

*COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM
2016 FACT SHEET*

1. **GLOBAL:** Worldwide, tuberculosis (TB) mostly affects adults in their most productive years, and is a leading killer of people who are HIV infected. An estimated two billion persons (i.e., one third of the world's population) are infected with TB. In 2015, the World Health Organization estimated there were 10.4 million new cases of TB disease and 1.8 million died from TB.
2. **NATIONAL:** Nationally, the number of TB cases in the United States has been declining for nearly two decades. Based on provisional 2016 data, a total of 9,287 cases were reported nationwide, representing a relatively stable incident case rate of approximately 3 cases per 100,000 since 2013. The proportion of cases among individuals born outside the United States increased from 42% of the national total in 1998 (7,599 cases) to 68% of the national total (6,307 cases) in 2016.
3. **SAN DIEGO:** San Diego County reported 258 cases of active TB in 2016 (case rate of 8.0 per 100,000 population). The number of cases in 2016 was 45% lower than 1993 (469 cases), the year with the highest number of cases in decades, and 18% lower than the 5-year average from 2002-2006 (316 cases). Since 2006, the case total and case rate have declined with fluctuations, with approximately 250 cases reported annually since 2011, representing an average case rate of 7 per 100,000.
4. **AGE:** The median age of TB cases in San Diego County was 50, and ranged from 1 to 91 years old. The number of cases in children less than 15 years old (11 cases) remained level since 2010, but lower than the 3-year average from 2007-2009 (17 cases). Persons aged 25 to 64 made up the largest group of TB cases with 147 (57%). The remaining cases occurred in persons 65 and older (74 cases) and persons aged 15 to 24 years old (26 cases).
5. **RACE/ETHNICITY:** The racial and ethnic breakdown of San Diego County TB cases was 114 (44%) Hispanics, 106 (41%) Asian/Pacific Islanders, 17 (7%) non-Hispanic whites, and 20 (8%) non-Hispanic blacks.
6. **BIRTH COUNTRY:** TB cases born outside of the United States comprised 74% of San Diego County's cases. Of the 189 cases born outside the United States, 103 (54%) were from Asia (including 49 from the Philippines, and 22 from Vietnam), 62 (33%) were from Mexico, and 15 (8%) were from Africa.
7. **CHILDREN:** There were 5 cases of TB reported among children less than five years of age in San Diego County (2% of all cases). This represents a gradual decrease in this age group since 2007 (10 cases). During 2002-2006 the annual average was 15 cases. TB in children of this age is of concern because it often represents recent transmission of infection from adults to children.
8. **DRUG RESISTANCE:** TB drug susceptibility information was available for 213 (99%) of 215 culture-proven cases in San Diego. Resistance to at least one of the four major first-line drugs was found among 37 (17%) of these specimens. A multidrug-resistant (MDR TB) strain was found in 3 (1.4%) of the cases. During 1999-2016, a total of 58 MDR TB cases were reported in San Diego and none were extensively drug-resistant (XDR). Of the 58 cases, 49 (84%) were among persons born outside the US, including 21 (36%) from Mexico. Vigilance in diagnosing MDR TB and close monitoring of treatment is of extreme importance because of the complexity of treating such patients and the risk of spread within the community.
9. **BOVIS:** Among the 212 culture-proven cases in 2016 with identification by genotyping or biochemical testing, a total of 14 (7%) had disease from *M. bovis*. Of 51 culture-proven cases in 2016 among persons born in Mexico, 10 (20%) had *M. 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.
10. **RISK GROUPS:** HIV is the strongest known medical risk factor for TB disease once TB infection occurs. During 2016, a total of 16 (6%) of the 258 persons reported with TB were also co-infected with HIV. The most common medical risk factor was diabetes (23% of TB cases). Other risk groups included persons with end-stage renal disease (4%), immunosuppressive treatment or conditions (7%), and drug use history (12%).
11. **CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES:** TB was diagnosed in 17 residents of a correctional facility in 2016, representing 7% of all reported TB cases. Of these 17 residents, 82% were born outside the US, and 88% were diagnosed with pulmonary TB. Only 3 had a positive sputum smear, a marker of increased infectiousness, which likely reflects implementation of screening procedures on intake to correctional facilities, to reduce transmission of this disease in a congregate setting.