Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Tuberculosis Control Program

2007 Epidemiology Fact Sheet
Foreign-Born Tuberculosis Cases

1. In 2007, 7,750 foreign-born TB cases were reported in the United States, representing 58.3% of the total 13,299 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, 29.5%). TB case rates among the foreign-born are also consistently higher than rates in US-born persons. In 2007, the foreign-born TB case rate was 20.7 cases per 100,000 population compared to 2.1 cases per 100,000 population for US-born TB cases.¹

2. In 2007, 2,113 foreign-born TB cases were reported in California, representing 77.5% of the total 2,725 TB cases in the state.²

3. In the year 2007, there were 816 cases of TB reported in Los Angeles County. Of the total 816 cases, 647 (79.3%) were foreign-born. The foreign-born TB cases were reported from 48 different countries and areas. Of the 647 foreign-born TB 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.³

4. Of the 647 foreign-born TB cases, 384 (59.4%) were male and 263 (40.6%) were female.

5. Of the 647 foreign-born TB cases, the majority of cases occurred in the 65 years and older age group (161 cases, 24.9%), followed by the 15-34 year age group with 159 cases (24.6%), the 45-54 age group (116 cases, 17.9%), the 55-64 (109 cases, 16.8%) and the 35-44 age group (93 cases, 14.4%). Among Black and Hispanic foreign-born TB cases, the highest percentages were in the 15-34 year age group (66.7% and 28.6%, respectively). For Whites and Asians, the highest percentages were in the 65 years and older age group (37.5% and 30.3%, respectively).

6. The racial and ethnic background of the foreign-born TB cases was 317 (49.0%) Asian, 297 (45.9%) Hispanic, 24 (3.7%) White, and 9 (1.4%) Black.

7. In 2007, of the 647 foreign-born TB cases, 43 (6.6 %) were co-infected with HIV. Of these 43, thirty-five (81.4%) cases were Hispanic, 6 (14.0%) were Asian, 1 (2.3%) was Black and 1 (2.3%) was White.

8. In 2007, 25 (3.9 %) foreign-born TB cases were homeless. Most (20 cases, 80%) were Hispanic.

9. Four hundred eighty-three (74.7%) cases were diagnosed as pulmonary TB only, 124 (19.1%) cases as extra-pulmonary TB only, and 40 (6.2%) cases as pulmonary and extra-pulmonary TB.


Note: TB cases in Pasadena and Long Beach are not included in the report because these two cities have their own TB Control Programs.