



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Program

2008 Epidemiology Fact Sheet Total Tuberculosis Cases

1. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.3 million people died of tuberculosis (TB) in 2007.¹ The global epidemic is growing and becoming more dangerous. One-third of the world's population is presently infected with the TB bacillus (latent TB infection or LTBI). One in ten people who are infected with TB (but who are not infected with HIV) become sick or infectious at some time during their life.² The epidemics of HIV/AIDS and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) have also had an impact on the spread of TB. Tuberculosis is the single most common opportunistic infection for people with HIV. Thus, TB is a major cause of death in people who are HIV positive. It accounts for 23% of HIV deaths worldwide.¹
2. In the United States, the latest national surveillance data show a significant, but slowing decline in the case rate of TB. In 2008, a total of 12,898 TB cases were reported in the U.S. The national TB case rate was 4.2 cases per 100,000 persons; this was the lowest rate since reporting began in 1953. However, this decline in the national TB case rate from 2007 to 2008 was only 4.5 percent, one of the smallest declines in more than a decade.³ In California, Los Angeles County (LAC) continues to report the highest number of TB cases in the year 2008. LAC accounted for 29.4% of the TB cases in California (2,696 cases) and 6.1% of the 12,898 TB cases reported in the United States in 2008.^{3,4}
3. During 2008, there were 792 TB cases confirmed in LAC. This represents a 2.9% decrease in TB cases from 2007 (816 cases) and an overall 64.0% decrease since the peak in 1992 (2,198 cases). Similar to the national data, this was the sixteenth year of decline since 1992. The TB case rate in 2008 was 8.1 cases per 100,000 persons.⁵
4. In Los Angeles County during 2008, there were a greater number of TB cases diagnosed in males (478 cases, 60.4%) than in females (314 cases, 39.6%).
5. The largest number of TB cases was in the 15 – 34 age group, with 194 cases (24.5%), followed by the 65 years and older age group with 181 cases (22.9%), the 45 – 54 age group with 147 cases (18.6%), the 35 – 44 age group with 119 cases (15%), the 55 – 64 age group with 107 cases (13.5%), the 5 – 14 age group with 24 cases (3.0%) and the 0 – 4 age group with 20 cases (2.5%). Compared to 2007, there was a decrease in the proportion of TB cases in 2007 for the 0 – 4, 55 – 64, and 65 years and older age groups.
6. The racial/ethnic breakdown of TB cases reported in 2008 was as follows: 370 (46.7%) Hispanic, 278 (35.1%) Asian/Pacific Islander, 89 (11.2%) Black, 54 (6.8%) non-Hispanic White, and 1 (0.1%) American Indian.
7. During 2008, 76.9% (609) of the 792 total TB cases occurred in foreign-born populations. Of the 609 foreign-born cases, 203 (33.3%) were from Mexico, 100 (16.4%) from the Philippines, 38 (6.2%) from Vietnam, 37 (6.1%) from China, 32 (5.3%) from El Salvador and 30 (4.9%) from Guatemala. Among the 609 foreign-born TB cases, 578 (94.9%) had date of arrival in the U.S. identified. Of the 609, 107 (17.6%) were recent immigrants who immigrated to the U.S. fewer than three years prior.
8. In 2008, 63 (8.0%) TB cases were HIV co-infected. Of these 63, 53 (84.1%) were male. Among all HIV-infected TB cases, 39 (61.9%) were Hispanic, 15 (23.8%) were Black, 6 (9.5%) were non-Hispanic White, 2 (3.2%) were Asian/Pacific Islander and 1 (1.6%) was American Indian. Forty (63.5%) of the HIV co-infected cases were in the 25 – 44 year age group, 20 (31.7%) were in the 45 – 64 year age group and 3 (4.8%) in the 5-24 year age group.
9. Sixty (7.6%) of the 792 TB cases were reported as homeless in 2008; 54 (90.0%) of the 60 homeless cases were male. Among all homeless TB cases, 35 (58.3%) were Hispanic, 18 (30.0%) were Black, 6 (10.0%) were non-Hispanic White and 1 (1.7%) was Asian/Pacific Islander.
10. Five hundred and sixty four cases (71.2%) were pulmonary TB only, 181 cases (22.9%) were extra-pulmonary TB only, and the remaining 47 (5.9%) cases were pulmonary and extra-pulmonary TB.

1. WHO. Global TB Control Report. Available at http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/2009/pdf/full_report.pdf

2. WHO. Tuberculosis facts 2008. Available at http://www.who.int/tb/publications/2008/factsheet_april08.pdf

3. CDC. Trends in Tuberculosis - United States, 2008. MMWR. March 20, 2009 / 58(10); 249-253.

4. California Department of Public Health. California Tuberculosis data tables for 2008. Available at http://ww2.cdph.ca.gov/programs/tb/Documents/TBCB-World-TB-Day-CA-State-Jurisdictions_A-F-03-09.pdf

5. Epidemiology Services, TB Control Program, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County. Tuberculosis Epidemiology Assessment (TEAM) Report 2008.