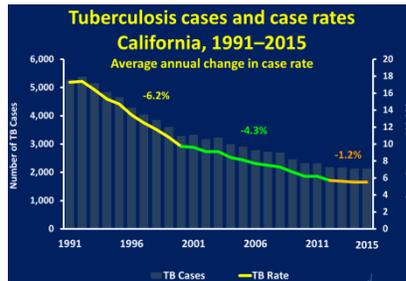


## California Has the Largest Number of Tuberculosis Cases in the Nation

For two decades California has been successful in reducing tuberculosis (TB). However, that decline has slowed significantly. Last year California saw its first increase in cases since 2012.

There are over 2,000 new cases of TB in California each year. That translates to one Californian diagnosed with TB every four hours. California has the largest number of TB cases in the nation and has double the national TB incidence rate.

In addition to those with active TB disease, there are 2.4 million other people with latent TB infection (LTBI), most of who do not know they are infected and remain untreated.



This graphic was developed by the California Department of Public Health.

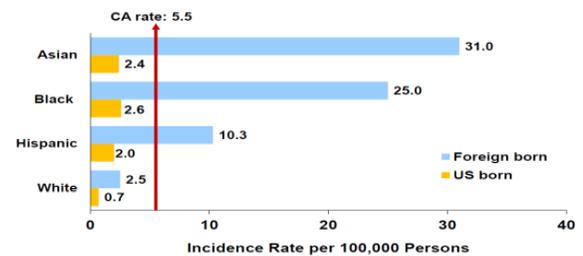
TB was once the leading cause of death in the United States. Today virtually everyone with active TB disease can be treated and cured if they seek medical help. However, 10% of those diagnosed with TB in California still die of TB disease. TB is not evenly distributed in California. Some populations carry a disproportionate share of the

Burden. For example, in comparison to U.S.-born whites, the TB rate is over 30 times higher in foreign-born Asians, 24 times higher in foreign-born Blacks, and 10 times higher in Hispanics.

TB is spread from person to person through the air and can affect anyone. Once infected, most people will have a silent

stage of TB with no illness or symptoms. This is called LTBI. People with LTBI can progress to contagious TB disease even after many years. People with LTBI are a reservoir that fuels future TB cases. But, that long period of latency also provides us with an opportunity to prevent those future TB cases.

TB Rates by Race/Ethnic Group and Nativity, California 2015



Sources: American Community Survey and CA Department of Finance population data, RVCT case data

This graphic was developed by the California Department of Public Health.

## California's Plan to Eliminate Tuberculosis

One in ten patients in California with active TB disease will die. One child under five is diagnosed with TB every week. CDPH estimates that \$72 million was spent in direct medical costs alone to treat active TB disease in 2015.

But TB disease is preventable. By diagnosing and treating people with latent TB infection (LTBI), we can prevent the development and spread of active TB disease. The return on investment in treating LTBI is high. Preventing TB disease saves both lives and money.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the California TB Controllers Association and the California TB Elimination Advisory Committee are creating a stakeholder developed TB elimination action plan for California. It is through the partnerships and resources from local public health departments, primary physicians, community health organizations and academic partners

that effective prevention efforts can be realized. Even a few years ago eliminating TB anywhere was just a dream. But several recent advances have made it not only possible, but actually doable, to eliminate TB in California. There are better diagnostic tests for LTBI, treatment has been shortened from over 200 doses to just 12, and health care insurance coverage has expanded to cover many more Californians.

In addition, and perhaps most importantly, in 2016 the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force released a draft recommendation supporting screening for LTBI as a preventive service. If finalized as recommended, health insurance plans will be required to cover screening for LTBI, among those at highest risk, without any patient cost-sharing (such as copayments, deductibles, or co-insurance).

TB elimination is possible in California. According to CDPH's analysis of the department's surveillance data, if we can increase the rate of decline in TB cases to just 14% each year, we will achieve elimination by 2040, having prevented over 25,000 TB cases along the way, saving over \$850 million dollars and thousands of lives.

Eliminating TB from California will require testing for and treatment of LTBI, targeting first those at highest risk and using the most effective tests and treatment. Without this, it will take over 100 years to eliminate TB from California.

### What does elimination mean?

Tuberculosis	2015 (Current)	Elimination by 2040	
		2040	Averted (cumulative)
Rate (case per million)	55	<1	-
Cases	2137	39	25,000
Deaths	210	4	2,500
Direct costs (2015 dollars)	\$72 Million	\$1.3 Million	>\$850 million

This analysis and graphic was developed by the California Department of Public Health.

For more information on CDPH's activities to eliminate TB please visit:

[CDPH Tuberculosis Control Branch](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/tb/Pages/default.aspx)

(<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/tb/Pages/default.aspx>)