



Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Tuberculosis Control Program

2003 Epidemiology Fact Sheet

Foreign-Born Tuberculosis Cases

1. In the United States, in the year 2002, 7,659 foreign-born TB cases were reported representing 51 % of the total 15,075 TB cases in the nation. In 1990, 6,262 cases (24%) were reported in the United States. Since then, there has been a steady increase in the proportion of foreign-born TB cases. Tuberculosis case rates among the foreign-born are also consistently higher than US-born persons. In 2002, the foreign-born TB case rate was 23.1 cases per 100,000 population compared to 2.9 cases per 100,000 population for US-born TB cases.¹
2. In California, in the year 2002, 2,390 foreign-born TB cases were reported representing 75.1% of the total 3,169 TB cases in the state. These 2,390 cases represent a 4.1% decrease in the number of foreign-born TB cases (2,482) from 2001.^{2,3}
3. In the year 2003, there were 949 cases of TB reported in Los Angeles County. Of the total 949 cases, 749 (78.9%) were foreign-born. The foreign-born TB cases were reported from 48 different foreign countries and areas in 2003.⁴ Of the 749 foreign-born TB cases, 257 (34.3%) were from Mexico, 145 (19.4%) were from the Philippines, 53 (7.1%) were from China, 44 (5.9%) were from South Korea, 41 (5.5%) were from Vietnam, 33 (4.4%) were from Guatemala and 29 (3.9%) were from El Salvador.
4. Of the 749 foreign-born TB cases, 444 (59.3%) of the foreign-born cases were male and 305 (40.7%) 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, 46.7% were female and 53.3% were male.
5. Of the 749 foreign-born TB cases, the age groups with the largest number of foreign-born TB cases were the 15-34 year old age group with 212 (28.3%) and the 65 years and older age group with 194 (25.9%) respectively, followed by the 35-44 age group with 127 cases (17.0 %), the 45-54 age group with 112 cases (15.0%) and the 55-64 age group with 94 cases (12.6%). For Asian and White foreign-born TB cases, the highest percentages were among the 65 and older (34.8% and 38.2%, respectively), while for Hispanic and Black foreign-born TB cases the highest percentages were among the 15-34 year old age group (33.2% and 46.7% respectively).
6. The racial and ethnic groups representing the foreign-born TB cases was 361 (48.2%) Hispanic, 339 (45.3%) Asian, 34 (4.5%) White, and 15 (2.0%) Black.
7. In 2003, of the 749 foreign-born TB cases, 51 (6.8 %) were co-infected with HIV. Of these 51, forty-two (82.4%) cases were Hispanic, 5 (9.8%) were Asian, 3 (5.9%) White and 1 (2.0%) was Black.
8. In 2003, 32 (4.3 %) foreign-born TB cases were homeless. Most, 26 cases (81.3%), were Hispanic.
9. Five hundred ninety-six cases (79.6%) were diagnosed as pulmonary TB, and 153 cases (20.4%) as extra-pulmonary TB only.

1. Reported Tuberculosis in The United States, 2002 Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, September, 2003
2. California Department of Health Services. Report on Tuberculosis in California, 2002. http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/TBCB/TB%20Reports/TB_REPORT_2002.pdf
3. California Department of Health Services. Report on Tuberculosis in California, 2001.
4. Epidemiology Services, TB Control Program, Department of Health and Services, Los Angeles County. Tuberculosis Epidemiology Assessment (TEAM) Report 2003; Volume 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.