



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.

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

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

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