



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Program

2006 Epidemiology Fact Sheet Homeless Tuberculosis Cases

1. In the United States, in the year 2006, of the 12,842 TB cases with information on homeless status, 796 (6.2%) were homeless.¹
2. In California 2006, of the 2,749 TB cases with information on homeless status, 167 (6.1%) homeless.²

Los Angeles County 2006³

3. A total of 885 cases were reported in Los Angeles County in 2006. Forty-nine (5.5%) were homeless. This represents a 8.9% increase in the number of homeless cases from 2005 (45 cases).
4. The majority (93.9%) of homeless TB cases was male (46 cases).
5. The highest number of homeless TB cases reported was in the 45-54 year age group (19 cases, 38.8%), followed by the age groups 35-44 (15 cases, 30.6%), 55-64 (8 cases, 16.3%) and 15-34 (7 cases, 14.3%) respectively. No cases for 0-4, 5-14 and 65+ year age groups.
6. The racial/ethnic breakdown of homeless TB cases was 44.9% Hispanics (22 cases), 34.7% Black (17 cases), 18.4% White (9 cases), and 2.0% Asian (1 case).
7. Twenty-eight (57.1%) of the homeless TB cases were born in the U.S. Twenty cases (40.8%) were foreign-born, and the country of origin was unknown for 1 case. Of the 20 foreign-born homeless TB cases, 12 cases (60%) were born in Mexico, 2 (10.0%) in El Salvador and 2 (10.0%) in Guatemala. One case each was born in Argentina, Bosnia, China and Cuba.
8. Of the 49 homeless TB cases, 81.6% (40 cases) were tested for HIV. Of these 40, 30% (12 cases) were identified with HIV co-infection. This is more than four times the percentage of HIV co-infected patients in Los Angeles County as a whole in 2006.
9. Most of the homeless cases (8 cases, 16.3%) 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 (7 cases, 14.3%) followed by South (6 cases, 12.2%) and Southwest (4 cases, 8.1%).
10. Forty-four homeless TB cases (89.8%) were diagnosed as pulmonary TB and 5 cases (10.2%) as extrapulmonary 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.