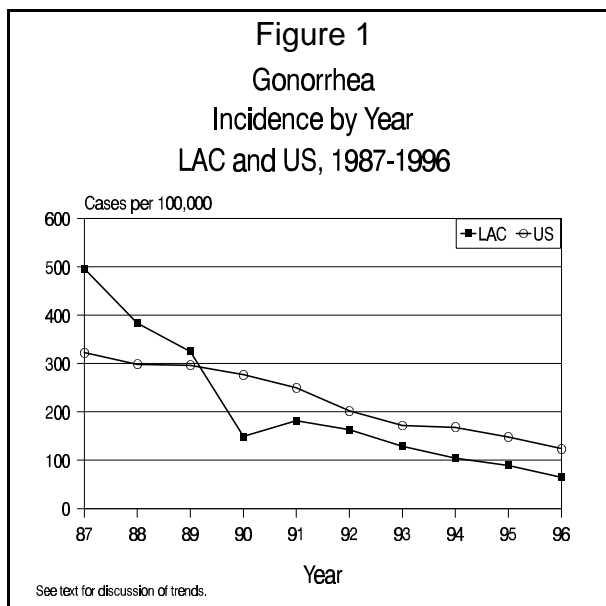




GONORRHEA

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	5,733
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	64.6
California	57.0
United States	124.0
Age at Onset	
Mean	26
Median	24
Range	0-96
Case Fatality	
LA County	N/A
United States	N/A

^a Cases per 100,000 population.



ETIOLOGY

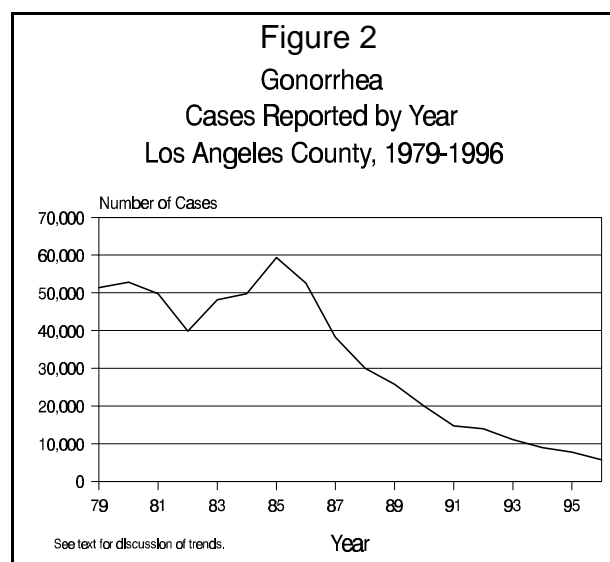
Gonococcus: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

The substantial decrease in gonorrhea morbidity characteristic of recent years continued in 1996 (Figures 1 and 2).

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: The number and rate of reported gonorrhea cases declined for the eleventh straight year, with a 28% decrease in incidence between 1995 and 1996, from 89 to 64 cases per 100,000 population (Figure 1). The number of cases has fallen 90% since the peak of the gonorrhea epidemic more than a decade ago in 1985 (59,387

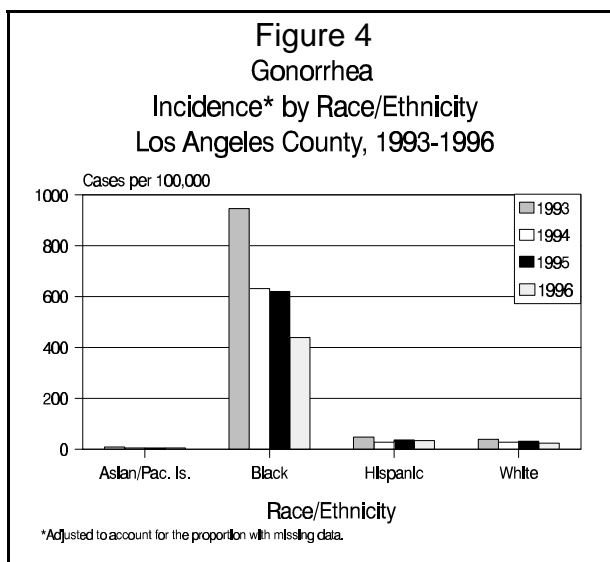
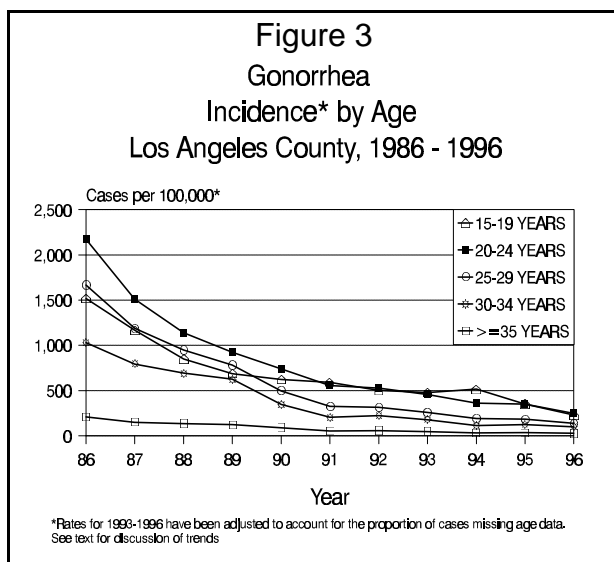




cases). The County's population increased by approximately 40% during the same eleven-year period, making this decrease even more compelling. Rates for 1994, 1995, and 1996 have been modified due to a change in criteria for classifying cases by year, leading to a change in cases and rates in these years. However, previous years have not yet been modified.

