



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Program

2006 Epidemiology Fact Sheet Foreign-Born Tuberculosis Cases

1. In 2006, 7,799 foreign-born TB cases were reported in the United States, representing 56.6% of the total 13,779 TB cases in the nation. There has been a steady increase in the percentage of foreign-born TB cases in the United States since 1993 (7,403 cases, 29.0%). TB case rates among the foreign-born are also consistently higher than rates in US-born persons. In 2006, the foreign-born TB case rate was 22.0 cases per 100,000 population compared to 2.3 cases per 100,000 population for US-born TB cases.¹
2. In 2006, 2,136 foreign-born TB cases were reported in California, representing 76.9% of the total 2,779 TB cases in the state.²
3. In the year 2006, there were 885 cases of TB reported in Los Angeles County. Of the total 885 cases, 690 (78%) were foreign-born. The foreign-born TB cases were reported from 47 different countries and areas.³ Of the 690 foreign-born TB cases, 234 (33.9%) were from Mexico, 129 (18.7%) from the Philippines, 43 (6.2%) from China, 37 (5.4%) from Vietnam, 35 (5.1%) from Guatemala, and 26 (3.8%) from the Republic of Korea.
4. Of the 690 foreign-born TB cases, 410 (59.4%) were male and 280 (40.6%) were female.
5. Of the 690 foreign-born TB cases, the majority of cases occurred in the 15-34 year age group with 171 cases (24.8%), followed by the 65 years and older age group (165 cases, 23.9%), the 45-54 age group (120 cases, 17.4%), the 35-44 and the 55-64 age group (111 cases, 16.1 % for each group). Among Black and Hispanic foreign-born TB cases, the highest percentages were in the 15-34 year age group (47.6% and 29.5%, respectively). For Whites and Asians, the highest percentages were in the 65 years and older age group (59.4% and 31.7%, respectively).
6. The racial and ethnic background of the foreign-born TB cases was 322 (46.7%) Hispanic, 315 (45.7%) Asian, 32 (4.6%) White, and 21 (3%) Black.
7. In 2006, of the 690 foreign-born TB cases, 44 (6.4 %) were co-infected with HIV. Of these 44, thirty-four (77.3%) cases were Hispanic, 6 (13.6%) were Asian, and 4 (9.1%) were Black.
8. In 2006, 20 (2.9 %) foreign-born TB cases were homeless. Most (16 cases, 80%) were Hispanic.
9. Five hundred twenty-eight (76.5%) cases were diagnosed as pulmonary TB, and 162 (23.5%) cases as extra-pulmonary TB only.

1. CDC. Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 2006. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; September 2007.

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

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