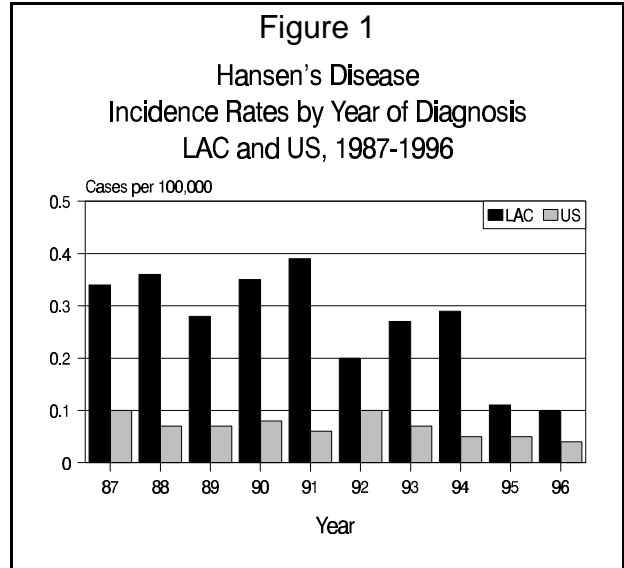




HANSEN'S DISEASE (LEPROSY)

| CRUDE DATA | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Number of Cases | 9 |
| Annual Incidence ^a | |
| LA County | 0.10 |
| California | 0.15 |
| United States | 0.04 |
| Age at Onset | |
| Mean | 51.3 |
| Median | 51.0 |
| Range | 23-85yrs |
| Case Fatality | |
| LA County | 0.0% |
| United States | N/A |

^aCases per 100,000 population.



ETIOLOGY

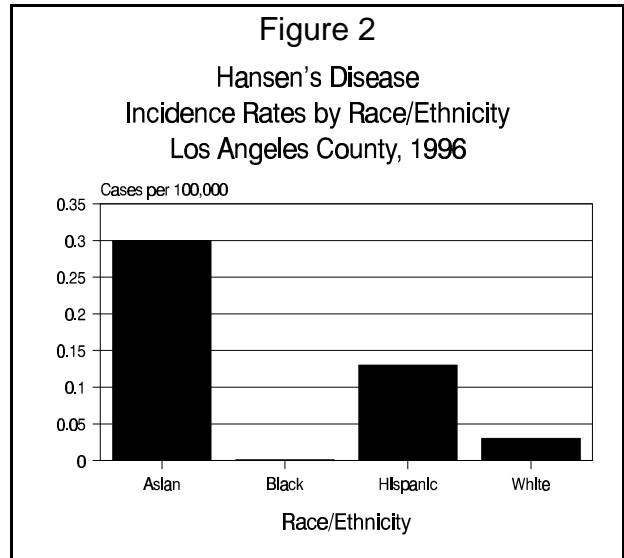
Mycobacterium leprae, an acid-fast gram-positive bacillus.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

The rate of newly diagnosed cases has declined to its lowest rate in 20 years and may be related to emigration trends. Table 2 shows the various types of newly diagnosed cases in 1996.

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: The 1996 incidence rate of 0.10 cases per 100,000 population has declined from the preceding 20-year average of 0.30 (Figure 1).





Seasonality: Not applicable.

Age: The average age (51) represents the age at diagnosis. Due to the insidious progression of this disease, the date of onset may have been several years prior to the first physician visit.

Sex: The male-to-female rate ratio was 2:1. In almost all countries where leprosy is endemic, the lepromatous form of disease is most common; this was also the case in LAC (44%) (Table 2). This form of disease usually occurs in males after puberty, thus accounting for the male predominance.

Race/Ethnicity: As in previous years, cases were mainly Asians and Hispanics who had emigrated from countries where Hansen's disease is endemic (Figure 2). Of the Asians, three were from Southeast Asia and one was from the Philippines; of the Hispanics, all were from Mexico. The White case was born in the US but lived for many years in Mexico.

Location: Location of newly diagnosed Hansen's patients in LAC represents residence at the time of diagnosis. All Hansen's disease patients acquired their illness outside of the US.

COMMENTS

There are currently a total of 338 known Hansen's disease cases under medical care in LAC.

**Table 2. Frequency of Types of Newly Diagnosed Hansen's Disease Cases
Los Angeles County, 1996**

| Type | Number | Percent |
|------------------------|----------|------------|
| Tuberculoid | 1 | 11 |
| Borderline tuberculoid | 1 | 11 |
| Borderline | 0 | 0 |
| Borderline lepromatous | 3 | 33 |
| Lepromatous | 4 | 44 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 9 | 100 |