Seasonality: None.

Age: Adolescents and young adults 15 to 24 years of age comprised approximately half of all reported cases (Table 1). In spite of a decline in incidence from 1995 to 1996 among 15- to 19-year-olds (-34%) and 20- to 24-year-olds (-29%), the incidence in these two age groups remains much higher than any other age group (230 and 248 cases per 100,000 population, respectively). More importantly, while the general gonorrhea epidemic has subsided, the rates among these age groups remain high (Figure 3). Only the 0- to 9-year-old age group increased in rate, although this increase reflects only 18 additional cases.



Sex: The male-to-female rate ratio decreased to 1.2:1, with the rate in males decreasing more than that in females (-32% and -22%, respectively) from 1995.

Race/Ethnicity: The rates for all racial/ethnic groups decreased in 1996. The decreases for Blacks (29%) and Whites (25%) were much larger than in Hispanics (7%) and Asians/Pacific Islanders (4%). Considering that non-Hispanic Whites constitute 35% of the population in LAC and Blacks constitute only 9.4%, these data emphasize the truly disproportionate burden



of disease borne by the Black population. In fact, the rate among Blacks remains over 18 times greater than among Whites and over 12 times greater than among Hispanics. These ratios are not affected when age is controlled (Table 1; Figure 4).

Location: Reflecting ethnic/racial and socioeconomic status differences in gonorrhea incidence, the “core” health districts again accounted for six of the seven districts with highest rates in 1996. All districts declined in incidence except Central. Southeast (-45%), Bellflower (-44%), and Glendale (-43%) Health Districts had the largest decreases in incidence (Table 2).



**Table 1. Gonorrhea Cases and Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Age
Los Angeles County, 1995-1996**

	Number of Cases		Rate ^a		Percent Change in Rate
	1996	1995	1996	1995	
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>					
Amer. Indian/Eskimo/Aleut ^b	--	--	--	--	--
Asian/Pacific Islander	38	39	4.6	4.8	-4
Black	2,778	4,344	438.5	620.0	-29
Hispanic	1,003	1,075	33.9	36.3	-7
White	536	764	23.2	30.8	-25
Unknown	1,378	1,583	--	--	--
<u>Gender</u>					
Male	3,111	4,502	70.4	103.2	-32
Female	2,621	3,301	59.0	75.2	-22
Unknown	1	2	--	--	--
<u>Age Group</u>					
0-9	36	18	2.2	1.2	83
10-14	97	117	15.5	20.6	-25
15-19	1,360	1,806	230.1	350.9	-34
20-24	1,422	1,944	247.6	349.8	-29
25-29	919	1,341	138.0	184.0	-25
30-34	745	1,066	100.0	123.8	-19
35+	1,048	1,321	27.1	34.2	-21
Unknown	106	192	--	--	--
County Total	5,733	7,805	64.5	89.2	-28

^aCases per 100,000 population. Estimates of race-, gender- and age-specific rates have been adjusted to account for the proportion of cases with missing data by assuming that each sub-category's proportions of the known and unknown cases are equivalent.

^bNumber of cases for Amer. Indian/Eskimo/Aleut race/ethnicity category is not available.



**Table 2. Gonorrhea Cases and Rates by Health District
Los Angeles County, 1995-1996**

Health District ^b	Number of Cases		Rate ^a		Percent Change in Rate
	1996	1995	1996	1995	
South ^c	452	543	309.6	379.7	-18
Inglewood ^c	771	1,105	219.7	320.6	-31
Southwest ^c	654	934	200.7	290.6	-31
Compton ^c	457	712	188.2	302.8	-38
Southeast ^c	184	351	133.4	241.8	-45
Hollywood-Wilshire	498	673	114.4	152.8	-25
Central ^c	303	315	105.6	104.2	1
Harbor	72	110	41.6	64.2	-35
East Valley	144	154	40.0	45.4	-12
West	187	217	35.3	42.9	-18
Torrance	126	130	33.2	34.9	-5
West Valley	212	224	32.6	35.4	-8
San Fernando	177	253	32.1	45.3	-29
Bellflower	95	161	31.2	55.6	-44
Northeast	96	121	30.4	39.8	-24
San Antonio	110	116	29.1	31.6	-8
Pomona	134	162	28.8	37.0	-22
Foothill	72	101	27.4	39.7	-31
Whittier	76	83	27.3	31.4	-13
East Los Angeles	43	52	21.4	27.5	-22
Glendale	54	94	19.0	33.2	-43
El Monte	78	104	18.9	27.0	-30
Alhambra	41	54	12.5	17.8	-30
Unknown District	697	1,036	--	--	--
County Total	5,733	7,805	64.6	89.2	-28

^a Cases per 100,000 population. Estimates of district-specific rates have been adjusted to account for the proportion with missing data by assuming that each district's proportions of the known and unknown cases are equivalent.

^b The health district case figures do not reflect the revised boundaries adopted in April 1994.

^c Core district.