



## Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Tuberculosis Control Program

### 2002 Epidemiology Fact Sheet

#### Foreign-Born Tuberculosis Cases

1. In the United States, in the year 2001, 7,865 foreign-born TB cases were reported representing 49 % of the total 15,989 TB cases in the nation. There has been a steady increase in the proportion of the foreign-born TB cases in the United States since 1990 (6,262 cases, 24%). Tuberculosis case rates among the foreign-born are also consistently higher than US-born persons. In 2001, the foreign-born TB case rate was 26.6 cases per 100,000 population compared to 3.1 cases per 100,000 population for US-born TB cases.<sup>1</sup>
2. In California, in the year 2001, 2,482 foreign-born TB cases were reported representing 74.5% of the total 3,332 TB cases in the state. These 2,482 cases represent a 4.4% increase in the number of foreign-born TB cases (2,377) from 2000.<sup>2,3</sup>
3. In the year 2002, there were 1,025 cases of TB reported in Los Angeles County. Of the total 1,025 cases, 78.2% (802) were foreign-born. The foreign-born TB cases were reported from 44 different foreign countries and areas in 2002.<sup>4</sup> Of the 802 foreign-born TB cases, 285 (27.5%) were from Mexico, 151 (14.7%) were from the Philippines, 60 (5.9%) were from Vietnam, 50 (4.9%) were from South Korea, 48 (4.7%) were from China, 46 (5.3%) were from El Salvador and 31 (4.4%) were from Guatemala.
4. Of the 802 foreign-born TB cases, 495 (61.7%) of the foreign-born cases were male and 307 (38.3%) were female. A similar proportion of male to female was also observed among the White, Hispanic and Asian foreign-born TB cases, however among Black foreign-born TB cases, 76.9% were female and 23.1% were male.
5. Of the 802 foreign-born TB cases, the age groups with the largest number of foreign-born TB cases were the 65 years and older age group with 203 (25.3%) and the 15-34 year old age group with 202 (25.2%) respectively, followed by the 45-54 age group with 143 cases (17.8 %), the 35-44 age group with 134 cases (16.7%) and the 55-64 age group with 99 cases (12.3%). For Asian and White foreign-born TB cases, the highest percentages were among the elderly (32.5% and 41.4%, respectively), while for Hispanic and Black foreign-born TB cases the highest percentages were among the 15-34 year old age group (30.5% and 61.5% respectively).
6. The racial breakdown of the foreign-born TB cases was 403 (50.2%) Hispanic, 357 (44.5%) Asian, 29 (3.6%) White, and 13 (1.6%) Black.
7. In 2002, of the 802 foreign-born TB cases, 50 (6.2%) were co-infected with HIV. Of these 50, thirty-six (72.0%) cases were Hispanic, 7 (14.0%) were Asian, and 7 (14.0%) was Black.
8. In 2002, 37 (4.6 %) foreign-born TB cases were homeless. Most, 33 cases (89.2%), were Hispanic.
9. Six hundred and thirty-nine cases (79.7%) were diagnosed as pulmonary TB, and 163 cases (20.3%) as extra-pulmonary TB only.

1. CDC. Reported Tuberculosis in The United States, 2001

2. California Department of Health Services. Report on Tuberculosis in California, 2001.

3. California Department of Health Services. Report on Tuberculosis in California, 2000.

4. Epidemiology Services, TB Control Program, Department of Health and Services, Los Angeles County. Tuberculosis Epidemiology Assessment (TEAM) Report 2002; Volume 2003.