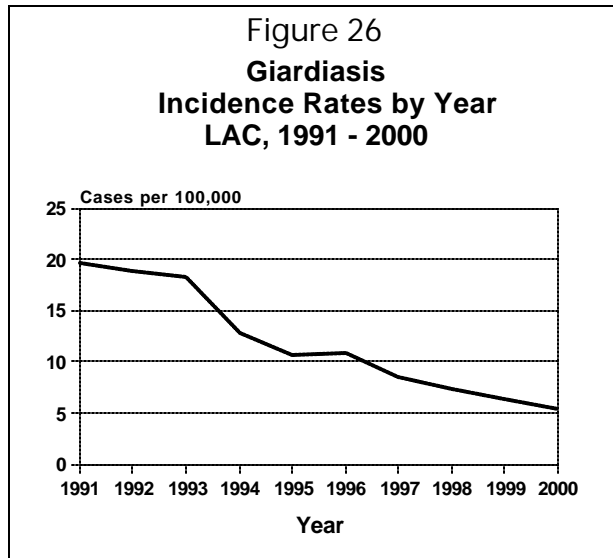


GIARDIASIS

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	499
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	5.4
United States	N/A
Age at Onset	
Mean	24 years
Median	17 years
Range	0 - 100 years
Case Fatality	
LA County	0.2%
United States	N/A

^a Cases per 100,000 population.



ETIOLOGY

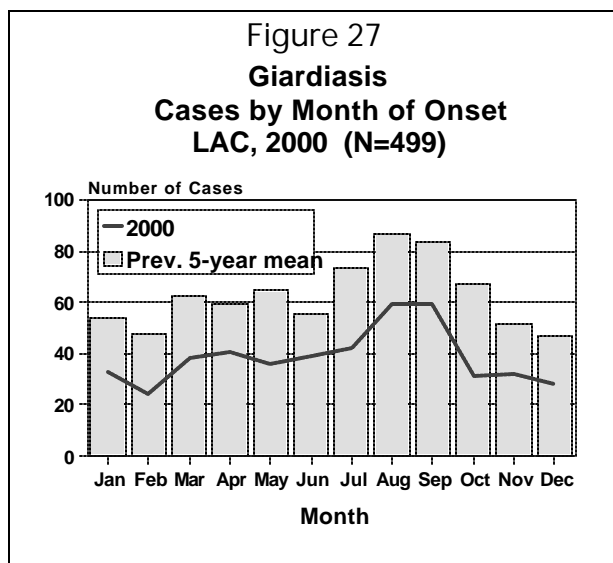
Giardiasis is an intestinal infection caused by the zoonotic protozoan parasite *Giardia intestinalis* (previously *G. lamblia*). Giardia cysts shed in animal or human feces may contaminate food or drinking water or be transferred on hands or fomites; recreational waters such as lakes and pools also may serve as vehicles of transmission. The disease is usually asymptomatic. Symptoms can include chronic diarrhea, bloating, cramps, fatigue, and weight loss. Complications are rare, but may include malabsorption of fats and fat-soluble vitamins. Children in day care represent a reservoir of disease in developed countries. Rural states report higher rates than urban states. There is no vaccine.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

- With 499 cases for 2000, giardia annual incidence continues to decline.
- Giardiasis in LAC affects mostly children aged less than 15 years.

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: The annual rate continued its ten-year decline, with the lowest rate ever recorded in 2000 (Figure 26). Rates fell in all age, sex, and race/ethnic categories.



