



CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	45
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	0.47
United States	1.23
Age at Diagnosis	
Mean	40
Median	40
Range	4–68
Case Fatality	
LA County	0%
United States	N/A

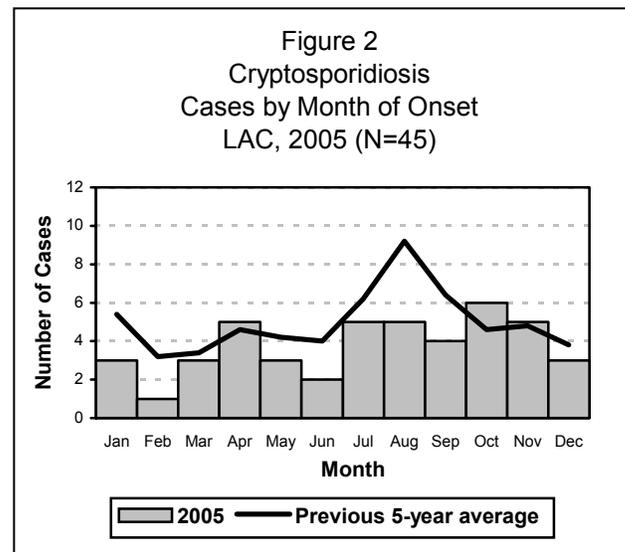
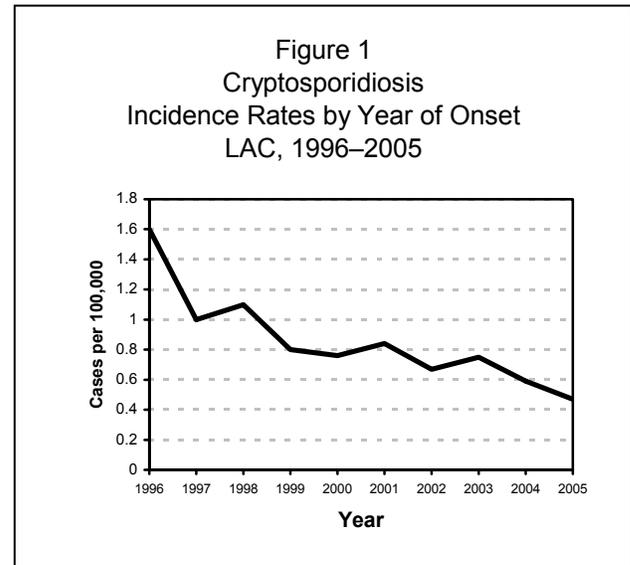
^a Cases per 100,000 population.

DESCRIPTION

Cryptosporidiosis is fecal-orally transmitted when cysts of the parasite *Cryptosporidium parvum* are ingested. Common causes include unprotected sexual contact, particularly among men who have sex with men (MSM), and by swallowing contaminated recreational or untreated water. The usual incubation period is 2–10 days with typical symptoms of watery diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and low-grade fever; however, asymptomatic infection is also common. Symptoms last up to 2 weeks in healthy individuals. Those who have a weakened immune system may experience prolonged illness. Immunocompromised individuals (e.g., HIV/AIDS patients, cancer patients, transplant patients), young children and pregnant women are at risk for more severe illness.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

- The incidence rate for this disease decreased from 0.59 per 100,000 in 2004 to 0.47 per 100,000 in 2005. This is the lowest incidence rate in the past ten years. The last outbreak of this disease occurred during 1998.
- HIV infection and AIDS are the most common identified risk factors for cryptosporidiosis. Cryptosporidiosis has been an AIDS-defining disease since 1983. The number of reported cases has decreased since the advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy.





STRATIFIED DATA

Trends: The rate of cryptosporidiosis (0.47 cases per 100,000) decreased in 2005 (Figure 1).

Seasonality: In 2005, there was a peak in October, although the previous 5-year average peak was in August (Figure 2).

Age: The 35-44 age group had the highest incidence rate followed by the 45-54 and 55-64 age groups (Figure 3).

Sex: The male-to-female ratio was 5.4:1 (7 females). This is due to the high rate of cryptosporidiosis in MSM.

