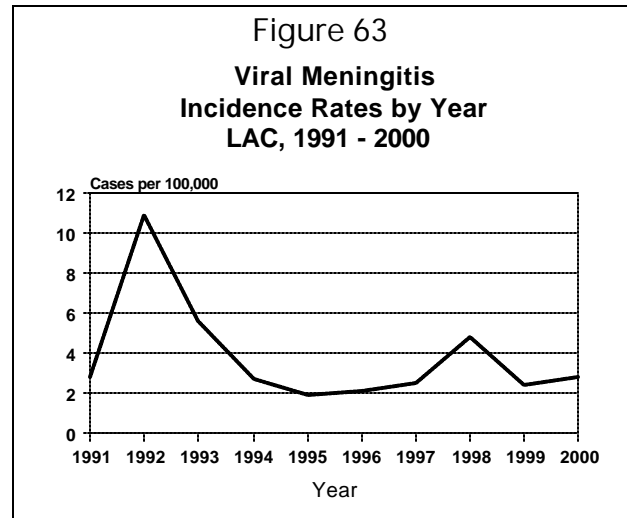


## MENINGITIS, VIRAL

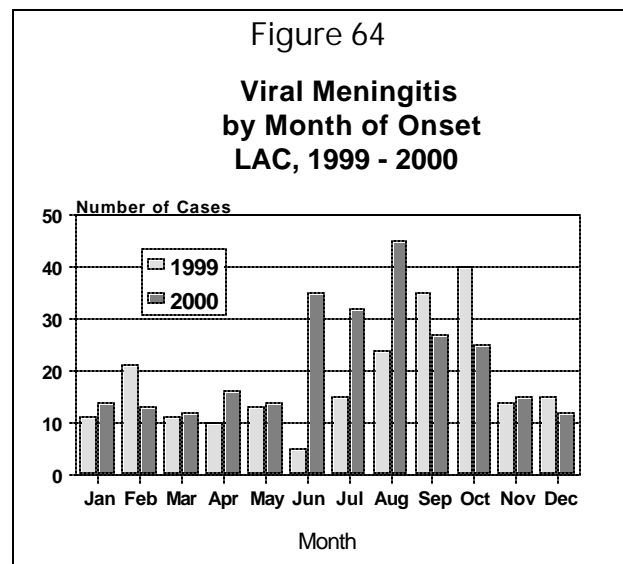
CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	206
Annual Incidence <sup>a</sup>	
LA County	2.8
United States	N/A
Age at Onset	
Mean	20 years
Median	13 years
Range	6 days - 90 years
Case Fatality	
LA County	N/A
United States	N/A

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



### ETIOLOGY

Viral meningitis, also referred to as aseptic meningitis, is a clinical syndrome in which no bacterial etiology is identified. When an organism is detected it is most often an enterovirus. Symptoms, which usually last from 7 to 10 days, are characterized by sudden onset of fever, severe headache, stiff neck, photophobia, drowsiness or confusion, and nausea and vomiting. Transmission may be fecal-oral, respiratory or by another route specific to the etiologic agent. Viral meningitis can occur at any age and rarely causes serious illness. Recovery is usually complete.



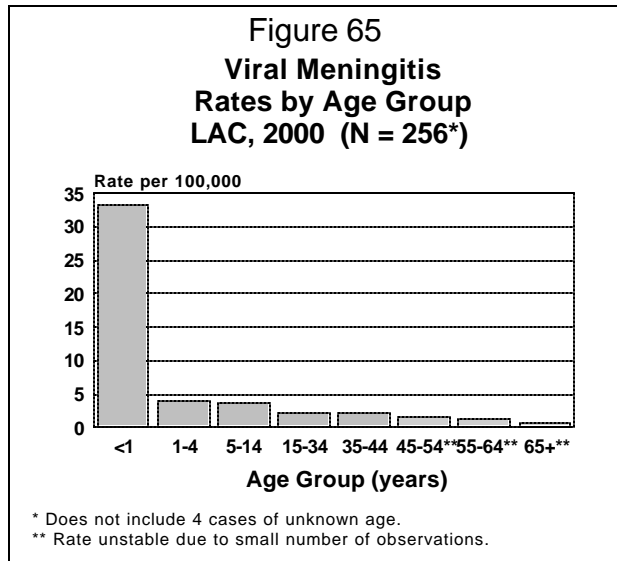
### DISEASE ABSTRACT

- In 2000, reports of viral meningitis remained essentially unchanged from 1999 (Figure 63).
- A higher and earlier seasonal increase was seen in 2000 compared with 1999 (Figure 64).
- There were no unusual viral etiologies, associated cases, or clusters reported in 2000.
- The highest rate (33 per 100,000) was seen in infants aged less than 1 year.

## COMMENTS

Surveillance for viral meningitis is passive and information about the causative agents of viral meningitis is unavailable. Viral cultures are usually not performed because of the need for special laboratory capabilities, cost, and lack of specific therapy. If done, viral culture results are most often reported by hospitals. As improved diagnostic tests become available, a better understanding of the etiology of viral meningitis should emerge.

