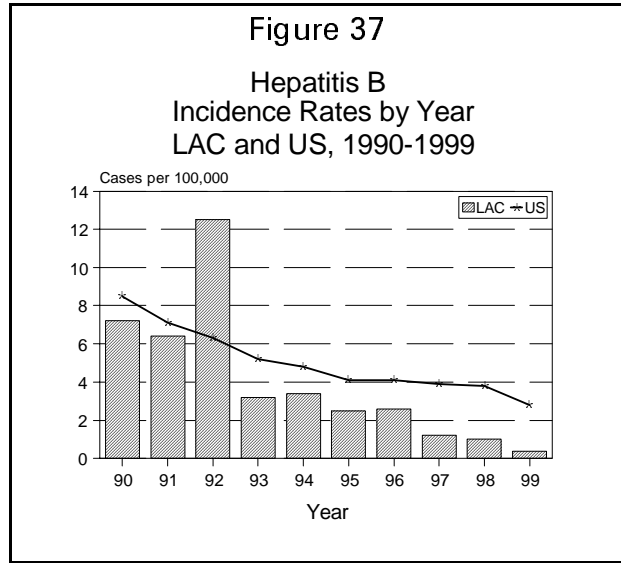


HEPATITIS B

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	35
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	0.38
California	3.72
United States	2.82
Age At Onset	
Mean	42.1
Median	34.5
Range	18 - 85 yrs
Case Fatality	
LA County	N/A
United States	N/A

^aCases per 100,000 population.



ETIOLOGY

Hepatitis B virus, a DNA-virus of the Hepadnaviridae family.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

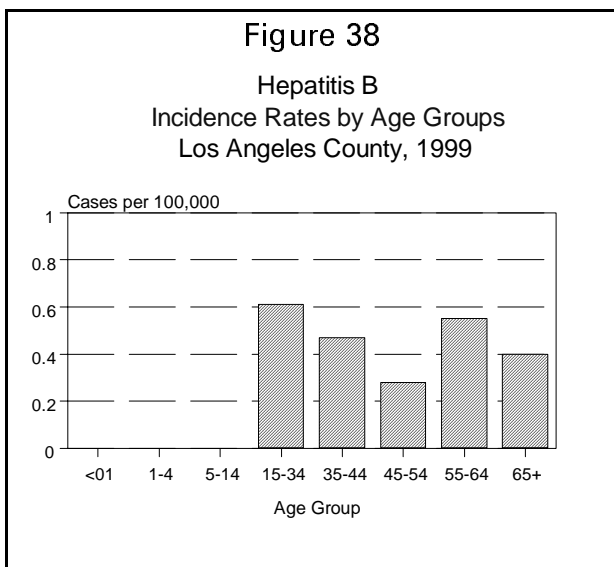
The incidence of acute Hepatitis B continued to decline in 1999, and all cases were in adults. There was one outbreak.

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: In 1999, the rate of hepatitis B (0.38 per 100,000 population) continued its downward trend (Figure 37). The number of cases (n=35) decreased substantially from the previous year (n=92) (see comments).

Seasonality: None.

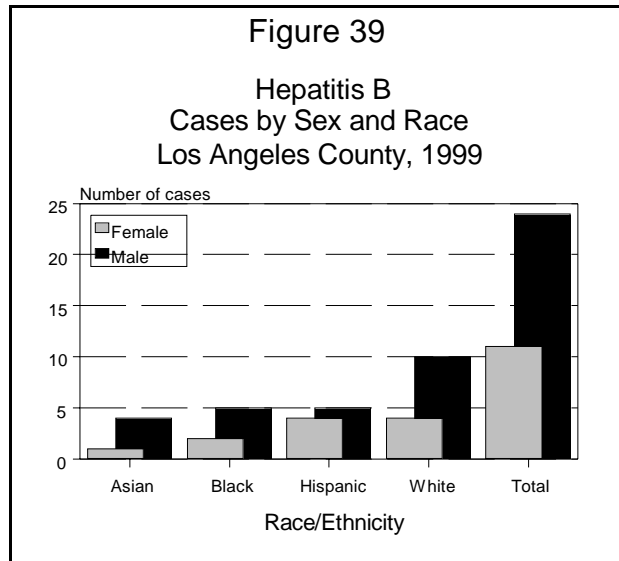
Age: There were no cases of hepatitis B in children. Cases ranged in age from 18 to 85, with 50% occurring in those under the age of 35. Rates were highest among 15-34 year olds (0.61/100,000) (Figure 38).



