



News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE **CONTACT:** Mike Bowman or
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov> Norma Arceo
(916) 440-7660

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TB CASES CONTINUE DECLINE IN CALIFORNIA ***State Observes California Stop TB Day – March 24***

SACRAMENTO – The number of tuberculosis (TB) cases in California dropped by 4.2 percent last year, marking a record low in history and a third consecutive annual decline, State Public Health Officer Dr. Mark Horton announced today. A total of 2,781 cases were reported in 2006, a decrease from 2,903 in 2005 and 5,382 in 1992.

“It’s gratifying to know that California is experiencing the lowest number of total TB cases ever, but we must not become complacent,” Horton said. “California’s TB case rate is still seven times higher than the national objective for TB. We must intensify our efforts to continue this decline and address multidrug-resistant TB cases.”

Approximately 30 to 40 new multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB cases are reported annually in California. MDR TB does not respond to the two strongest TB drugs available, can take two years to treat, is more costly to treat and has a higher mortality rate. MDR TB spreads like the usual strains of TB, person to person through the air.

Although the overall number of TB cases statewide has decreased, the number of cases in 20 of 61 California health jurisdictions increased last year.

California continues to contribute the most TB cases, deaths and child TB cases in the nation. In 2006, 77 percent of TB cases in California were identified among foreign-born individuals. These cases require culturally appropriate health care strategies to ensure treatment results in cure.

“Because TB plagues the globe, the medical community in California must stay vigilant and able to identify, isolate, treat and cure TB as it appears throughout the state,” Horton said. “It is imperative that we step up our efforts to protect California communities from TB that is difficult to treat and cure.”

TB rates among foreign-born Californians are nine times higher than U.S.-born residents. Among U.S.-born Californians, only non-Hispanic whites have achieved the Healthy People 2010 objective of one TB case per 100,000. TB rates among U.S.-born Asians, Hispanics and African-Americans are two to six times higher than rates for non-Hispanic, U.S.-born whites, and these wide disparities have not substantially improved over the last decade.

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TB is a contagious disease transmitted through the air when a person with active TB coughs or talks. Anyone inhaling air containing the TB bacteria may become infected. If TB infection progresses to active TB disease, it usually takes six or more months to cure.

The following statewide efforts to control the spread of TB have been strengthened by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's current TB control budget of \$16.3 million:

- Ensure prompt diagnosis and treatment of individuals with TB and their infected contacts to prevent TB from spreading.
- Expand the use of directly observed therapy to ensure TB patients are cured and do not develop drug-resistant TB.
- Ensure individuals with drug-resistant TB receive appropriate treatment and do not spread these deadly strains to others.
- Improve TB detection and prevention among newly arriving immigrants and refugees.
- Maintain housing and detention capacity so homeless or noncompliant TB patients can complete treatment.
- Work with the federal government and Mexico on a regional strategy to combat TB along the border.
- Halt and prevent TB outbreaks in health care facilities and community settings.

"I'm confident that our county by county partnerships and statewide prevention efforts will one day eradicate TB in California," Horton said.

Information about TB and efforts to stop the spread of the disease in California are available on the Tuberculosis Control Branch's Web site at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/TBCB/index.html> or at the California TB Controllers Association's Web site at <http://www.ctca.org>.

(Chart of TB case numbers by year and California jurisdiction follows)