The treatment for viral meningitis remains supportive, though antiviral agents for enterovirus treatment are being developed. Since enterovirus is the most frequently identified etiologic agent of viral meningitis and since transmission is primarily through the fecal-oral route, the most practical and effective preventive action against transmission is good personal hygiene—especially handwashing and avoiding the sharing of oral secretions.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

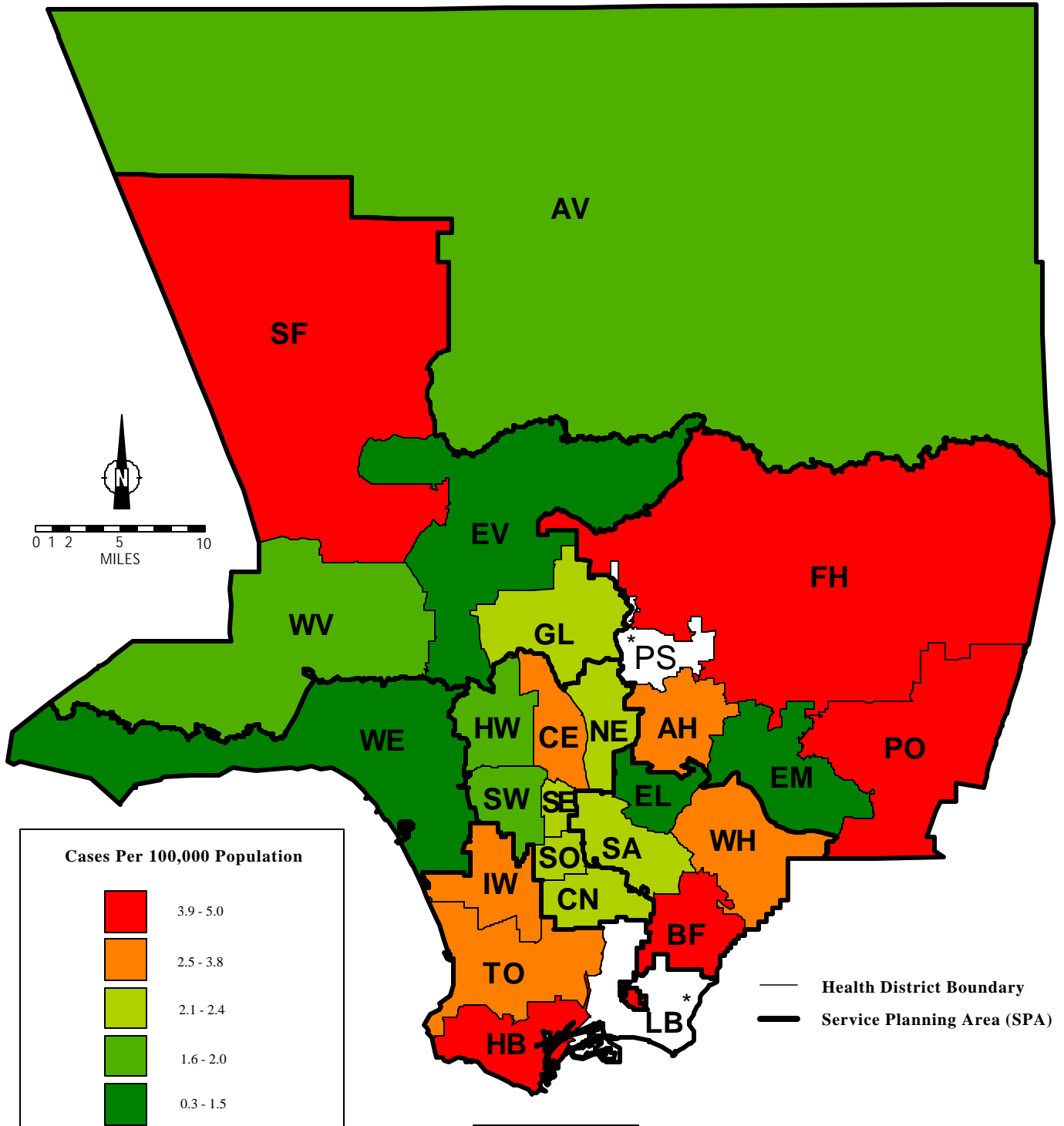
CDC, Respiratory and Enteric Viruses Branch, Viral (Aseptic) Meningitis at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/virlmen.htm>

CDC, Respiratory and Enteric Viruses Branch, Non-polio Enterovirus Infections at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/entrvirs.htm>

Association of State and Territorial Directors of Health Promotion and Public Health Education, Infectious Facts, Viral Meningitis at:  
<http://www.astdhppe.org/infect/vmenin.html>

Acute Communicable Disease Control website:  
<http://lapublichealth.org/acd/procs/b73/b73index.htm>

# MAP 8. Meningitis, Viral Rates by Health District, Los Angeles County, 2000\*



\*Excludes Long Beach and Pasadena Data.

