



LISTERIOSIS, PERINATAL

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	5
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	3.2
United States	N/A
Age at Onset (Maternal)	
Mean	29.8
Median	32
Range	22-33 yrs
Age at Onset (Infant Gestational)	
Mean	24.8
Median	26
Range	14-36 wks
Case Fatality	
LA County ^b	20%
United States	N/A

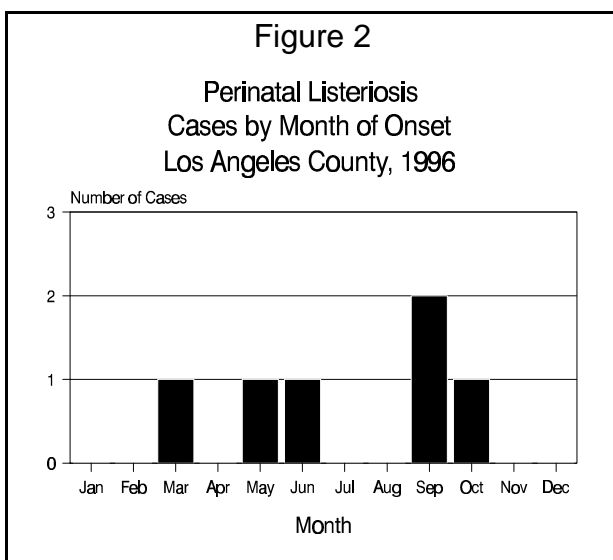
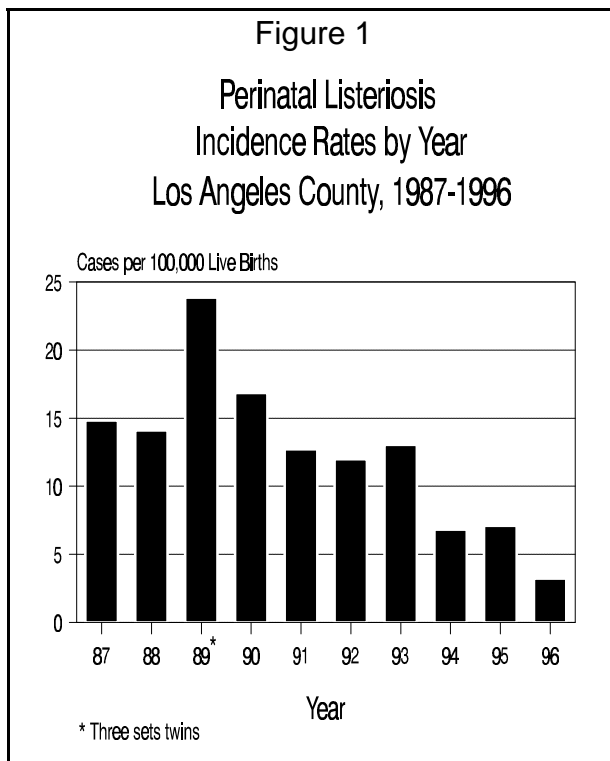
^a Cases per 100,000 live births.

^b Includes 1 fetal death.

ETIOLOGY

A perinatal listeriosis case is defined as a pregnant woman or her fetus or neonate with infection of a sterile site with *Listeria monocytogenes* before or at the time of delivery or whose infant was diagnosed with *L. monocytogenes* infection between the ages of 0 and 6 days. A late-onset case is defined as a *L. monocytogenes* infection in an infant aged 7 through 42 days.

DISEASE ABSTRACT





The overall perinatal listeriosis incidence rate has continued to decline since the epidemic peak in 1989.

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: Cases of listeriosis decreased from 11 in 1995 to 5 in 1996. The annual incidence of perinatal listeriosis has been continuously decreasing since 1989. Rates decreased by 44.8% between 1995 and 1996, from 7.0 cases per 100,000 live births in 1995 to 3.2 cases per 100,000 live births in 1996 (Figure 1).