Tuberculosis Cases by Year: Reporting Jurisdictions in California, 1997-2006

Reporting Jurisdiction	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Percent Change*	
											1997-2006	2005-2006
California	4,059	3,855	3,608	3,297	3,332	3,169	3,227	2,989	2,903	2,781	-31.5	-4.2
Alameda	193	223	224	242	196	199	175	144	152	141	-26.9	-7.2
Alpine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.	.
Amador	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.	.
Berkeley	20	7	17	4	12	11	5	4	11	4	.	.
Butte	13	4	4	4	5	1	6	4	3	3	.	.
Calaveras	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	.	.
Colusa	3	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	2	.	.
Contra Costa	107	102	97	78	105	68	82	64	58	50	-53.3	-13.8
Del Norte	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	.	.
El Dorado	3	3	1	4	5	3	-	3	4	5	.	.
Fresno	92	114	101	91	98	98	115	102	69	62	-32.6	-10.1
Glenn	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	1	.	.
Humboldt	8	15	8	6	7	6	2	4	4	1	.	.
Imperial	39	39	38	26	25	29	25	31	32	33	-15.4	3.1
Inyo	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	.	.
Kern	63	48	62	49	49	57	47	36	42	41	-34.9	-2.4
Kings	14	18	11	7	11	6	3	3	9	2	.	.
Lake	3	2	2	2	2	-	1	3	-	1	.	.
Lassen	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	.	.
Long Beach	100	57	88	63	50	59	65	54	53	39	-61.0	-26.4
Los Angeles	1,346	1,299	1,170	1,066	1,046	1,025	950	930	906	887	-34.1	-2.1
Madera	10	7	9	14	11	12	14	5	9	3	.	.
Marin	12	20	10	11	15	12	17	13	10	6	-50.0	-40.0
Mariposa	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	.	.
Mendocino	2	4	1	4	2	7	6	1	2	4	.	.
Merced	10	8	11	10	15	16	16	8	8	9	-10.0	12.5
Modoc	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	.	.
Mono	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.	.
Monterey	45	48	47	35	39	24	54	29	37	29	-35.6	-21.6
Napa	3	5	3	3	2	7	6	7	3	7	.	.
Nevada	-	1	2	1	1	-	1	1	2	2	.	.
Orange	330	298	246	246	278	230	248	224	241	226	-31.5	-6.2
Pasadena	11	19	8	13	17	12	12	12	15	7	-36.4	-53.3
Placer	4	5	3	1	3	3	12	2	5	6	.	20.0
Plumas	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	.	.
Riverside	67	74	79	71	66	68	75	75	60	74	10.4	23.3
Sacramento	145	112	97	120	130	104	153	161	143	97	-33.1	-32.2
San Benito	3	3	5	2	6	3	2	2	-	1	.	.
San Bernardino	130	101	113	104	83	63	67	67	63	58	-55.4	-7.9
San Diego	334	339	296	295	332	326	316	320	305	315	-5.7	3.3
San Francisco	242	207	235	170	182	146	162	135	132	120	-50.4	-9.1
San Joaquin	64	65	74	72	51	52	69	65	63	78	21.9	23.8
San Luis Obispo	9	16	6	9	11	6	8	2	8	2	.	.
San Mateo	85	80	62	46	78	67	52	56	62	78	-8.2	25.8
Santa Barbara	36	32	26	22	26	18	37	18	26	15	-58.3	-42.3
Santa Clara	258	251	244	235	215	254	226	203	199	228	-11.6	14.6
Santa Cruz	15	12	14	4	7	6	9	9	10	6	-60.0	-40.0
Shasta	10	4	5	5	4	4	8	4	6	5	-50.0	-16.7
Sierra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.	.
Siskiyou	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	.	.
Solano	45	50	32	27	35	26	30	42	40	24	-46.7	-40.0
Sonoma	12	16	18	16	9	16	15	20	11	14	16.7	27.3
Stanislaus	35	25	33	18	18	22	17	19	11	16	-54.3	45.5
Sutter	6	9	6	4	5	7	5	-	1	3	.	.
Tehama	4	1	2	2	1	-	3	1	4	2	.	.
Trinity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.	.
Tulare	24	27	22	17	15	19	16	21	15	21	-12.5	40.0
Tuolumne	1	8	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	.	.
Ventura	79	57	62	44	52	66	74	72	55	49	-38.0	-10.9
Yolo	15	8	9	9	5	4	12	5	9	3	.	.
Yuba	7	7	2	12	3	6	3	7	2	-	.	.

-Indicates zero cases.

*Percent change not calculated where number of cases is less than 5.