

**California Department of Public Health
Tuberculosis Indicators Project (TIP): A Brief Description**

Project Goal

The primary goal of TIP is to strengthen the capacity of the state and local health departments (LHDs) to evaluate and improve tuberculosis (TB) program performance.

Participants

The ten California local health departments (LHDs) that report an average of 55 TB cases per year or more participate in TIP. These LHDs contribute >75% of California’s TB morbidity.

Project Components

1) TIP Technical Advisory Committee

The TB Control Branch (TBCB) has placed a high priority on seeking stakeholder participation in all aspects of the project. When TIP was initiated, TBCB developed a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from participating LHDs and other stakeholder organizations. The committee is called upon when needed to provide TBCB with input and guidance regarding the TIP process and indicators.

2) Customizable Indicator Reports Generated by an Interactive, Web-based System

The indicator reports are available on the World Wide Web for direct access by LHDs and TB Control Branch staff. The reports can be customized to reflect selected years of data. This technological advance is an important strategy for putting TB program performance data back in the hands of LHD decision-makers. The 18 current indicators are listed in the following table.

Process Indicators	Outcome Indicators
Timely Reporting	TB Case Rate
Complete Reporting	Timely Completion of Therapy
Culture Identification	Contacts Completing Treatment
Recommended Initial Therapy	
Timely Treatment	Sentinel Event Indicators
Culture Conversion	Default from Treatment
Appropriate Directly Observed Therapy (DOT)	Pediatric TB Cases
Inappropriate Self-Administered Therapy (SAT)	TB Deaths
Contacts Identified	
Contacts Evaluated	Structural Indicator
Contacts Starting Treatment	TB Program Assessment Tool

3) Project Implementation

To ensure that the indicator data are used to improve, not just measure, performance, TBCB consults with LHDs to use the indicators to develop, implement, and evaluate program interventions. LHD and TBCB staff work together to select one or more local indicators of concern to target for improvement and to establish realistic local performance objectives. The LHD then collects information to identify factors hindering performance and determines if the causes are amenable to intervention. The next steps include devising interventions to improve performance and developing interim and long-term evaluation plans. The interventions, responsible parties, timeframes, and evaluation plan are documented in an action plan format. Together, the LHD and State implement, monitor, and evaluate the action plan.

The quality improvement cycle repeats approximately every two years.

