

*COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM
2005 FACT SHEET*

1. Worldwide, tuberculosis (TB) is one of the leading infectious killers of youth and adults. An estimated two billion persons (i.e., one third of the world's population) are infected with TB. Each year there are approximately nine million new cases of TB disease and two million TB deaths.
2. Nationally, the number of TB cases in the United States has been declining for more than a decade. Provisional 2005 data indicate that a total of 14,093 cases were reported nationwide, representing a 3% decrease from 14,517 cases in 2004. The proportion of cases among individuals born outside the United States increased from 42% of the national total in 1998 (7,598 cases) to 54% of the national total (7,656 cases) in 2005.
3. San Diego County reported 305 cases of active TB in 2005 (case rate of 10.0 per 100,000 population^a). This represents a 5% decrease from 2004 (320 cases). The number of cases in 2005 was 35% 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^b) were as follows: South 79 (17.3), North Central 58 (9.8), Central 44 (9.0), North Inland 38 (7.0), North Coastal 23 (4.5), and East 22 (4.8).
5. The median age of TB cases in San Diego County was 42, and ranged from less than 1 to 93 years old. Persons aged 25 to 44 made up the largest group of TB cases with 89 (29%). However, as a proportion of the population at risk, the 45-to-64 year old age group (80 cases) and the 65 and older age group (64 cases) had higher case rates (11.8 and 19.1 per 100,000, respectively) compared with the 25-to-44 year old age group (9.6 per 100,000).
6. The racial and ethnic breakdown of San Diego County TB cases was 160 (52%) Hispanics, 95 (31%) Asian/Pacific Islanders, 31 (10%) non-Hispanic whites and 19 (6%) non-Hispanic blacks.
7. TB cases born outside of the United States comprised 71% of San Diego County's cases. Of the 218 foreign-born cases, 106 (49%) were from Mexico, 95 (44%) were from Asia (including 55 from the Philippines, and 18 from Viet Nam), 6 (3%) were from Africa and 2 (1%) were from Europe.
8. There were 14 cases of TB reported among children less than five years of age in San Diego County (5% of all cases). This represents a 64% decrease from 1993 (39 cases) and a 7% decrease from 2004 (15 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 100% of the 249 culture-proven cases. Resistance to at least one of the four major first-line drugs was found among 21% (53) of these specimens. Multidrug-resistant (MDR TB) strains were found in 3 (1%) of the cases. Although the percentage of MDR TB 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. In San Diego, 5-10% of tuberculosis cases are due to *Mycobacterium bovis*. Disease due to *M. bovis*, also known as bovine tuberculosis, is usually contracted through the consumption of unpasteurized dairy products. Person-to-person transmission is also believed to occur. Strategies to address both modes of transmission are important to overall tuberculosis control efforts in San Diego County.
11. General estimates are that 10% of the United States population is infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (the organism causing TB disease). 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 without treatment.

^aPopulation Data Source: SANDAG January 1, Population Estimates

^bRegion Data Source: HHS, Community Epidemiology Division, November, 2005. Regions formed from Zip Codes.