



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Program

2006 Epidemiology Fact Sheet Total Tuberculosis Cases

1. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.6 million people died of tuberculosis (TB) in 2005. 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 12% 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 2006, a total of 13,779 TB cases were reported in the U.S. The national TB case rate was 4.6 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 2005 to 2006 was only 3.1 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 2006. LAC accounted for 31.8% of the TB cases in California (2,779 cases) and 6.4% of the 13,779 TB cases reported in the United States in 2006.³
3. During 2006, there were 885 TB cases confirmed in LAC. This represents a 2.3% decrease in TB cases from 2005 (906 cases) and an overall 59.7% decrease since the peak of 1992 (2,198 cases). Similar to the national data, this was the fourteenth year of decline since 1992. The TB case rate was 9.2 cases per 100,000 persons.
4. In Los Angeles County during 2006, there were a greater number of TB cases diagnosed in males (545 cases, 61.6%) than in females (340 cases, 38.4%).
5. The largest number of TB cases was in the 15- 34 year age group, with 219 cases (24.7%), followed by the 65 years and older age group with 203 cases (22.9%), the 45 – 54 age group with 157 cases (17.7%), the 35 – 44 age group with 134 cases (15.1%), the 55 – 64 age group with 131 cases (14.8%), the 0 – 4 age group with 28 cases (3.2%) and the 5 – 14 age group with 13 cases (1.5%). Compared to 2005, there was a decrease in the proportion of TB cases in 2006 for the 35-44, and 45-54 year age groups.
6. The racial/ethnic breakdown of TB cases reported in 2006 was as follows: 394 (44.5%) Hispanic, 329 (37.2%) Asian/Pacific Islander, 86 (9.7%) Black, 75 (8.5%) non-Hispanic White, and 1 (0.1%) Native American/Alaskan Native.
7. During 2006, 78.0% (690) of the 885 total TB cases occurred in foreign-born populations. Of the 690 foreign-born cases, 234 (33.9%) were from Mexico, 129 (18.7%) from the Philippines, 37 (5.4%) from Vietnam, 43 (6.2%) from China, 35 (5.1%) from Guatemala and 23 (3.3%) from El Salvador. Among the 690 foreign-born TB cases, 662 (96%) had date of arrival in the U.S. identified. Of the 690, 163 (23.6%) were recent immigrants who immigrated to the U.S. fewer than three years prior.
8. In 2006, 66 (7.5%) TB cases were HIV co-infected. Of these 66, 55 (83.3%) were male. Among all HIV-infected TB cases, 40 (60.6%) were Hispanic, 15 (22.7%) were Black, 6 (9.1%) were Asian/Pacific Islander and 5 (7.6%) were non-Hispanic White. Thirty-eight (57.6%) of the HIV co-infected cases were in the 25 – 44 year age group and 26 (39.4%) were in the 45 – 64 year age group.
9. Forty-nine (5.5%) of the 885 TB cases were reported as homeless in 2006; 46 (93.9%) of the 49 homeless cases were male. Among all homeless TB cases, 22 (44.9%) were Hispanic, 17 (34.7%) were Black, 9 (18.4%) were non-Hispanic White and 1 (2.0%) was Asian/Pacific Islander.
10. Five hundred ninety eight cases (67.6%) were pulmonary TB only, 206 cases (23.3%) were extra-pulmonary TB only, and the remaining 81 (9.2%) 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. CDC. Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 2006. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; September 2007.

3. California Department of Public Health. Report on Tuberculosis in California, 2006. August 2007.

4. Epidemiology Services, TB Control Program, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County. Tuberculosis Epidemiology Assessment (TEAM) Report 2006.