

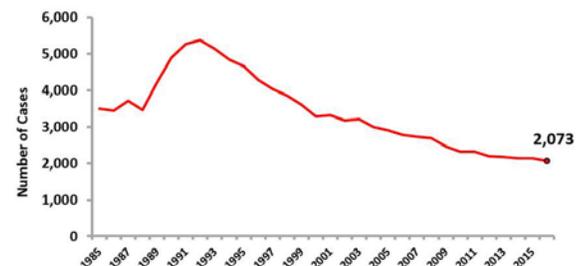
World TB Day on March 24, 2017, marks the anniversary of Robert Koch's discovery of the bacteria that causes tuberculosis (TB) on March 24, 1882, and highlights the current opportunity to make future generations of Californians free of TB.

TB is the number one infectious disease killer globally; worldwide, TB causes 5,000 deaths each day, and causes >10 million people to become sick each year.

Tuberculosis in California

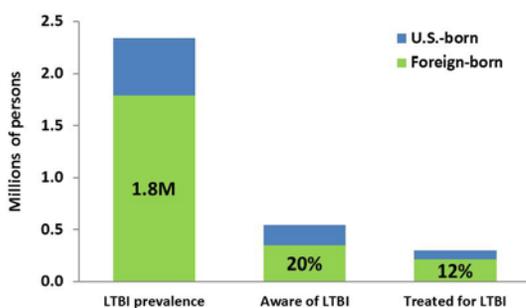
California has the highest number of TB cases in the US with more than 2,000 cases each year. Approximately 200 Californians with TB die each year. Although TB is spread through the air when a person ill with TB coughs, only a small proportion of current TB cases are the result of recent spread of TB. Approximately 80% of TB disease occurring today in California results from TB exposures that happened many years ago. TB does not affect all Californians equally. Californians who were born outside the U.S. bear a significant burden of California's TB. Other populations vulnerable to TB include those with HIV and those taking medications that suppress their immune system. The good news is that the number of Californians with TB disease has dropped dramatically in the past two decades with intensive public health efforts.

Reported TB Cases: California, 1985–2016



The resurgence of TB began in the 1980s and peaked in 1992. Case counts began decreasing again in 1993, and continued a downward trend through 2016.

Estimated latent TB infection prevalence, awareness, treatment —California, 2015



Estimated using National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2011-2012 applied to the California population.

TB is Preventable

Most people who become sick with TB have had longstanding silent infection, called latent TB infection (LTBI), before they develop disease. This means there is time to detect and treat LTBI to prevent a person from getting sick with TB and spreading it to others.

There are estimated to be more than 2 million Californians who have LTBI, but most are not aware of their infection and are not treated.

Today there are new opportunities to prevent Californians from developing TB disease. Treatments are now available that are shorter and have fewer side effects than before. Treating LTBI to prevent TB now requires only 12 doses of medication (one time per week for

three months) instead of 9 months of treatment. New blood tests available today are, in many cases, more accurate than the TB skin test. Finding, testing and treating Californians at risk for TB can prevent serious illness and is recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A Plan to Eliminate TB from California

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), in collaboration with the California TB Elimination Advisory Committee and the California TB Controllers Association, have developed a TB Elimination Plan (available on CDPH's Web site) which outlines actions to be taken over 5 years to make progress toward eliminating TB in California. The plan calls for making TB prevention a routine part of healthcare by finding and testing Californians who are at risk for TB, optimizing treatment for LTBI, monitoring and evaluating LTBI testing and treatment, and ensuring that patients, clinicians, and public health programs have the tools and resources they need to prevent TB.

To encourage TB testing and treatment, CDPH and CTCA created a tool (available on CDPH's Web site) to help healthcare providers identify patients with risks for TB who should be tested: persons born in countries with elevated rate of TB, immunosuppressed persons, and persons who are known to have been exposed to TB in the past.