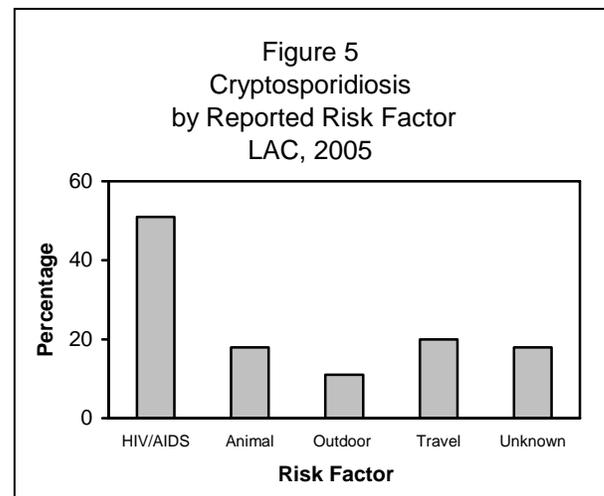
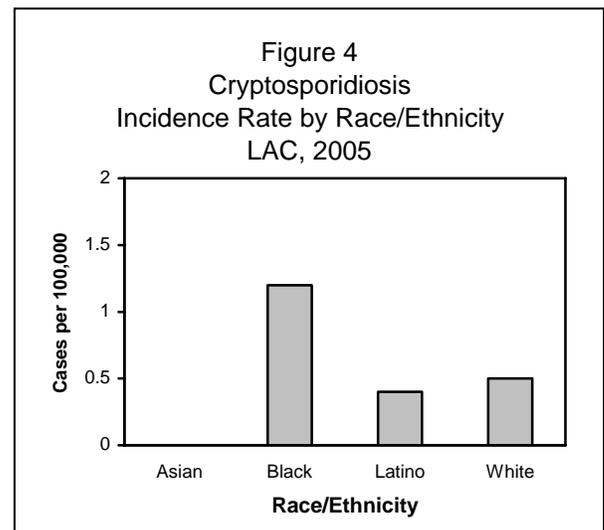
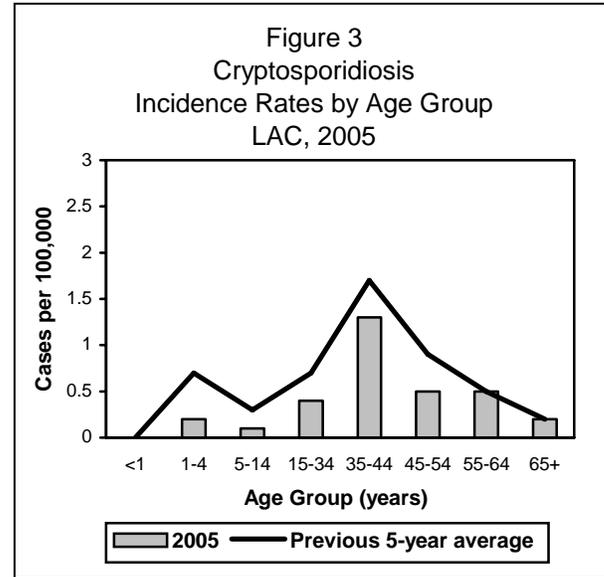
Race/Ethnicity: Blacks had the highest incidence rate (Figure 4), followed by Whites and Latinos. Race was unknown for 3 cases (7%). The rate for Blacks decreased from 1.5 per 100,000 in 2005 to 1.2 per 100,000 in 2005. There were no cases among Asians in 2005.

Location: Location information was available for all 56 cases. Central Health District had the highest incidence rate, 1.4 per 100,000 (n=18), followed closely by San Fernando Health District, which had 0.5 per 100,000 (n=10).

Risk Factors: Complete risk factor data was not available for all cases; 8 cases (18%) were either unable to be located or refused to be interviewed (Figure 5). HIV infection and AIDS accounted for 51% of the cases, 2 cases were female. Animal contact (18%) and recent international travel (20%) were the other most common risk factors following HIV status. Many cases had more than one risk factor.

COMMENTS

Risk factors were self reported and were not proven to be the actual source of infection. A large percentage (49%) of the cryptosporidiosis cases were among HIV positive males. In 2005 the majority of HIV male cases were Black (44%), slightly less than 2004 (45%). Eight cases (18%) had unknown HIV status. Cryptosporidiosis can become a chronic infection among immunocompromised patients and cases are often reported multiple times; however, within this report, cases are counted only once. There has not been an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis in LAC since 1988, which involved contaminated swimming pool water [1].





RESOURCES

1. Sorvillo FJ, Fujioka K, Nahlen B, Tormey MP, Kebabjian R, Mascola L. Swimming-associated cryptosporidiosis. *Am J Public Health* 1992; 82(5): 742-4.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

General disease information is available from the CDC at:
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/cryptosporidiosis/default.htm

General information and reporting information about this and other foodborne diseases in LAC is available at: www.lapublichealth.org/acd/food.htm

Map 4. Cryptosporidiosis Rates by Health District, Los Angeles County, 2005*

