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

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