

HEALTH:

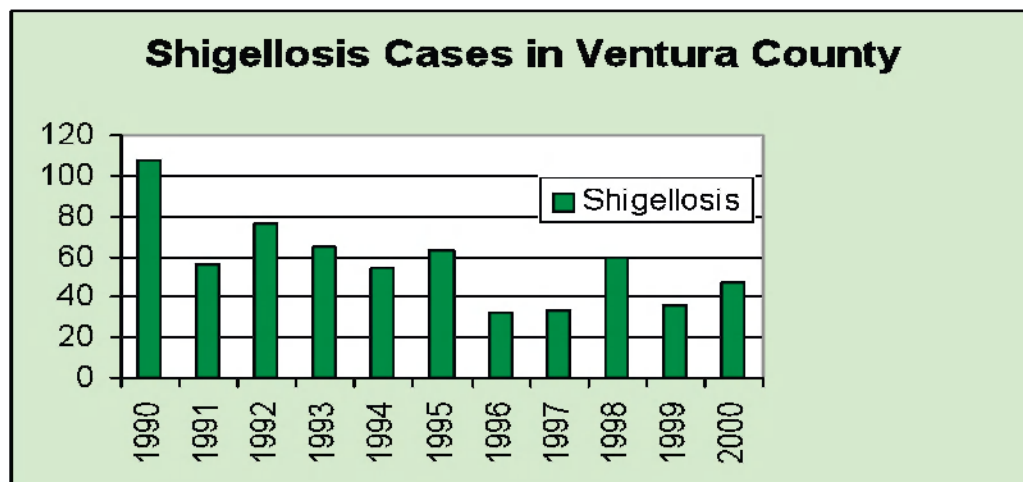
Community Hygiene

Goal: Development that provides housing that has hot running water and safe sewage disposal and assures homes and restaurants that are safe from the spread of human intestinal diseases.

Measured By: Rates of reported Shigellosis which is a serious disease caused by a human intestinal bacterium.

Findings: Shigellosis has been declining somewhat in Ventura County in the last few years. There were 47 cases reported in the County in 2000 compared to 108 in 1990.

Context: Because Shigellosis is almost exclusively a disease caused by human fecal contamination and is serious enough to warrant medical attention and reporting in most cases, it is a good indicator of the degree of sanitation and hygiene in a community. Development that provides safe sewage disposal and proper indoor toilet and hand washing facilities helps reduce the risk of human intestinal diseases such as Shigellosis and Hepatitis A. Likewise, overcrowded dwellings with inadequate facilities have been shown in the past to contribute to high rates of intestinal disease transmission.



Source: California Department of Health Services, Division of Communicable Disease Control, Surveillance and Statistics Section