

## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM

### 2003 FACT SHEET\*

1. Worldwide, tuberculosis (TB) is one of the leading infectious killers of youth and adults. Almost two billion people (one third of the world) are infected with TB. Each year there are eight million new cases of TB disease and over two million TB deaths.
2. Nationally, the number of TB cases in the United States declined for the tenth straight year. During 2003, a total of 14,871 cases were reported nationwide, representing a 1.4% decrease from 15,075 cases in 2002. Cases among individuals born outside the United States increased from 7,598 (41.7% of the national total) in 1998 to 7,845 (53.3% of the national total) in 2003.
3. San Diego County reported 316 cases of active TB in 2003 (case rate 10.7 per 100,000 population<sup>a</sup>). This represents a 3% decrease from 2002 (326 cases). The number of cases in 2003 was 33% lower than 1993 (469 cases), the year with the highest number of cases in decades.
4. By Health Department Region, case counts and case rates (cases per 100,000 population<sup>b</sup>) were as follows: North Inland 39 (7.6), North Coastal 22 (4.3), North Central 57 (9.9), Central 65 (13.5), East 19 (4.2) and South 86 (20.1). (See below for regional map.)
5. The median age of TB cases in San Diego County was 41, and ranged from 0 to 87 years of age. Persons aged 25 to 44 made up the largest group of TB cases with 104 (33%). However, as a proportion of the population at risk, the 45 to 64-year age group (100 cases) and the 65 and older age group (43 cases) had the highest case rates (16 and 13.2 per 100,000, respectively) compared with the 25 to 44-year age group (11.2 per 100,000).
6. The racial and ethnic breakdown of San Diego County TB cases was 159 (50%) Hispanic, 89 (28%) Asian/Pacific Islander, 41 (13%) White non-Hispanic and 24 (8%) Black non-Hispanic.
7. TB cases born outside of the United States comprised 66% of San Diego County's cases. Of the 209 foreign-born cases, 104 (33%) were from Mexico, 87 (28%) were from Asia (including 45 from the Philippines, and 16 from Vietnam), 9 (3%) were from Africa and 1 (<1%) was from Europe.
8. There were 15 cases of TB reported among children less than five years of age in San Diego County (5% of all cases). This represents a 62% decrease from 1993 (39 cases), but an increase from 2002 (10 cases). TB in children of this age is of concern because it suggests ongoing transmission of infection from adults to children.
9. TB drug susceptibility information was obtained on 242 (77%) cases. Resistance to at least one of the four major first-line drugs was found among 21% (52) of these specimens. Multi-drug resistant strains were found in 2% (5) of the cases. Although the percentage of such cases has not risen in recent years, vigilance in diagnosing these cases and close monitoring of treatment is of extreme importance because of the difficulty in successfully treating such strains and the risk of spread within the community.
10. General estimates are that 10% of the United States population is infected with TB. Based on these numbers, approximately 300,000 persons in San Diego have TB infection, of whom 10% (30,000) will go on to develop TB disease at some time in their lives if treatment is not taken and completed.

<sup>a</sup>Population Data Source: SANDAG January 1, Population Estimates

<sup>b</sup>Region Data Source: HHSA, Community Epidemiology Division, February 5, 2004. Regions formed from Zip Codes.

- HHSA Regions**
-  **CENTRAL**
  -  **EAST**
  -  **NORTH CENTRAL**
  -  **NORTH COASTAL**
  -  **NORTH INLAND**
  -  **SOUTH**

