



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Program

2005 Epidemiology Fact Sheet Homeless Tuberculosis Cases

1. In the United States, in the year 2004, of the 14,394 TB cases with information on homeless status, 832 (5.8%) were homeless.¹
2. In California, in the year 2004, of the 2,952 TB cases with information on homeless status, 188 (6.4%) were homeless.²
3. In 2005, there were 906 TB cases reported in Los Angeles County. Of the total 906 TB cases, 5.0% (45 cases) were homeless. This represents a 34% decrease in the number of homeless cases from the year 2004 (68 cases).²
4. The majority (82.2%) of the homeless TB cases were male (37 cases).
5. The highest numbers of homeless TB cases were reported in 45-54 year old age groups (19 cases, 42.2%), followed by age 35-44 years (9 cases, 20.0%), 15-34 years (8 cases, 17.8%), 55-64 (6 cases 13.3%), 65 years and older (2 cases, 4.4%) and 5-14 (1 case 2.2%).
6. The racial/ethnic breakdown of homeless TB cases was 51.1% Black (23 cases), 37.8% Hispanic (17 cases), 8.9% White (4 cases), and 2.2% Asian (1 case).
7. In 2005, 62.2% (28 cases) of the homeless TB cases were US-born. Sixteen cases (35.6%) were foreign-born and the country of origin was unknown for 1 case. Of the 16 foreign-born homeless TB cases, 8 cases (50%) were born in Mexico, 2 (12.5%) in Honduras, and 2 (12.5%) in Guatemala. One case each was born in Cuba, Ecuador, India, and Iran.
8. Of the 45 homeless TB cases, 86.7% (39 cases) were tested for HIV. Of these 39, 18.0% (7 cases) were identified with HIV co-infection; this is more than twice the percentage of HIV co-infected patients in Los Angeles County as a whole in 2005.
9. Most of the homeless cases (16 cases, 35.6%) 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 Hollywood Health District had the second highest number of homeless TB cases (6 cases, 13.3%), followed by Northeast and West (each with 3 cases, 6.7% each).
10. Thirty-nine homeless TB cases (86.7%) were diagnosed as pulmonary TB and 6 cases (13.3%) as extrapulmonary TB only.

1. Reported Tuberculosis in the United States 2004. Website <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/surv/surv2004/default.htm>
2. Report on Tuberculosis in California, 2004. Website http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/tbcb/TB%20Reports/TB_Report_2004.pdf
3. Epidemiology Services, TB Control Program, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County. Tuberculosis Epidemiology Assessment (TEAM) Report 2005.