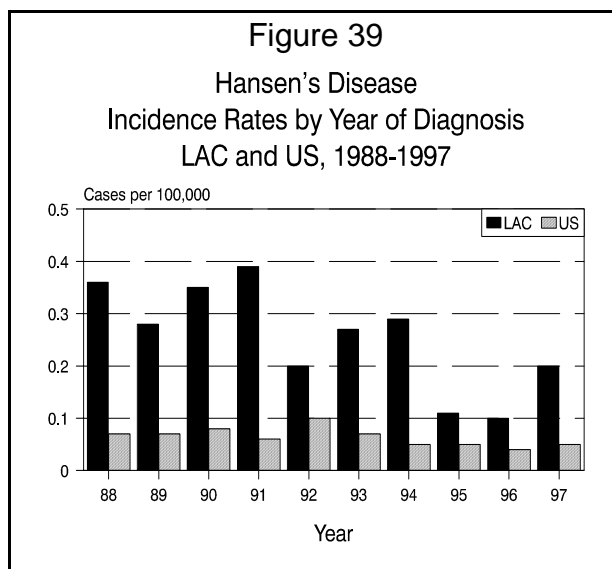


## HANSEN'S DISEASE (LEPROSY)

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	18
Annual Incidence <sup>a</sup>	
LA County	0.20
California	0.12
United States	0.05
Age at Diagnosis	
Mean	45
Median	48
Range	19-66 yrs
Case Fatality	
LA County	0.0%
United States	N/A

<sup>a</sup>Cases per 100,000 population.



### ETIOLOGY

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

### DISEASE ABSTRACT

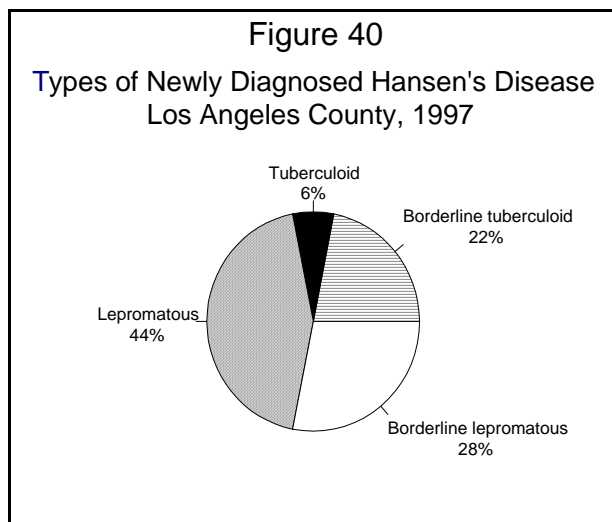
The 1995 and 1996 rates of newly diagnosed Hansen's disease cases were the lowest in LAC in 20 years. The 1997 rate is twice the 1996 rate. Figure 40 shows types of newly diagnosed cases in 1997.

### STRATIFIED DATA

**Trends:** The 1997 rate of 0.20 cases per 100,000 population doubled the 1996 rate, but is only slightly lower than the previous 10-year average rate of 0.27/100,000.

**Age:** The average age of diagnosis is 45 years. Due to insidious progression of disease, onset date of illness is imprecise and may be several years prior to first physician visit.

**Sex:** The male-to-female rate ratio was 2:1. In



LA, lepromatous form of disease is the most common (Figure 40). This form of disease usually occurs in males after puberty.

**Race/Ethnicity:** As in previous years, cases were mainly Asians and Hispanics who had emigrated from countries with endemic Hansen's disease. Of the Asian cases, four were from Southeast Asia, five from the Philippines, and one from Samoa. All Hispanic cases were from Mexico.

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

**Comments:** The Acute Communicable Disease Control Unit 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 1997, there were a total of 355 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.