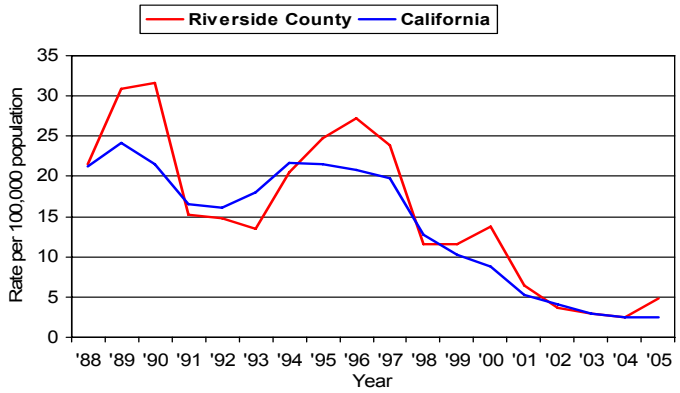
HEPATITIS A

DISEASE ABSTRACT

- The hepatitis A rate has decreased from a peak of 32 cases per 100,000 population in 1990 to a rate of 4.8 cases per 100,000 population in 2005.
- In 2005, 60.7 percent of all cases reported food exposure as a risk factor for disease followed by travel outside the United States (15.7 percent) and water contact (7.9 percent).

Figure 3.5: Hepatitis A Incidence Rates by Year, 1988-2005



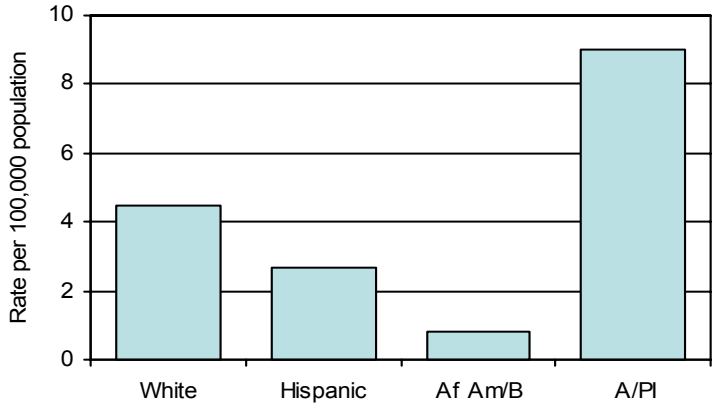
TRENDS

Historically, the incidence of hepatitis A peaks every five to seven years. The slight increase in incidence in 2005 seen in Riverside County may indicate the start of a cyclical peak.

AGE

Incidence rates for young children have continued to decrease. In 2005, children 4 years or younger had the lowest incidence rates with 1.4 cases per 100,000 population. This decline may be attributed to routine recommendations to vaccinate children two years and older. The highest rate was observed in those 45-64 years with 6.9 cases per 100,000 population, followed by adults 65 and older (5.7) and individuals 20-44 years old with 5 cases per 100,000 population.

Figure 3.6: Hepatitis A Incidence Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2005



RACE/ETHNICITY

Asians/Pacific Islanders had the highest incidence of hepatitis A in 2005 with a rate of 9 cases per 100,000 population. This is double the rate of other race/ethnic groups.