

VIRAL MENINGITIS

DISEASE ABSTRACT

- In 2005, there were 140 reported cases of viral meningitis with an incidence rate of 7.5 cases per 100,000 population.
- In Riverside County, males under the age of 9 and between 20 and 29 years had the highest incidence rates at 17.8 and 14.8 per 100,000 population respectively.

Figure 4.8: Viral Meningitis Incidence Rates by Year, 1995-2005

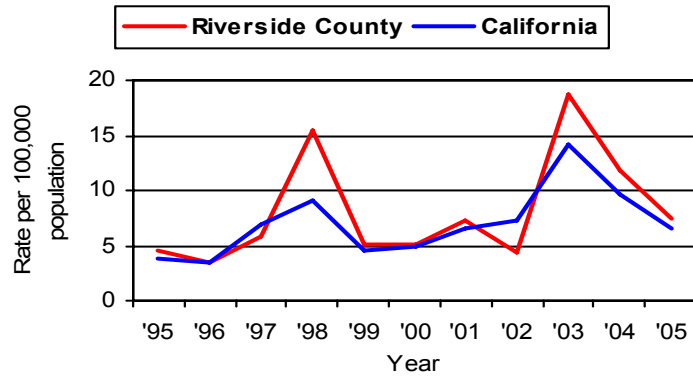
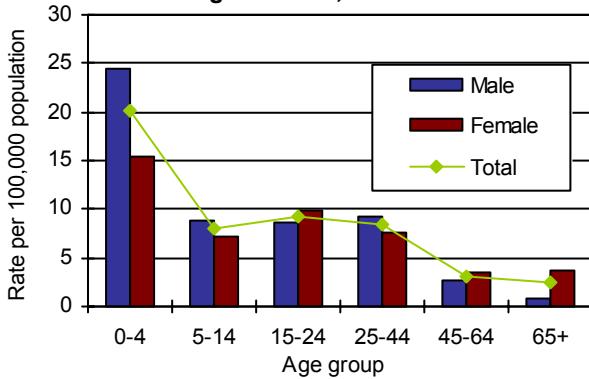


Figure 4.9: Viral Meningitis Incidence Rates by Age and Sex, 2005



TRENDS

Viral meningitis peaks approximately every 5 years due to the cyclical nature of virus circulation. The most recent peak occurred in 2003, and although the incidence was still elevated in 2005, the number of reported cases has decreased for two consecutive years.

AGE

In 2005, persons aged less than 5 years were disproportionately affected by viral meningitis, comprising 21 percent of all reported cases.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The Western Region had the highest incidence of viral meningitis with 8.8 cases per 100,000 population, compared to the Mid County and Eastern Regions which had 7.1 and 5.3 cases per 100,000 population, respectively. In 2003, when 329 cases were reported, a majority of the cases resided in the Eastern Region.

SEASONALITY

In 2005, as in previous years, seasonal increases of sporadic cases occurred in summer and autumn.

Figure 4.10: Viral Meningitis Cases by Month Diagnosed, 2005

