



Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Tuberculosis Control Program

2003 Epidemiology Fact Sheet

Asian/Pacific Islander Tuberculosis Cases

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

3. Epidemiology Services, TB Control Program, Department of Health and Services, Los Angeles County. Tuberculosis Epidemiology Assessment (TEAM) Report 2003; Volume 2004.