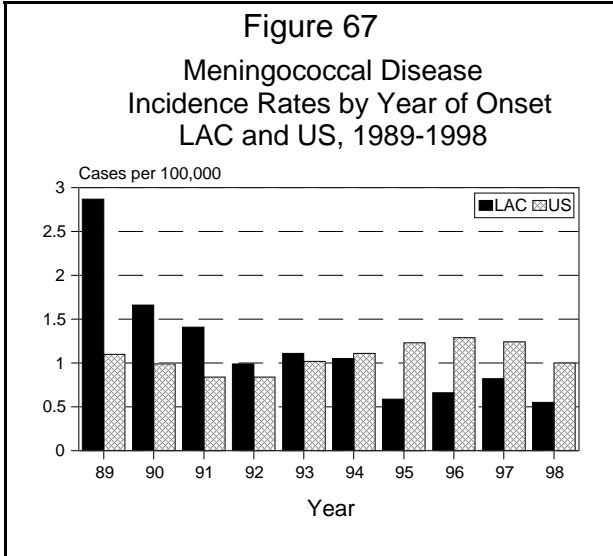


MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	50
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	0.55
California	0.98
United States	1.0
Age at Onset	
Mean	27
Median	14
Range	2 mos - 92 yrs
Case Fatality	
LA County	10%
United States	N/A

^aCases per 100,000 population.



ETIOLOGY

Neisseria meningitidis, a gram-negative diplococcus.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

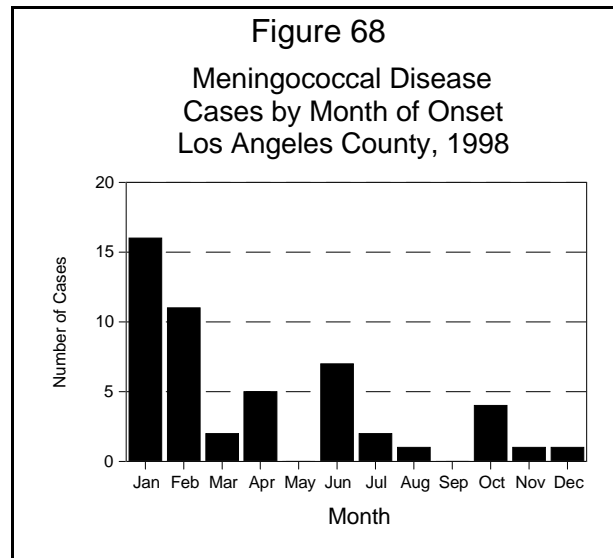
The incidence of meningococcal disease reached a ten-year low in 1998. Cases, including one in a prenatal patient, were sporadic and unrelated.

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: The number of cases decreased in 1998, reversing the slight upward trend over the previous two years (Figure 67). Fatalities were confined to adults.

Seasonality: Seasonal occurrence was highest during the winter with the majority of cases (n=27) occurring in January and February (Figure 68).

Age: In 1998, disease rates continued highest among infants less-than-one-year of age (7.53



per 100,000) but decreased from the previous year. There were no fatalities among infants or children. Although the next highest rates occurred among those aged 65 and over (1.41 per 100,000), rates in this and all other age groups were significantly lower than in infants (Figure 69). All fatalities in 1998 (n=5) occurred among adults; three were over age 65.

