Los Angeles County Department of Health Services  
Tuberculosis Control Program  

2002 Epidemiology Fact Sheet  

Homeless Tuberculosis Cases

1. In the United States, in the year 2001, of the 15,255 TB cases with information on homeless status, 6.1% (930 cases) were homeless.  

2. In California, in the year 2001, of the 3,300 TB cases with information on homeless status, 7.1% were homeless. 

3. In 2002, there were 1,025 TB cases reported in Los Angeles County. Of the total 1,025 TB cases, 7.5% (77 cases) were homeless. This represents a 3.8% decrease in the number of homeless cases from the year 2001 (80 cases). 

4. The majority (84.4%) of the homeless TB cases was male (65 cases). 

5. The highest numbers of homeless TB cases were reported in both 35-44 and 45-54 year old age groups (22 cases, 28.6% for each), followed by age 15-34 years (15 cases, 19.5%), 55-64 years (13 cases, 16.9%), and 65 years and older (4 cases, 5.2%). 

6. The racial breakdown of homeless TB cases was 59.7% (46 cases) Hispanic, 28.6% Black (22 cases), 6.5% White (5 cases), and 5.2% Asian (4 cases). 

7. In 2002, 45.5% (35 cases) of the homeless TB cases were US-born. Thirty-seven cases (48.1%) were foreign-born. Of the 37 foreign-born homeless TB cases, 26 cases (70.3%) were born in Mexico, 3 (8.1%) in Honduras, 2 (5.4%) in El Salvador and Philippines each. The 4 remaining were born in Bolivia, Costa Rica, South Korea, and Thailand. 

8. Of the 77 homeless TB cases, 79.2% (61 cases) were tested for HIV. Of these 61, 21.3% (13 cases) were identified with HIV co-infection. 

9. Most of the homeless cases (31 cases, 40.3%) were located in the Central Health District, a region characterized by high population density, severe poverty and large numbers of persons with other risk factors for TB such as HIV infection, injection/non-injection drug use, and severe alcohol abuse. The Inglewood Health District had the second highest number of homeless TB cases (9 cases, 11.7%), followed by South (5 cases, 6.5%). 

10. Seventy-two homeless TB cases (93.5%) were diagnosed as pulmonary TB and 5 cases (6.5%) as extrapulmonary TB only. 


Note: TB cases in Pasadena and Long Beach are not included in the report because these two cities have their own TB Control Programs.