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## TUBERCULOSIS CONTINUES TO BE A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT

MARCH 24, 2011

Tuberculosis remains a global public health threat. It is estimated that one of every three persons in the world has Latent TB Infection. Each day 4,500 people worldwide die of Tuberculosis, and 300,000 multi-drug resistant (MDR) cases occur annually.

March 24, commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch discovered that tubercle bacillus is the causative agent for tuberculosis. This observation is held March 24<sup>th</sup> of each year to highlight the progress made in the fight against tuberculosis. This day of recognition also promotes increased awareness that TB continues to be a significant public health concern.

The theme that was selected for 2011 is "TB Elimination: Together We Can!" The theme emphasizes the importance of public health, the medical community and partners from all sectors of our society working together to reach the goal of TB elimination.

### WORLD TB DAY - MARCH 24, 2011



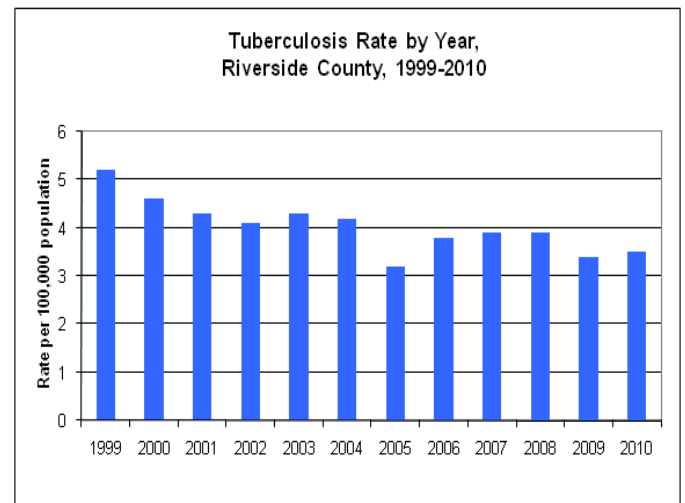
**"TB ELIMINATION: TOGETHER WE CAN"**

California continues to contribute the greatest number of cases to the nation's total TB morbidity. In 2010, 2,329 cases (provisional data) were reported for the state. Riverside County reported 74 cases in 2010, compared to 69 cases in 2009.

The majority of Riverside cases originated from Mexico (26 cases), Philippines (18 cases), and United States (17 cases). This represents 82% of the cases reported in 2010.

### CASE RATE

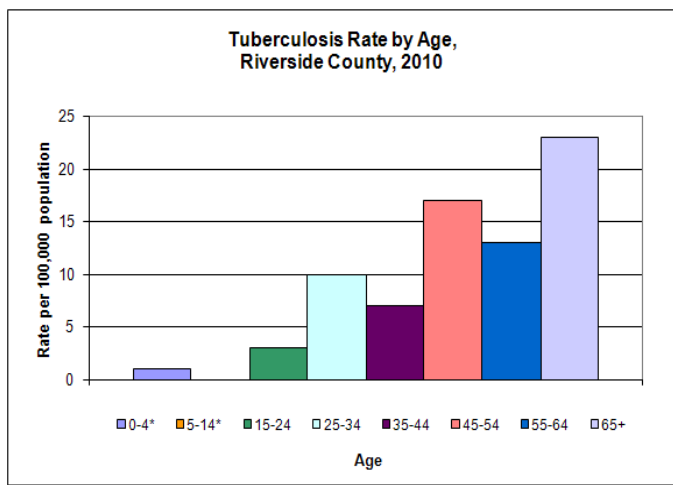
The TB case rate has ranged from 3.9 to 3.4 over the last 5 years. Rates vary by race/ethnicity and age.



### PROFILE OF TB CASES

#### Age

TB continues to be primarily a disease of older adults with 72% of reported cases in Riverside County occurring in person's age 45 to 65 years. One case was reported in the 4 years and younger age group.



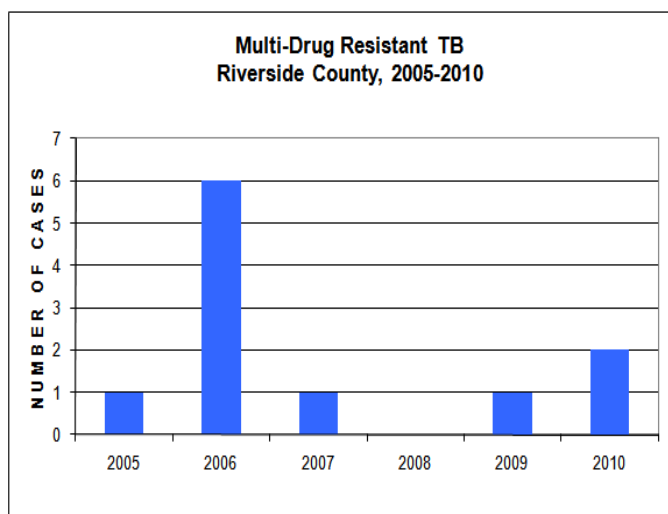
## **CASES BY SITE OF DISEASE**

In 2010, 81% of the cases were diagnosed with pulmonary disease. Extra-pulmonary sites included: cervix, bladder, ovary, lymph nodes, meninges, and bone. Although these sites do not present a communicability risk to others, they can present a health challenge for the individual patient.

## **MULTI-DRUG RESISTANT TB (MDR-TB)**

Three MDR-TB cases were reported in 2010. Primary drug resistance occurs when a patient newly diagnosed with TB who has not had previous treatment is identified with a resistant strain of *M. tuberculosis*. Secondary or acquired drug develops during the course of anti-tuberculosis treatment. Resistance to INH and rifampin, defined as MDR-TB, requires treatment for 18-24 months.

This requires close medical management and intense Public Health Nurse case management. All patients with tuberculosis are assessed for risk for non-adherence with TB treatment and are placed on Directly Observed Therapy (DOT), if indicated.



Tuberculosis is reportable to Public Health, Disease Control within 1 day of identification. Phone: (951) 358-5107 Fax: 951 358-7922

## **Race / Ethnicity**

Data for 2010 indicates that minorities continue to be disproportionately affected by tuberculosis. Among reported cases, 46% were Hispanic and 37% were Asian Pacific Islander.

TB Cases by Race/Ethnicity Riverside County 2010  
Table 1

African American/Black	1%
Asian Indian	1%
Asian Pacific Islander	37%
Hispanic	46%
White	15%

## **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION**

The 2010 TB case distribution by region was similar to 2009. The largest number of cases was reported in the Western region.

TB Cases by Region Riverside County 2010

Table 2: N= 74

City	Cases Reported
West	28
Mid-County	13
South	11
East	22