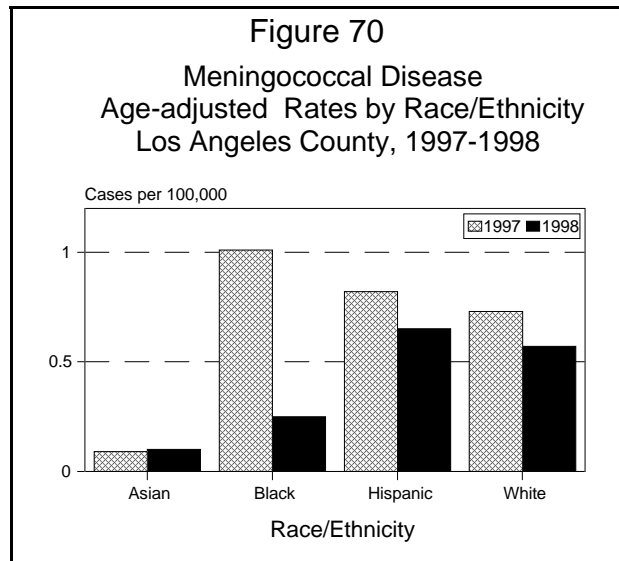
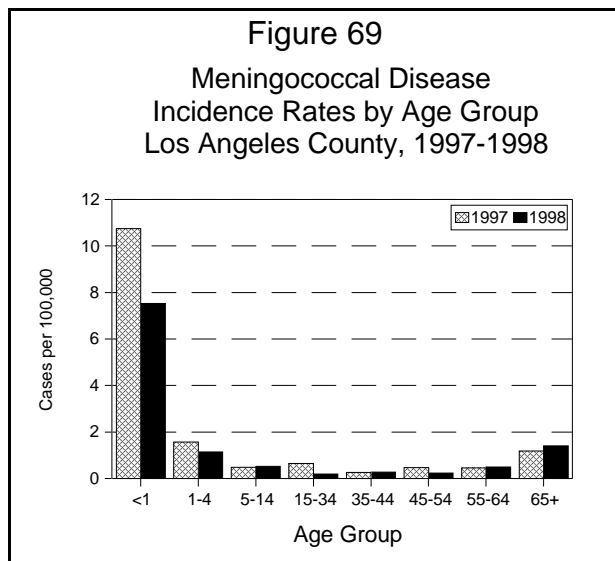
Sex: The male-to-female rate ratio was 1:1.2.

Race/Ethnicity: For the first time since 1994, age-adjusted meningococcal disease rates in Latinos (0.65 per 100,000) and Whites (0.57 per 100,000) exceeded the rate in Blacks (0.13 per 100,000). Rates continued to be lowest among Asians (0.10 per 100,000) (Figure 70).

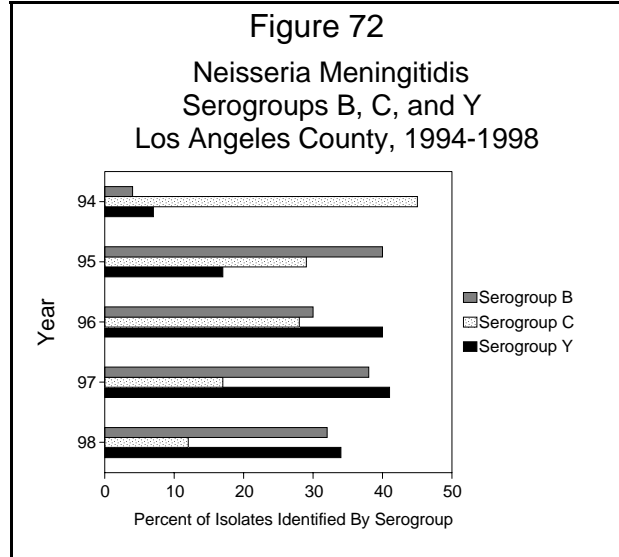
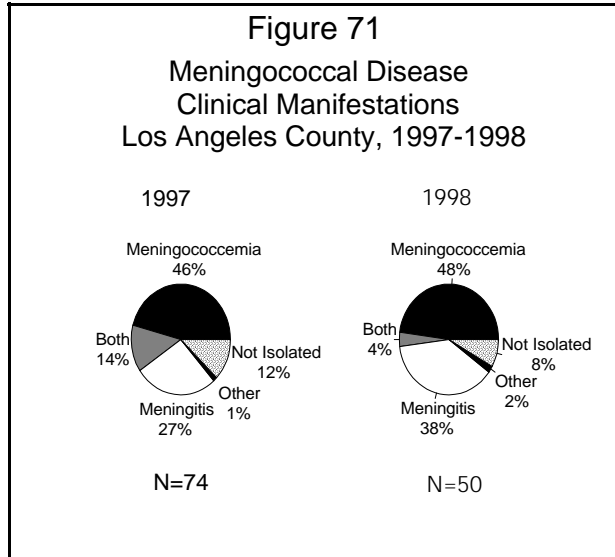
Location: The highest rates of meningococcal disease occurred in the Central (1.3 per 100,000), San Antonio (0.9 per 100,000), and Torrance (0.9 per 100,000) Health Districts (Map 9).