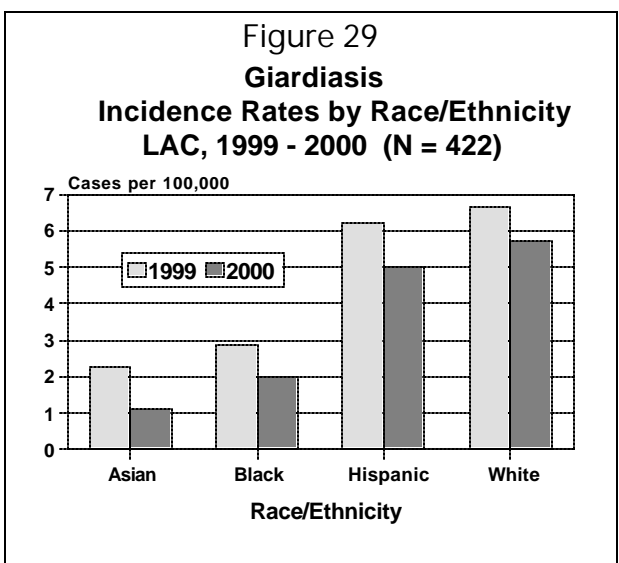
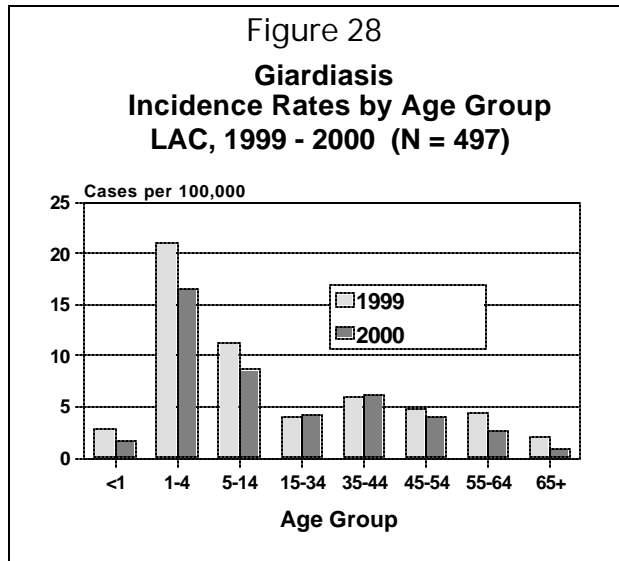
Seasonality: Rates are higher in the summer and fall, consistent with increased exposure of children to recreational waters. This pattern is seen nationally as well (Figure 27).

Age: The age-specific incidence of giardiasis was greatest in children aged 1-4 years (16.6 per 100,000) followed by children aged 5-14 years (8.6 per 100,000) (Figure 28). Rates fell in each group except teens and young adults (aged 15-44 years).

Sex: The male-to-female rate ratio was 1.7:1. This is higher than in recent years, but no specific reason is apparent. Recent studies demonstrate that most parasitic diseases occur with greater frequency among males, and sex hormones may influence immunologic resistance factors.

Race/Ethnicity: As usual, rates for Hispanics and Whites were substantially higher than those of Asians and Blacks (Figure 29). A similar rate drop was noted in each group compared to the previous year. White cases (mean age, 31 years; median age, 35 years) were significantly older than Hispanic cases (mean age, 17 years, median age, 9 years; $p < 0.0001$). The racial difference was true for both males and females, suggesting the age difference between Whites and Hispanics is not explained just by a high incidence among White males who have sex with other males.

Location: The highest rates were recorded by West (10.2 per 100,000), Hollywood-Wilshire (9.9 per 100,000), and Alhambra (7.6 per 100,000) Health Districts. Cases in West and Hollywood-Wilshire Health Districts were more likely to be male than cases in all other districts ($p = 0.03$)



COMMENTS

There were no outbreaks reported. Risk factors were not summarized for 2000.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Giardiasis Surveillance — United States, 1992–1997. *MMWR* 2000; 49(SS-7):1-13. Available at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss4907a1.htm>