Sex: The male-to-female rate ratio was 2.2:1. The number of cases in males exceeded those in females in all ethnic groups (Figure 39).

Race/Ethnicity: In 1999, rates decreased in all ethnic groups. Rates in Blacks (0.91 per 100,000) remained highest. Rates were relatively equal in Whites and Asians (0.47 and 0.45 per 100,000 respectively), and were lowest in Hispanics (0.21 per 100,000). The highest number of cases occurred in Whites (n=14) (Figure 40).

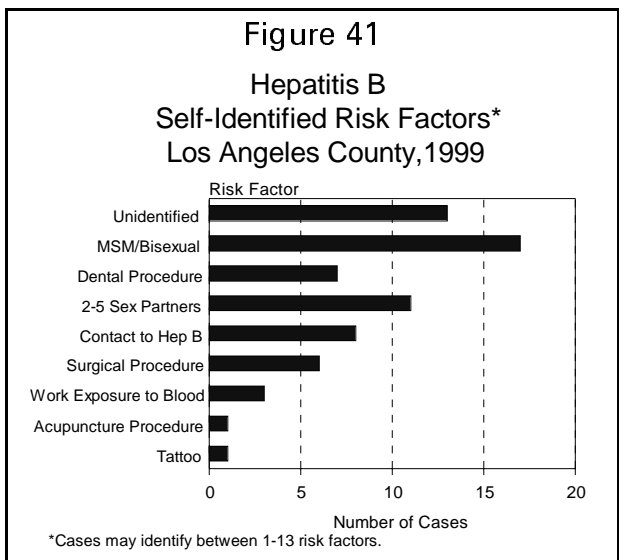
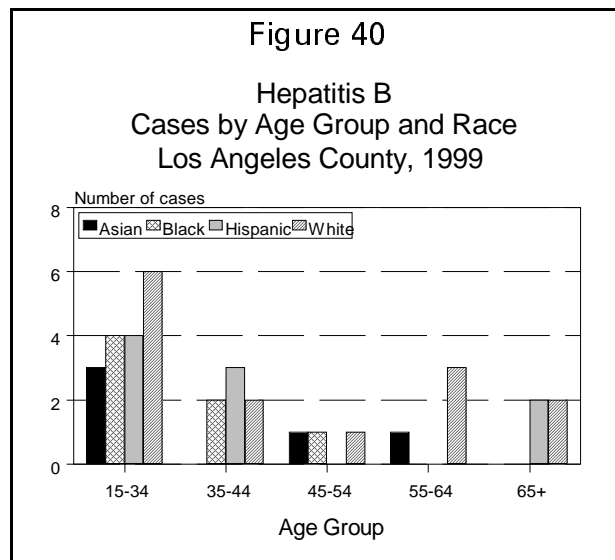
Location: Rates were highest (1.96 per 100,000) in the Hollywood-Wilshire Health District where 10 of the 35 cases occurred. There were five health districts with no reported cases.



COMMENTS

The substantial decrease in the number of hepatitis B cases in 1999, while encouraging, is more likely attributable to consistencies and improvements in the criteria for investigation and classification of cases over the last two years rather than a true reduction in infection. Because the data suggest that, of those with identifiable risk factors, people under age 35, men who have sex with men, bisexuals, and people with multiple partners continue to be at greatest risk for hepatitis B (Figure 41), preventive efforts should continue to focus on these high risk populations.

No risk factor was identified in 33% of cases. This may indicate hesitancy by the interviewee to reveal information considered sensitive. Changes in interviewing technique to obtain this information may be useful. A closer analysis of this group is needed.



HEPB MAP

NO MAP THIS YEAR