



## 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.<sup>1</sup>
2. In California, in the year 2001, of the 3,300 TB cases with information on homeless status, 7.1% were homeless.<sup>1</sup>
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).<sup>2</sup>
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.

1. CDC: Reported Tuberculosis in the United States 2001.

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