



Los Angeles County - Department of Public Health - Tuberculosis Control Program 2005 Epidemiology Fact Sheet - Total Tuberculosis Cases

1. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.7 million people died of tuberculosis (TB) in 2004. The global epidemic is growing and becoming more dangerous. One-third of the world's population is presently infected with the TB bacillus (latent TB infection or LTBI). Five to ten percent of the people who are infected with TB (but who are not infected with HIV) become sick or infectious at some time during their life. The epidemics of HIV/AIDS and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) have also impacted on the spread of TB. Tuberculosis is the single most common opportunistic infection for people with HIV. Thus, TB is a major cause of death in people who are HIV positive. It accounts for about 13% of AIDS deaths worldwide.¹
2. In the United States, the latest national surveillance data show a significant, but slowing decline in the case rate of TB. In 2005, a total of 14,093 TB cases were reported in the U.S. The national TB case rate was 4.8 cases per 100,000 persons; this was the lowest rate since reporting began in 1953. However, this decline in the national TB case rate from 2004 to 2005 was only 3.8 percent, one of the smallest declines in more than a decade.² In California, Los Angeles County (LAC) continues to report the highest number of TB cases in the year 2005. LAC accounted for 31.2% of the TB cases in California (2,900 cases provisional data) and 6.4% of the 14,093 TB cases (provisional data) reported in the United States in 2005.³
3. During 2005, there were 906 TB cases confirmed in LAC. This represents a 2.6% decrease in TB cases from 2004 (930 cases) and an overall 58.8% decrease since the peak of 1992 (2,198 cases). Similar to the national data, this was the thirteenth year of decline since 1992. The TB case rate was 9.5 cases per 100,000 persons.
4. In Los Angeles County during 2005, there were a greater number of TB cases diagnosed in males (541 cases, 59.7%) than in females (365 cases, 40.3%).
5. The largest number of TB cases was found among the 15-34 year age group with 206 cases (22.7%), followed by the 65 years and older age group with 201 cases (22.2%), the 35-44 year old age group with 187 cases (20.6%), the 45-54 year old age group with 165 cases (18.2%), the 55-64 year old age group with 111 cases (12.3%), the 0-4 age group with 24 cases (2.6%), and the 5-14 age group with 12 cases (1.3%). Compared to 2004, there was an increase in the proportion of TB cases in 2005 for the 35-44 and the 45-54 year old age groups.
6. The racial/ethnic breakdown of TB cases reported in 2005 was as follows: 426 (47.1%) Hispanic, 323 (35.7%) Asian/Pacific Islander, 97 (10.7%) Black, 58 (6.4%) non-Hispanic White, and 1 (0.1%) Native American/Alaskan Native. One case did not have any information on race/ethnicity.
7. During 2005, 77.7% (704) of the 906 total TB cases occurred in the foreign-born population. Of the 704 foreign-born cases, 250 (35.5%) were from Mexico, 115 (16.3%) from the Philippines, 45 (6.4%) from Vietnam, 42 (6.0%) from China, 38 (5.4%) from Guatemala, and 29 (4.1%) from El Salvador. Among the 704 foreign-born TB cases, 683 (97.0%) had date of arrival in the U.S. identified. Of the 704, 160 (22.7%) were recent immigrants who immigrated to the U.S. fewer than three years ago.
8. In 2005, 65 (7.2%) TB cases were HIV co-infected; of these 65, 52 (80.0%) were male. Among all HIV-infected TB cases, 41 (63.1%) were Hispanic, 16 (24.6%) were Black, 5 (7.7%) were non-Hispanic White and 3 (4.6%) were Asian/Pacific Islander. Forty-one (63.1%) of the HIV co-infected cases were in the 25-44 year old age group and 22 (33.8%) were in the 45-64 year old age group.
9. Forty-five (5.0%) of the 906 TB cases were reported as homeless in 2005; 37 (82.2%) of these were male. Among all homeless TB cases, 23 (51.1%) were Black, 17 (37.8%) were Hispanic, 4 (8.9%) were non-Hispanic White, 1 (2.2%) was Asian/Pacific Islander.
10. Six hundred six cases (66.9%) were pulmonary TB only, 233 cases (25.7%) were extra-pulmonary TB only, and the remaining 67 (7.4%) cases were pulmonary and extra-pulmonary TB.

1. Tuberculosis Fact Sheet No. 104, Revised March 2006, Website: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs104/en/index.html>

2. U.S. Tuberculosis cases at an all-time low in 2005, but drug resistance increasing. March 23, 2006. CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/fs050317.htm>

3. Tuberculosis Cases Continue to Decline in California, March 22, 2006, Website: <http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/pressreleases/store/PressReleases/06-17.html>

4. Epidemiology Services, TB Control Program, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County. Tuberculosis Epidemiology Assessment (TEAM) Report 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.