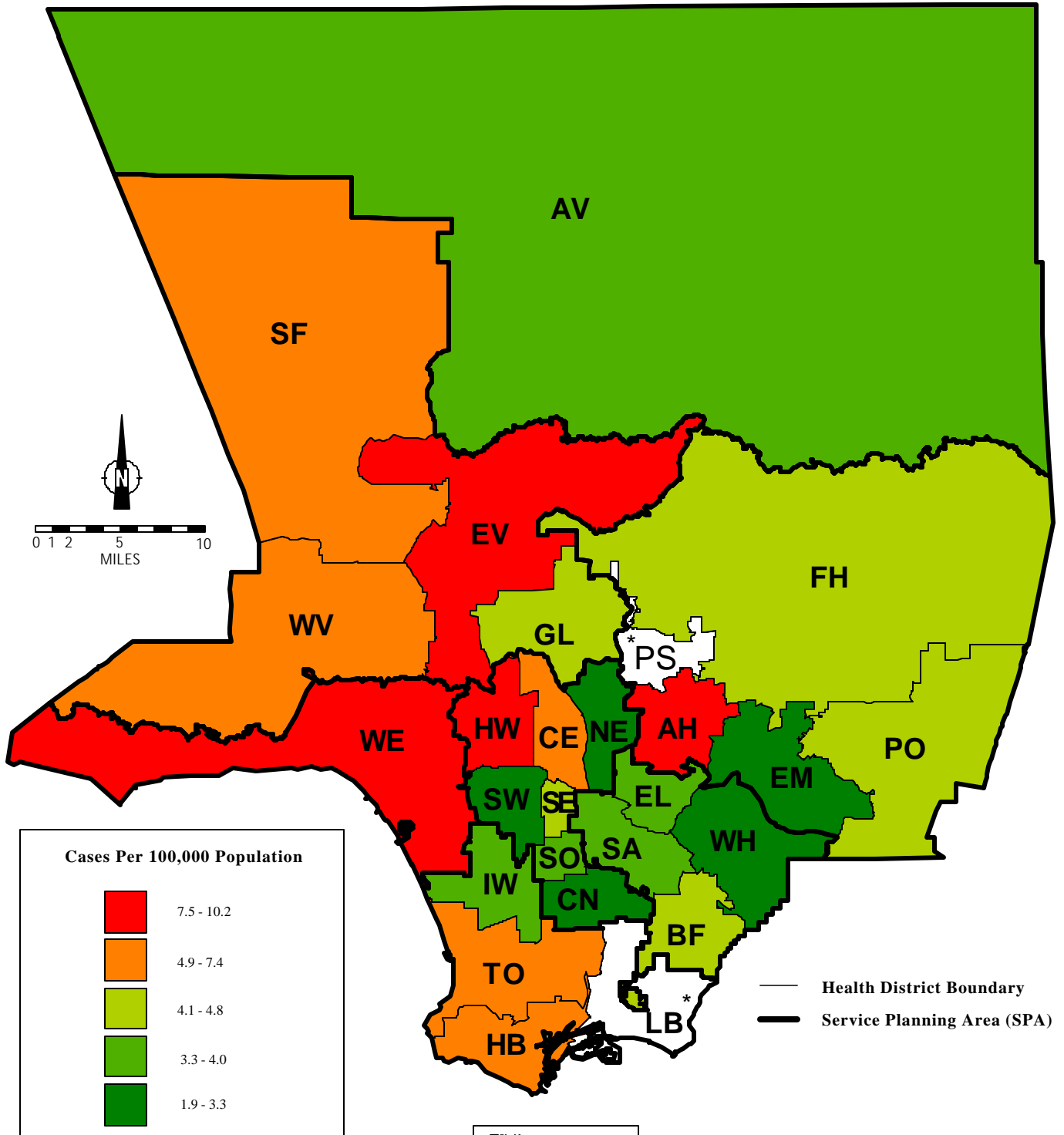
CDC Parasitic Disease Information. Fact Sheet – Giardiasis
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/giardiasis/factsht_giardia.htm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Surveillance for Waterborne-Disease Outbreaks—United States, 1997–1998. *MMWR* 2000; 49(SS-4):1-35. Available at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss4904a1.htm>

Acute Communicable Disease Control website at:
<http://lapublichealth.org/acd/procs/b73/b73index.htm>

MAP 5. Giardiasis

Rates by Health District, Los Angeles County, 2000*



*Excludes Long Beach and Pasadena Data.

