

## TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION

### WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

- Tuberculosis (TB) is a leading infectious killer of young adults worldwide, claiming the lives of more than 3 million people each year. About one third of the world's population is latently infected with the bacterium that causes TB.
- An estimated 10 to 15 million U.S. citizens have latent TB infection, and about 10% of these individuals will develop TB at some point in their lives. Those who are infected with HIV have a greater chance of developing TB.
- Persons born outside the United States now account for half of all U.S. TB cases.

### WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

CDC works to eliminate TB in the United States and to control the spread of the disease globally. Within the United States, CDC provides financial and technical assistance to local, state, and territorial TB control programs to monitor TB, sustain decreases in new cases, and support directly observed therapy and investigation of contacts to active TB cases. CDC also supports the TB Trial Consortium to develop and test new therapies, the TB Epidemiological Studies Consortium to evaluate new approaches to controlling TB, and the Model TB Centers to provide training and education in TB prevention and control.

We are making progress in efforts to eliminate TB in the United States. Since 1992, the most recent peak of the epidemic, reported cases has declined 43.5%. From 2001 to 2002, reported cases of TB in the United States declined 5.7% (from 15,989 to 15,075). This represents the 10th consecutive year that TB cases have declined nationally. Internationally, CDC collaborates with the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization, and others through efforts such as the *Stop TB Initiative* (see [www.stoptb.org](http://www.stoptb.org)) and through assistance to specific countries.

#### *Example of Program in Action*

New York City's TB control program has been one of the most dramatic public health successes in recent decades. In the early 1990s, the city was the epicenter of the TB and multidrug-resistant TB epidemic in the country. Funding from federal, state, and local sources enabled the city's program to implement new TB control initiatives, such as

- Case management of all TB patients and directly observed therapy.
- Cohort reviews by program staff on all TB cases.
- Improved delivery of clinical care by health department chest clinics.
- Targeted testing of high-risk populations.
- New regulations on detaining noncompliant TB patients.

The result was a decline in the number of TB cases to 1,084 cases in 2002, a 72% decrease from 1992, the peak year of the recent epidemic. Multi-drug resistant TB declined by nearly 95% from the 1992 peak of 441 cases to 25 cases in 2002.

### WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

CDC will work in concert with state, national, and international partners to continue to address the Institute of Medicine's recommendations released in their report *Ending Neglect: The Elimination of Tuberculosis in the United States*. As incidence declines, new challenges in controlling TB emerge. In 2003, CDC will continue a pilot project to increase the capacity of low incidence states to respond to outbreaks and intensively manage and review TB cases to determine the barriers to elimination. CDC continues to support state and local TB programs to maintain control of TB in low incidence areas; to implement directly observed therapy and contact investigation; to disseminate new tools to aid in TB control, including diagnostics and treatments; and to help control TB globally.

*For additional information on this or other CDC programs, visit [www.cdc.gov/program](http://www.cdc.gov/program)*

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