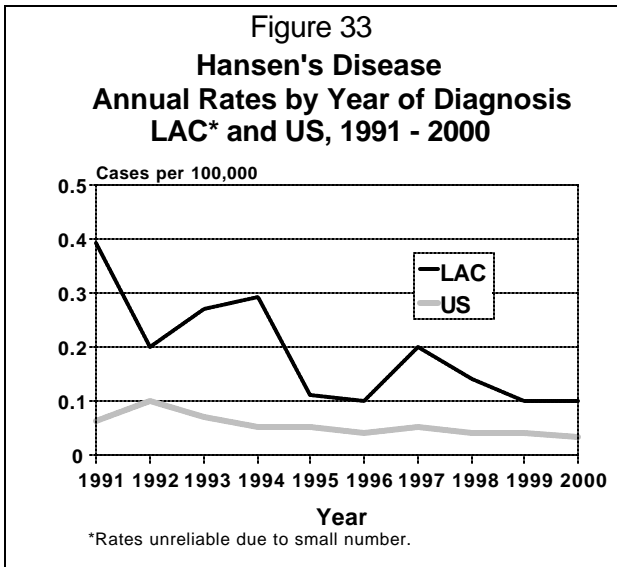


HANSEN'S DISEASE (LEPROSY)

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	9
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	0.10 ^b
California	0.10
United States	0.03
Age at Diagnosis	
Mean	50
Median	48
Range	27 - 83 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

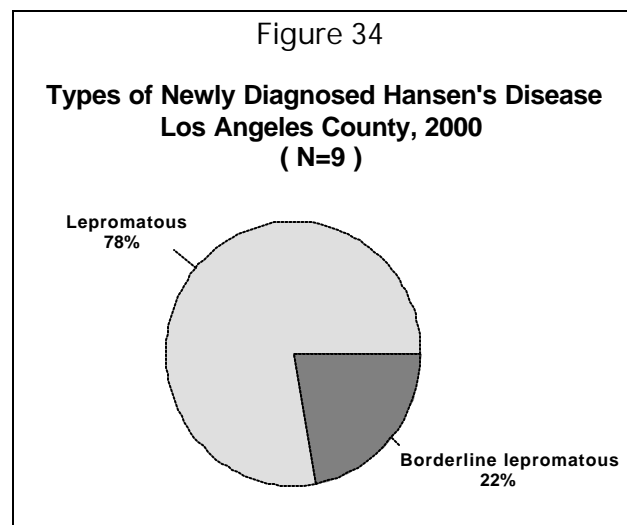
The infectious agent for Hansen's disease, or Leprosy, is *Mycobacterium leprae*, an acid-fast gram-positive bacillus. Although the exact mode of transmission is not clearly established, household and prolonged close contact appear to be important. Common symptoms include skin lesions and peripheral nerve involvement, leading to hypesthesia, anesthesia, paralysis, muscle wasting or trophic ulcers.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

- The 2000 incidence rate of Hansen's disease stayed the same as last year.
- All cases acquired their illness from outside the US, the majority of these being Hispanic males.
- In LAC, the lepromatous form of disease is the most common (Figure 34).

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: The incidence of Hansen's disease declined 10% from 10 cases in 1999 to 9 cases in 2000 (Figure 33).



Age: The average age at the time of diagnosis is 50 years (range 27-83 years). Due to the insidious progression of disease, the onset date of illness is imprecise and may be several years prior to first physician visit.

Sex: All cases were male. The reason for this male preponderance is unknown.

Race/Ethnicity: As in previous years, cases were mainly Hispanic (7 cases) and Asian (2 cases) who had emigrated from countries with endemic Hansen's disease. Both Asian cases were from the Philippines and all Hispanic cases were from Mexico.

Location: All Hansen's disease cases acquired their illness outside the US.

COMMENTS

ACDC maintains a Hansen's disease registry of all patients in LAC who are currently receiving or should be receiving medical follow-up for this disease. In 2000, there were a total of 330 Hansen's disease cases under medical care in LAC. Patients are monitored until they (1) no longer require medical supervision, (2) move out of LAC, (3) are lost to follow-up, or (4) die.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional information about Hansen's disease is available from:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases at:
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/hansens_t.htm

WHO Action Programme for the Elimination of Leprosy at:
<http://who.int/lep/>

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