

## **Tuberculosis Control Challenges in California**

### **Tuberculosis (TB) remains a persistent public health threat to Californians**

- California reports the most TB cases of any state in the US (20% of US cases).
- TB is spread when a person with active TB coughs and releases infectious particles into the air. People who share the same airspace and breathe in these particles can become infected with TB. TB is a curable and preventable disease.

### **Californians are sick and dying with TB every other day**

- This year, more than 2,000 Californians will become sick with TB.
- Nearly every week, a child in California under the age of five is stricken with TB.
- Every other day a Californian dies with TB.

### **Californians with TB infection are a reservoir of future cases of TB disease**

- With our global society and our mobile population, Californians encounter TB.
- The pool of individuals with TB infection in California, the source of future cases, is 2.3 million.
- Infection becomes disease when immune systems are weakened by conditions like diabetes, smoking, HIV, or simply the aging process.

### **Investing in local public health departments protects the health of Californians**

- Local public health department TB programs in California evaluate 10,000 TB suspects and nearly 20,000 contacts each year for TB.
- Local public health department TB programs diagnose and ensure completion of appropriate drug therapy to cure TB thereby preventing new cases in communities across California.

### **Diminishing resources restrict California's ability to find and cure TB**

- TB control is the shared responsibility of federal, state and local public health department TB programs. The past decade has seen funding for TB control and prevention reduced at every level.
- Local public health department TB programs in California have lost more than 200 TB control program staff since 2008, resulting in reduced services to patients with TB disease and reduced capability to prevent TB disease in our communities.

### **Accessing essential drugs to combat TB, a growing challenge, calling for urgent action**

- TB drug shortages have been an ongoing problem since 2005.
- State, national and global partners are assessing the causes of and possible solutions to eliminating supply problems.
- CTCA advocates for stable federal, state and local funding streams critical for TB control and prevention efforts.
- CTCA urges our nation's leaders to create the policies and infrastructure to eliminate ongoing drug shortages that threaten the control of TB.
- The California Conference of Local Health Officers and CTCA ask our National Representatives to support elimination of this treatable and preventable disease by joining the TB Elimination Caucus. Stay informed about TB.

With one third of the world's population infected with this airborne infectious disease, TB anywhere is TB everywhere. A healthy and safe California requires that all Californians have access to effective monitoring, diagnosis and treatment of TB.