



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Program

2007 Epidemiology Fact Sheet Homeless Tuberculosis Cases

1. In the United States, in the year 2007, of the 12,364 TB cases with information on homeless status, 705 (5.7%) were homeless.¹
2. In California 2007, of the 2,702 TB cases with information on homeless status, 156 (5.8%) were homeless.²

Los Angeles County 2007³

3. A total of 816 cases were reported in Los Angeles County in 2007. Fifty-two (6.4%) were homeless. This represents a 6.1% increase in the number of homeless cases from 2006 (49 cases).
4. The majority (90.4%) of homeless TB cases was male (47 cases).
5. The highest number of homeless TB cases reported was in the 55-64 year age group (16 cases, 30.8%), followed by the age groups 45-54 (15 cases, 28.8%), 35-44 (10 cases, 19.2%), 15-34 (8 cases, 15.4%), and 65+ (3 cases, 5.8%). No cases for 0-4 and 5-14 year age groups.
6. The racial/ethnic breakdown of homeless TB cases was 48.1% Hispanics (25 cases), 34.6% Black (18 cases), 13.4% White (7 cases), and 3.9% Asian (2 cases).
7. Twenty-six (50.0%) of the homeless TB cases were born in the U.S., twenty-five cases (48.1%) were foreign-born, and the country of origin was unknown for 1 case. Of the 25 foreign-born homeless TB cases, 12 cases (48.0%) were born in Mexico, 6 (24.0%) in El Salvador and 2 (8.0%) in Guatemala. One case each was born in Bulgaria, Denmark, Ethiopia, Philippines, and Vietnam.
8. Of the 52 homeless TB cases, 92.3% (48 cases) were tested for HIV. Of these 48, 35.4% (17 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 2007.
9. Most of the homeless cases (22 cases, 42.3%) 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 (8 cases, 15.4%) followed by South (6 cases, 11.5%) and East Los Angeles (4 cases, 7.7%).
10. Thirty-eight homeless TB cases (73.1%) were diagnosed as pulmonary TB, 13 cases (25.0%) as pulmonary and extra-pulmonary TB and 1 case (1.9%) as extra-pulmonary TB only.

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.