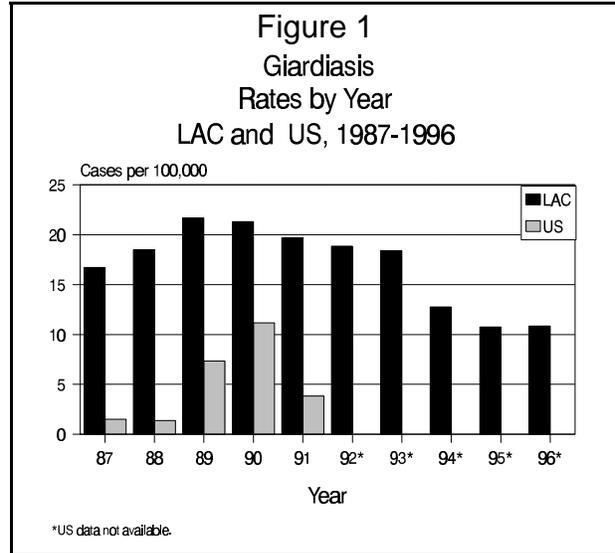




GIARDIASIS

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	951
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	10.7
United States	N/A
Age at Onset	
Mean	23
Median	17
Range	< 1-85 yrs
Case Fatality	
LA County	0.0%
United States	N/A



^aCases per 100,000 population.

ETIOLOGY

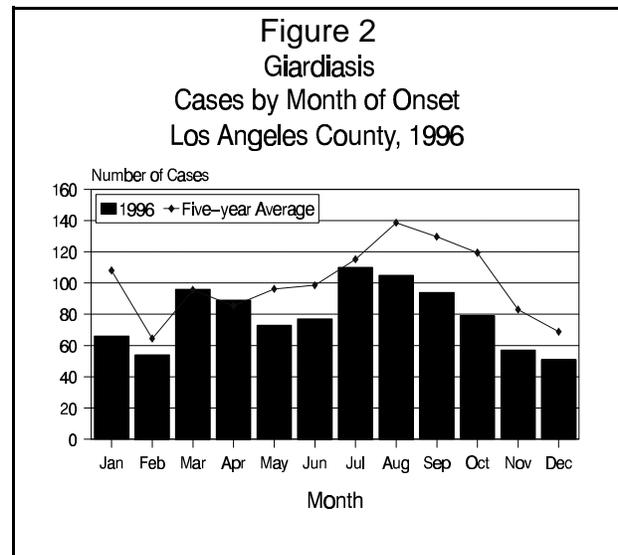
Giardiasis is caused by ingestion of the cysts of the protozoan parasite *Giardia lamblia*.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

The incidence of giardiasis remained unchanged from the rate seen the previous year. Giardiasis affects children more than adults, and Whites more than other racial/ethnic groups.

STRATIFIED DATA

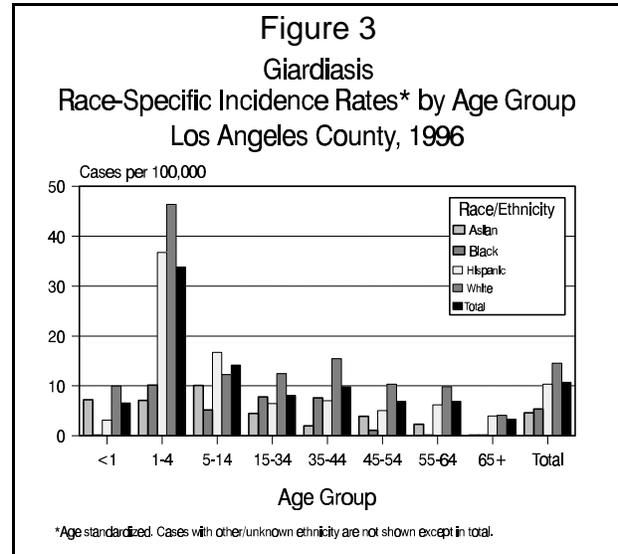
Trends: The incidence of reported giardiasis remained virtually the same as it was in 1995 (Figure 1).





Seasonality: The greatest number of cases was reported from late spring through the summer (Figure 2), consistent with the five-year monthly average from 1992 to 1996. Lack of epidemiologic data prevents a more detailed analysis of these patterns.

Age: The age-adjusted incidence of giardiasis was greatest in children aged 1-4 years (33.8 per 100,000) followed by children aged 5-14 years (14.2 per 100,000) (Figure 3). As in 1995, the highest giardiasis rates among toddlers 1 to 4 years of age occurred in White and Hispanic children; the highest rates for Asians occurred among children 5 to 14. One third of all reported giardiasis cases were in Hispanic children aged 0-14 years. Among Blacks, children 1 to 4 years old had the highest rate; in 1995 this occurred in Black persons 15 to 34 years of age.



Sex: The male-to-female rate ratio rose slightly to 1.5:1 from 1.4:1, where it had been for the previous three years.

Race/Ethnicity: When standardized for age, the overall rate for Whites was 40% higher than that for Hispanics (14.6 v. 10.4 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure 3). Whites had the highest disease rate in all age groups except 5-14. The overall Hispanic rate dropped, including every age group from < 1 to 54 years of age. Asians and Blacks had the lowest rates in each age group and the lowest overall rates (4.6 and 5.4 per 100,000, respectively). Rates among Blacks increased in all age groups from 1 to 44, but most markedly in the 1- to 4-year-old age group, where the rate was five times that of the previous year (data not shown). The overall rate for Asians dropped, but did increase in children 1-4 and adults 45-54 years of age.

Location: Torrance, San Fernando, and Harbor Health Districts had the highest rates, with 19.4, 18.6, and 17.3 cases per 100,000 population, respectively.