



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Program

2007 Epidemiology Fact Sheet Total Tuberculosis Cases

1. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.7 million people died of tuberculosis (TB) in 2006. 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). One in ten people who are infected with TB (but who are not infected with HIV) become sick or infectious at some time during their life.¹ 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 13% of AIDS deaths worldwide.²
2. In the United States, the latest national surveillance data show a significant, but slowing decline in the case rate of TB. In 2007, a total of 13,299 TB cases were reported in the U.S. The national TB case rate was 4.4 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 2006 to 2007 was only 4.2 percent, one of the smallest declines in more than a decade.³ In California, Los Angeles County (LAC) continues to report the highest number of TB cases in the year 2007. LAC accounted for 29.9% of the TB cases in California (2,725 cases) and 6.1% of the 13,299 TB cases reported in the United States in 2007.^{3,4}
3. During 2007, there were 816 TB cases confirmed in LAC. This represents a 7.8% decrease in TB cases from 2006 (885 cases) and an overall 62.9% decrease since the peak of 1992 (2,198 cases). Similar to the national data, this was the fifteenth year of decline since 1992. The TB case rate was 8.4 cases per 100,000 persons.
4. In Los Angeles County during 2007, there were a greater number of TB cases diagnosed in males (501 cases, 61.4%) than in females (315 cases, 38.6%).
5. The largest number of TB cases was in the 65 years and older age group, with 192 cases (23.5%), followed by the 15- 34 year age group with 189 cases (23.2%), the 45 – 54 age group with 150 cases (18.4%), the 55 – 64 age group with 134 cases (16.4%), the 35 – 44 age group with 117 cases (14.3%), the 0 – 4 age group with 25 cases (3.1%) and the 5 – 14 age group with 9 cases (1.1%). Compared to 2006, there was a decrease in the proportion of TB cases in 2007 for the 0 – 4, 5 – 14, 15- 34, and 35-44 year age groups.
6. The racial/ethnic breakdown of TB cases reported in 2007 was as follows: 358 (43.9%) Hispanic, 329 (40.4%) Asian/Pacific Islander, 74 (9.1%) Black, and 54 (6.6%) non-Hispanic White.
7. During 2007, 79.3% (647) of the 816 total TB cases occurred in foreign-born populations. Of the 647 foreign-born cases, 197 (30.4%) were from Mexico, 126 (19.5%) from the Philippines, 57 (8.8%) from Vietnam, 38 (5.9%) from China, 36 (5.6%) from El Salvador and 34 (5.3%) from Guatemala. Among the 647 foreign-born TB cases, 619 (95.7%) had date of arrival in the U.S. identified. Of the 647, 134 (20.7%) were recent immigrants who immigrated to the U.S. fewer than three years prior.
8. In 2007, 64 (7.9%) TB cases were HIV co-infected. Of these 64, 57 (89.1%) were male. Among all HIV-infected TB cases, 41 (64.1%) were Hispanic, 12 (18.8%) were Black, 6 (9.4%) were Asian/Pacific Islander and 5 (7.8%) were non-Hispanic White. Thirty-three (51.6%) of the HIV co-infected cases were in the 25 – 44 year age group and 25 (39.1%) were in the 45 – 64 year age group.
9. Fifty-two (6.4%) of the 816 TB cases were reported as homeless in 2007; 47 (90.4%) of the 52 homeless cases were male. Among all homeless TB cases, 25(48.1%) were Hispanic, 18 (34.6%) were Black, 7 (13.5%) were non-Hispanic White and 2 (3.8%) was Asian/Pacific Islander.
10. Six hundred and seven cases (74.4%) were pulmonary TB only, 154 cases (18.9%) were extra-pulmonary TB only, and the remaining 55 (6.7%) cases were pulmonary and extra-pulmonary TB.

1. WHO. Tuberculosis facts 2008, Available at http://www.who.int/tb/publications/2008/factsheet_april08.pdf

2. UNAIDS. Tuberculosis and HIV. Available at <http://www.unaids.org/en/PolicyAndPractice/HIVTreatment/Coinfection/TB/default.asp>

3. CDC. Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 2007. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; September 2008.

4. California Department of Public Health. Report on Tuberculosis in California, 2007. August 2008.

5. Epidemiology Services, TB Control Program, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County. Tuberculosis Epidemiology Assessment (TEAM) Report 2007.