



Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Tuberculosis Control Program

2003 Epidemiology Fact Sheet

Homeless Tuberculosis Cases

1. In the United States, in the year 2002, of the 14,715 TB cases with information on homeless status, 6.0% (883 cases) were homeless.¹
2. In California, in the year 2002, of the 3,131 TB cases with information on homeless status, 6.5% were homeless.¹
3. In 2003, there were 949 TB cases reported in Los Angeles County. Of the total 949 TB cases, 7.8% (74 cases) were homeless. This represents a 3.9% decrease in the number of homeless cases from the year 2002 (77 cases).²
4. The majority of the homeless TB cases were male (56 cases, 76.7%).
5. The highest number of homeless TB cases were reported in 35-44 (26 cases, 35.6%) followed by 45-54 year old age group (22 cases, 30.1%), age 15-34 years (11 cases, 15.1%), 55-64 years (9 cases, 12.3%), and 65 years and older (5 cases, 6.8%).
6. The racial/ethnic group represented in the homeless TB cases was 48.7% Hispanic (36 cases), 29.7% Black (22 cases), 16.2% White (12 cases), and 4.1% Asian (3 cases).
7. In 2003, 52.7% (39 cases) of the homeless TB cases were US-born. Thirty-two cases (43.2%) were foreign-born. Of the 32 foreign-born homeless TB cases, 16 cases (50.0%) were born in Mexico, 4 (12.5%) in Honduras, and 2 (6.25%) in China, Aruba and Guatemala respectively. The 6 remaining were born in Austria, Costa Rica, El Salvador, South Korea, Nicaragua and Philippines.
8. Of the 74 homeless TB cases, 80.8% (59 cases) were tested for HIV. Of these 59, 28.8% (17 cases) were identified with HIV co-infection.
9. Most of the homeless cases (32 cases, 43.2%) 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 South Health District had the second highest number of homeless TB cases (7 cases, 9.5%), followed by Southwest (6 cases, 8.1%).
10. Seventy homeless TB cases (94.6%) were diagnosed as pulmonary TB and 4 cases (5.4%) as extrapulmonary TB only.

1. Reported Tuberculosis in the United States 2002. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, September 2003

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