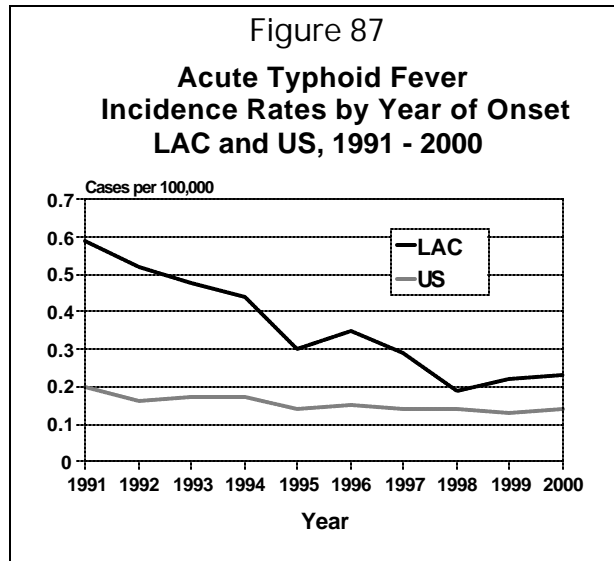


TYPHOID FEVER, ACUTE

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	21
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	0.23
California	0.24
United States	0.14
Age at Onset	
Mean	24 years
Median	27 years
Range	17 months - 50 years
Case Fatality	
LA County	0
United States	N/A

^a Cases per 100,000 population.



ETIOLOGY

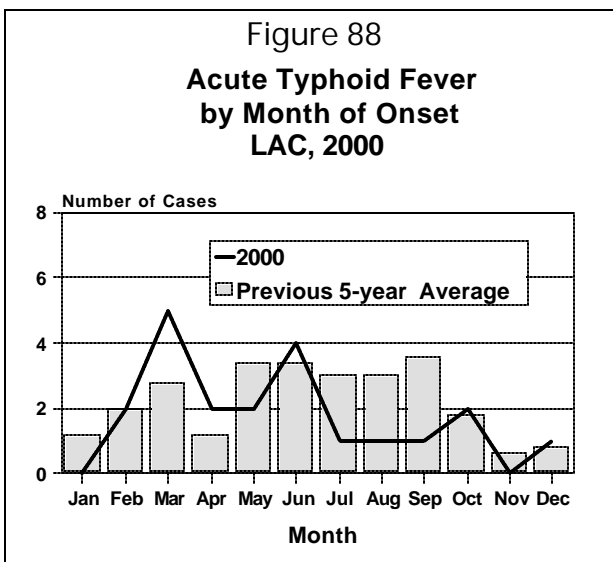
Typhoid fever, or “enteric fever,” is a systemic disease caused by the gram-negative bacillus *Salmonella typhi*. Transmission may occur with ingestion of food or water contaminated by the urine or feces of acute patients or carriers. Common symptoms include insidious onset of persistent fever, headache, malaise, anorexia, constipation (more common than diarrhea), bradycardia, enlargement of spleen and rose spots on the trunk. Humans are the only known reservoir for *S. typhi*.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

- In LAC, acute typhoid fever remains primarily a disease associated with recent immigration and foreign travel.
- Two-thirds of cases were reported among Asians.
- Three of these cases were linked to previously unknown carriers.

STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: The rate of reported typhoid fever cases remained steady after decreasing for ten years. Annual incidence had declined from 0.67 in 1990 to 0.22 in 1999; the incidence rate was 0.23 in 2000.



Seasonality: Late spring and summer months have the most cases, coinciding with holidays and school vacation (Figure 88).

Age: Persons aged 15-44 years had the highest incidence (Figure 89).

Sex: The male-to-female rate ratio was 1:0.6. This slight male preponderance is typical.

Race/Ethnicity: Acute typhoid fever cases continue to be seen primarily in Asians, who accounted for 14 of 21 cases (Figure 90).

Location: Case location in LAC at the time of illness was not related to disease acquisition. Seventeen (81%) cases were associated with travel to endemic areas outside the US. Of these cases, 13 acquired disease in Asia and 4 acquired disease in Mexico or Central America.

PREVENTION

Handwashing after using the toilet, before preparing or serving food, and before and after caring for others is important in preventing the spread of typhoid. When traveling where sanitary practices are uncertain, foods should be thoroughly cooked and served hot; bottled water should be used for drinking as well as for brushing teeth and making ice. Vaccination should be considered when traveling in areas off the usual tourist itineraries.

COMMENTS

Four cases (19%) were not associated with foreign travel and are presumed to have become infected in LAC.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CDC disease information:
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/typhoidfever_g.htm

CDC traveler's health information:
<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/typhoid.htm>

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

