

About the Data – Tuberculosis

DATA SOURCES

California has 61 local health jurisdictions that report TB cases. These jurisdictions include 58 counties and the cities of Berkeley, Long Beach, and Pasadena. Reports from Alameda County exclude TB cases from the city of Berkeley, and reports from Los Angeles County exclude cases from the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena.

Report of Verified Case of Tuberculosis (RVCT)

Local health jurisdictions have used the Report of Verified Case of Tuberculosis (RVCT) form to report TB cases to the TB Control Branch (TBCB) Registry since 1993. An expanded version of the RVCT form was implemented in California in 2010, which was used for case data collection through 2021. The most recent revision of the RVCT was implemented in California in 2022 and is currently being used as of 2022 case data collection ([CDC Tuberculosis Surveillance Data Training – Report of Verified Case of Tuberculosis](https://www.cdc.gov/tb/programs/rvct/default.htm), <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/programs/rvct/default.htm>). TB case data are cleaned, compiled, and analyzed for state and local use and reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Population Data

Population data was derived primarily from the following sources at the State of California, Department of Finance.

- E-2 California County Population Estimates and Components of Change by Year
- E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State
- P-3 Population Projections Race/Ethnicity and Sex by Individual Years of Age

State and county population totals are from the estimate series. Populations for the cities of Berkeley, Long Beach and Pasadena were estimated by obtaining the ratio of city to county population totals from the E-4 report and applying the ratio to the E-2 county population totals. Population totals for the jurisdiction of Alameda were then calculated by subtracting Berkeley calculated population from Alameda County total; population total for the jurisdiction of Los Angeles was calculated by subtracting Long Beach and Pasadena calculated populations from Los Angeles County total.

Demographic populations were estimated by applying the population proportion of each demographic subgroup from the P-3 projection file to the state total in the E-2 estimate totals).

Population denominators used for TB rate calculations of U.S.-born and non-U.S.-born persons and persons born by individual countries were calculated by applying the proportions of each group from the United States Census Bureau's *American Community Survey* that were made available through the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) to the California total population from California Department of Finance, E-2 California County Population Estimates and Components of Change.

DATA DEFINITIONS

TB case: TB cases submitted to the TBCB Registry by February 2, 2024, were included as 2023 cases if the case was confirmed as active TB between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Case changes reported after the submission deadline may be reflected in future reports.

TB case definition and verification criteria: A case is confirmed as active TB by laboratory or clinical evidence of disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) complex for RVCT surveillance purposes.

TB cases with culture or nucleic acid amplification evidence of *Mtb*, or acid-fast bacilli in a smear from a clinical specimen (when a culture cannot be obtained, or culture results are negative or contaminated) are classified as laboratory confirmed. In the absence of laboratory confirmation, persons with a positive tuberculin skin test (TST) or positive interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) for *Mtb*, abnormal chest imaging (in those with pulmonary disease), and treatment with two or more anti-TB medications are classified as clinically confirmed. Reported cases that do not meet one or more of the TB clinical criteria are classified as provider-diagnosed cases because the health care providers and TB control programs have determined there is sufficient evidence of active TB disease to report the case.

The following hierarchy is applied in determining the verification criteria for active TB disease:

1. Positive culture
2. Positive nucleic acid amplification test
3. Positive acid-fast bacilli test
4. Clinical case confirmation
5. Provider diagnosis

Race and Ethnicity: The RVCT has separate variables for race and ethnicity. Hispanic includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race, including Other and Unknown race. Multi-Race includes those of non-Hispanic origin who reported more than one race. The remaining groups are of non-Hispanic origin who reported a single race: American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (Pacific Islander), White, Other or Unknown. Race and ethnicity categories with "NH" indicate "non-Hispanic".

Country of birth: Present-day country names are used and may not reflect the name in use when persons were born. People's Republic of China includes Hong Kong and Macau. North and South Korea are combined due to availability of denominator data.

Birthplace: Persons born in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia or born abroad to a parent who was a U.S. citizen are considered U.S.-born. Persons born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, Midway Island, U.S. Minor Outlying Islands, and U.S. Misc. Pacific Islands are

also considered U.S.-born. This aligns with the definition used by the CDC Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE) and U.S. Census Bureau.

DATA LIMITATION

TB case rates are not calculated when the total number of TB cases is less than five or “Other/Unknown” is specified. Data was reviewed and modified (if necessary) to ensure compliance with California Health and Human Services guidelines ([Data De-Identification Guidelines \(DDG\)](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/Documents/DHCS-DDG-V2-2.pdf)), <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/Documents/DHCS-DDG-V2-2.pdf>).

SUGGESTED CITATION

California Department of Public Health, Tuberculosis Control Branch, [California Tuberculosis Dashboard](#), Last Modified March 2024.
(<https://cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TBCB-California-TB-Dashboard.aspx>)