Seasonality: None (Figure 2).

Age: Perinatal listeriosis incidence was greatest among women aged 30 to 34 (8.0 per 100,000 live births) followed by women aged 20 to 24 (2.7 per 100,000 live births) (Figure 3).

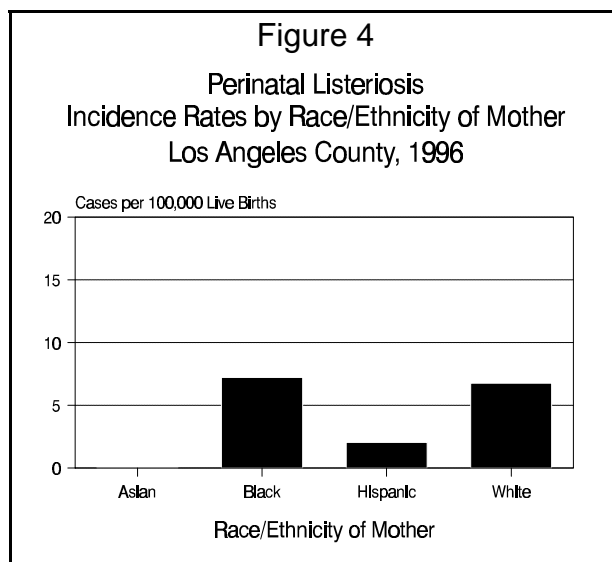
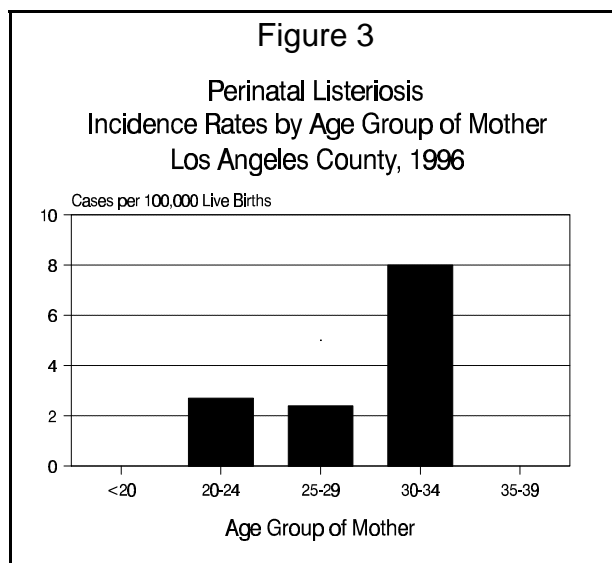
Sex: The male-to-female rate ratio among fetuses/infants was 1:1.

Race/Ethnicity: Among all races, Black women had the highest disease rate (7.2 per 100,000 live births). Whites had the second highest rate (6.8 per 100,000 live births). No Asian women had perinatal listeriosis (Figure 4).

Location: Incidence rates were greatest in Foothill, Northeast, and Southwest Health Districts (1.5, 1.2, and 1.1 per 100,000 live births, respectively).

Type of delivery: Four of the deliveries were vaginal, and one was by cesarean section.

Culture sites: The sites of *Listeria monocytogenes* isolation were blood, uterus, placenta in





women (33% for each), and blood (40%) and placenta (20%) in infants/fetuses (Table 1).

Multiple Gestation: In 1996, no women infected with listeriosis delivered twins.

Late Onset: In 1996, there were no cases classified as late-onset (illness occurring in infants after the first week of life).

Table 1: Frequency (%)^a of *Listeria monocytogenes* Isolates from Mothers and Infants, Los Angeles County, 1996

Culture Site	Mother (n=5)		Infant (n=5)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Blood	1	20	2	40
Placenta	1	20		
Uterus	1	20		
Cord blood	-	-		

^a Percentages may exceed 100% as cultures were obtained from more than one site in some cases.