

Tuberculosis in California

Basic TB Facts

- TB is spread when a person with active TB coughs and releases infectious particles into the air. People who share the same air and breathe in the TB bacteria can become infected.
- TB infection can progress to TB disease when the immune system is weakened by common conditions like diabetes, smoking, HIV infection, medications, or aging.
- TB kills a Californian every other day

The numbers

- California reports 20% of TB cases diagnosed in the U.S each year.
- 2,137 people were diagnosed with TB and began treatment last year in California.
- In California, every other day a person dies with TB.
- ~2.4 million Californians are living with TB infection, most unaware of the infection.
- 1-2% of TB cases in California are resistant to the two most effective drugs used to cure TB

Public health departments assure detection, treatment and prevention of TB, acquired drug resistant TB and new infectious diseases of concern for Californians

- Health departments provide direct patient services when necessary, as a public safety measure, and expert guidance for health care providers treating TB in the community.
- To stop TB, each year health departments in California find and evaluate 10,000 people suspected of having TB and 20,000 contacts of people with TB.
- TB program staff are relied upon to fight new public health threats like SARS, H1N1, and Ebola.

Budget cuts from federal, state and local funding streams affect the capacity of TB control programs.

- Stable funding and staffing of TB programs is needed to achieve the goal of TB elimination.
- Strong TB programs are essential not only in the fight against TB, but also in responding to new emerging threats, like Ebola.

TB FREE California, Together We Can:

Individuals: Know the signs and symptom of TB: persistent cough, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, and [risk factors for TB](#). If you have a risk factor for TB, speak to a health care provider about TB.

Health Care Providers: Work with local health departments to identify patients with TB risks, test them, and treat those with latent TB infection likely to develop TB disease.

Local Board of Supervisors: Stabilize TB Control funding in your community. Invest in TB programs to eliminate the threat of TB in your communities and prepare to respond to new threats like Ebola.

Federal Representatives: Join your colleagues in the House TB Elimination Caucus