COMMENTS

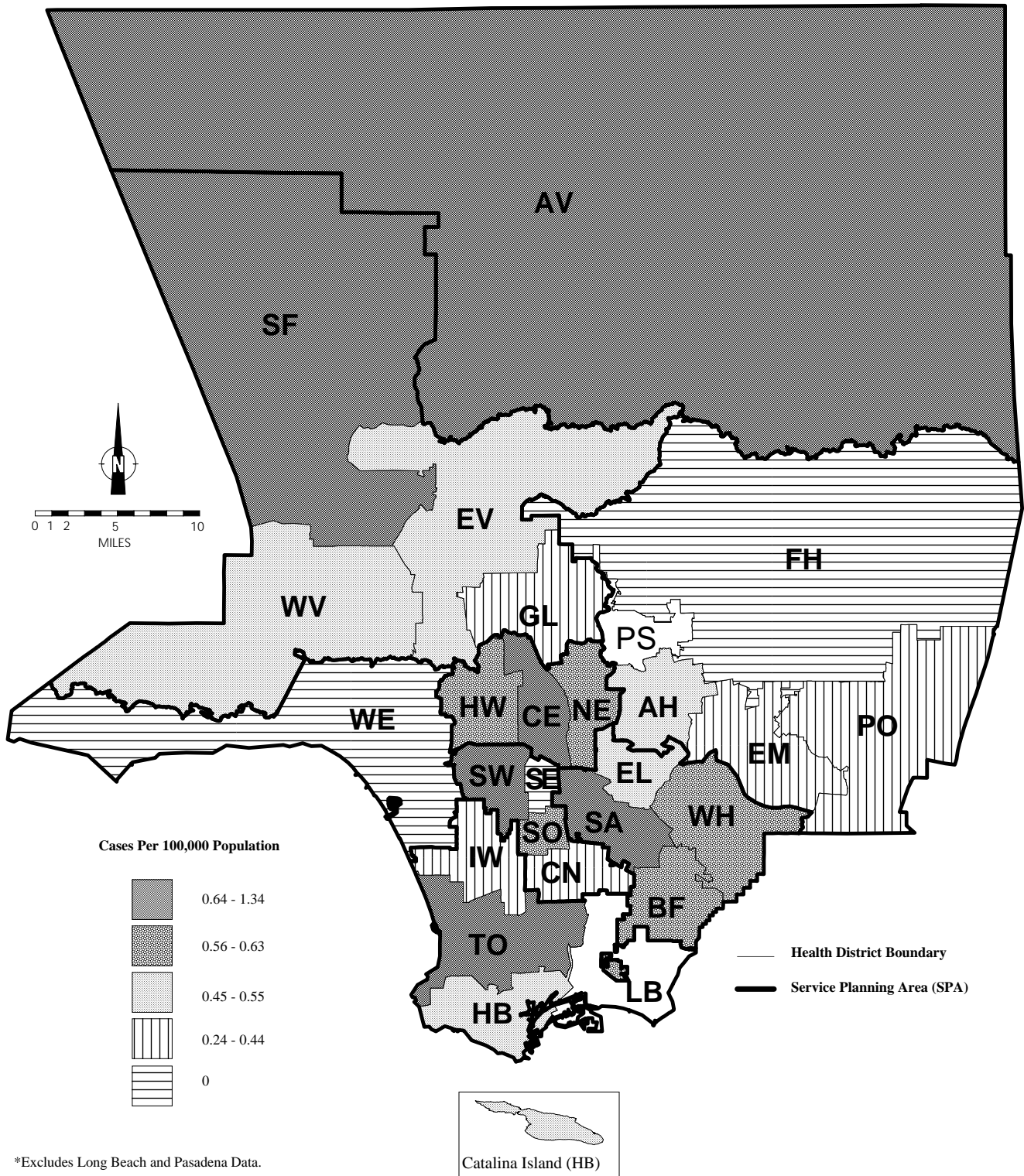
In 1998, *N. meningitidis* was isolated from 46 (92%) of the cases reported, 19 (38%) from blood, 24 (48%) from cerebrospinal fluid, 2 (4%) from both, and 1 (2%) from conjunctiva (Figure 71). Serogroup identification was made in 78% of the cases. Serogroup Y (44%) continued to predominate, followed closely by serogroup B (41%). Serogroup C (15%) continued to decline and remained relatively low (Figure 72).



There were five deaths from meningococcal disease in 1998. All were adults (range 27 to 92 years). In an unusual case, overwhelming sepsis in a 44-year-old multipara at 34 weeks' gestation resulted in the spontaneous delivery of a stillborn fetus and the mother's death within 15 hours of onset.



MAP 9. Meningococcal Disease Rates by Health District, Los Angeles County, 1998*



*Excludes Long Beach and Pasadena Data.