

^aCases per 100,000 population.
N/A - not available.

ETIOLOGY

Listeria monocytogenes, a gram-positive bacterium.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

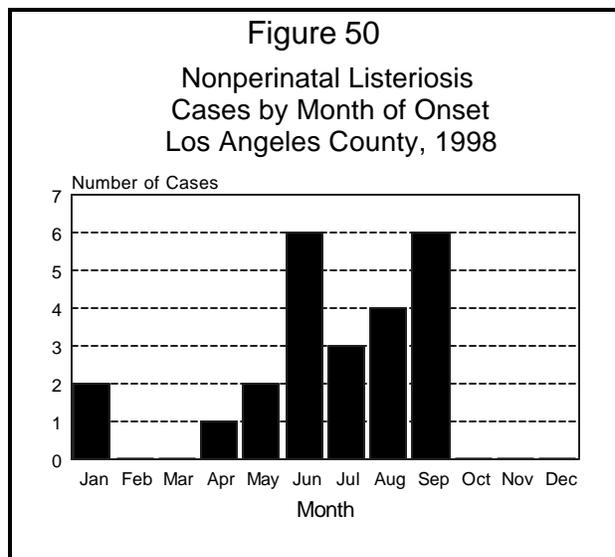
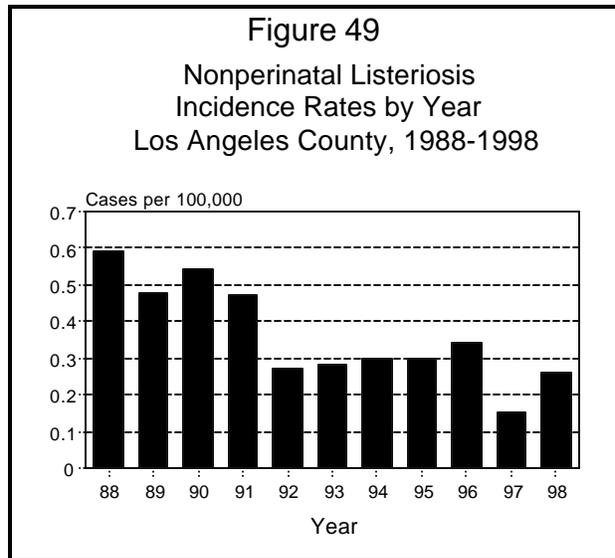
Nonperinatal listeriosis usually manifests itself as meningoencephalitis and/or septicemia. It affects elderly and immunocompromised persons, such as those afflicted with cancer or HIV, and those on immunosuppressive therapy.

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: After a considerable drop in 1997 the incidence of nonperinatal listeriosis in 1998 (0.26 cases per 100,000) continued on a similar level as in the 5 years prior to 1997 (Figure 49).

Seasonality: Consistent with prior years, more reported cases occurred in summer than in any other season (Figure 50).

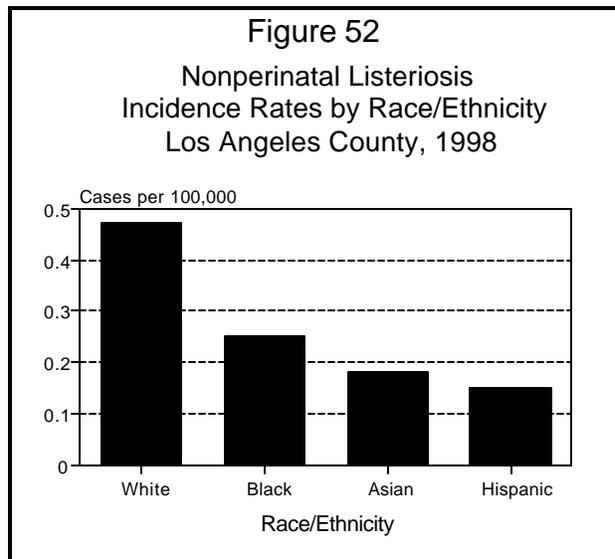
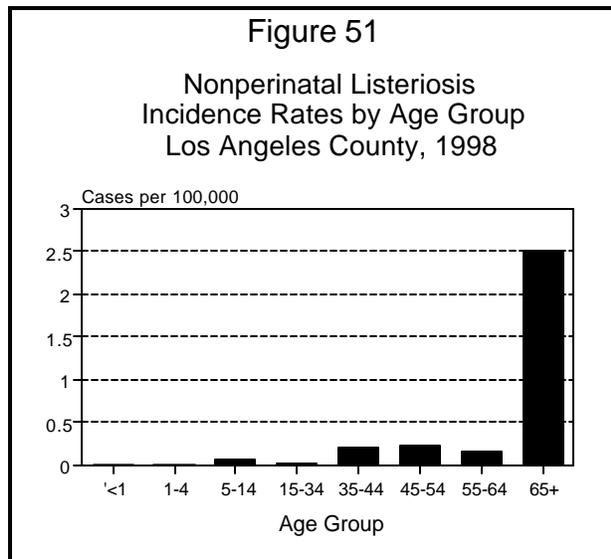
Age: Sixty-seven percent of cases were older than 65 years resulting by far in the highest rate for nonperinatal listeriosis (2.51 per 100,000 population). This is 10 times the rate of 45- to 54-year-old age group (0.23 per 100,000; Figure 51).



Sex: The male-to-female rate ratio was 1:0.8.

Race/Ethnicity: In 1998, Whites had the highest incidence rate of nonperinatal listeriosis (0.47 per 100,000 population). Blacks had the second highest rate (0.25 per 100,000), followed by Asians (0.18 per 100,000) and Hispanics (0.15 per 100,000; Figure 52).

Location: Glendale Health District had the highest rates (1.2 per 100,000), followed by West and Southeast Health Districts (0.79 and 0.64 per 100,000, respectively).



Predisposing Conditions and Medical Risk Factors: Sixteen of 24 cases (67%) were older than 65 years of age, 9 (38%) had received antibiotics prior to the onset of listeriosis, 8 (33%) had cancer, 4 (17%) had kidney disease, and 3 each (13%) had diabetes, an autoimmune disease or were on steroid therapy (Table 4). Four (17%) had no identified risk factors.

Outcome: Five of 24 cases in 1998 died for a case-fatality ratio of 21%.

Culture Sites: *Listeria monocytogenes* was isolated in blood (n=19 [79%]) and cerebrospinal fluid (n=5 [21%]).

COMMENTS

In 1990, the FDA instituted a policy that meat products must not harbor any *Listeria* bacteria (“zero-tolerance”). In subsequent years, we have seen a continuous decline in nonperinatal listeriosis. Consistent with previous years, the majority of nonperinatal listeriosis cases had predisposing factors or medical risk factors, such as old age, prior antibiotic therapy or cancer. The 1998 multistate outbreak of listeriosis associated with hot dogs did not affect Los Angeles County.

Table 4. Predisposing Factors in Cases of Nonperinatal Listeriosis, Los Angeles County, 1998

Medical Condition^a	Number(N=24)	Percent
Age > 65 years	16	67
Prior antibiotic use	9	38
Cancer	8	33
Kidney disease	4	17
Steroid use	3	12
Autoimmune disease	2	8
Diabetes	1	4
No identified risk factors	4	17

^aEach case may have more than one underlying medical condition.