1. In the United States, in the year 2002, 3,345 TB cases were reported in Asian/Pacific Islanders representing 22.2% of the total 15,075 TB cases in the nation. The incidence rate of tuberculosis in Asian/Pacific Islanders was higher than in any other racial/ethnic group (27.8 cases per 100,000). The incidence of African Americans was 12.6 cases per 100,000, 10.4 cases per 100,000 for Hispanics, and 1.5 cases per 100,000 for Non-Hispanic Whites.1

2. In California for 2002, 1,285 TB cases were reported in Asian/Pacific Islanders representing 40.5% of the total 3,169 TB cases in the state.2

3. In 2003, of total 949 TB cases in Los Angeles County (LAC), Asian/Pacific Islanders were the second leading racial/ethnic group (346 cases, 36.5%) after Hispanics (434 cases, 45.7%). The proportion of Asian/Pacific Islanders TB cases has increased from 30.3% to 35.6% in 1999 to 2001, remained almost unchanged between 2001 and 2002 (35.6% and 35.5% respectively), but climbed again in 2003 (36.5%).3

4. In 2003, of the 346 Asian/Pacific Islander TB cases, 201 (58.1%) were male and 145 (41.9%) were female.

5. The highest number of Asian/Pacific Islander TB cases were found in the 65 years and older age group with 120 cases (34.7%), followed by the 15-34 year old age group with 77 cases (22.3%), the 45-54 year old age group with 55 cases (15.9%), the 55-64 year old age group with 51 cases (14.7%), the 35-44 year old age group with 40 cases (11.6%), the 0-4 year old age group with 2 cases (0.6%), and the 5-14 year old age group with 1 (0.3%) case.

6. Of 346 Asians/Pacific Islander TB cases, almost all were foreign-born 339 (98.0%). Of these 339, 143 (42.2%) were born in the Philippines, 53 (15.6%) in China, 44 (13.0%) in South Korea, 41 (12.1%) in Vietnam, 9 (2.7%) each in Cambodia and Taiwan, 8 (2.4%) each in India, Thailand and Indonesia, 5 (1.5%) in Burma, 4 (1.2%) in Hong Kong, 2 (1.0%) in Malaysia and the 5 remaining cases were from 5 other countries.

7. In 2003, 5 (1.4%) TB cases were co-infected with HIV among the 346 Asian/Pacific Islander TB cases.

8. In 2003, there were 3 (0.9%) homeless TB cases among the 346 Asian/Pacific Islander TB cases. These 3 cases were foreign-born

9. Two hundred eighty six cases (82.7%) were diagnosed as pulmonary TB, and 60 (17.3%) as extra-pulmonary TB only.

1. CDC.Reported Tuberculosis in the United States 2002
2. Report on Tuberculosis in California January, 2004

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