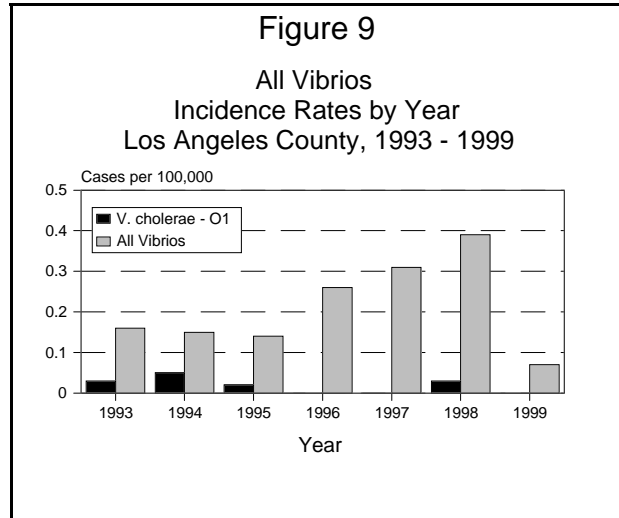


CHOLERA AND OTHER VIBRIOSES

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	6
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	0.07
California	N/A
United States	N/A
Case Fatality	
LA County	17%
United States	N/A



^acases per 100,000 population.

ETIOLOGY

The genus *Vibrio* consists of gram-negative, curved, motile rods, and contains about a dozen species known to cause illness in man.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

Cases of *Vibrio* infections dropped dramatically in 1999. Looking at the last five years, overall case numbers of *Vibrio* infections peaked in 1998 with 36 reports. In 1999, there were only six cases. *Vibrio* species reported in Los Angeles County (LAC) in 1999 were *V. vulnificus* (2), *V. parahaemolyticus* (2) and *V. hollisae* (2). No cases of *V. cholerae*-O1 were reported in 1999. Both 1999 *V. vulnificus* cases were associated with oyster consumption, one of these cases died.

STRATIFIED DATA

Seasonality: Sixty-seven percent (4/6) of cases occurred in May and August. Historically, cases of vibrio infections increase during the summer months.

Age/Sex: All vibrio cases were among adults, and 83% (5/6) were males.

Race/Ethnicity: Four cases (67%) were Hispanic, two (33%) were Asian.

PREVENTION

Risk from vibrioses can be prevented or reduced by avoiding seawater contamination of food (especially raw fish and shellfish) or drink. Infection with *V. vulnificus* is a particular risk for persons with pre-existing liver disease, frequently leading to soft tissue invasion, limb amputation, and a high case fatality. Adult males may be more at risk for *Vibrio* infections because of their tendency to engage in behaviors exposing them to seawater contamination or higher levels of raw or partially cooked seafood consumption, especially oysters.