The latest national surveillance data show that TB has reached an all-time low in the U.S. In 2010, a total of 11,182 cases were reported.

The TB rate declined 3.8 percent from 2009 to 2010, to 3.6 cases per 100,000 population — the lowest recorded rate since national reporting began.

Four states (California, Texas, New York, and Florida) account for nearly half of all TB cases (49 percent or 5,501 cases).

The resurgence of TB in the mid-1980s was marked by several years of increasing case counts until its peak in 1992. Case counts began decreasing again in 1993, and 2010 marks the eighteenth year of decline in the total number of TB cases reported in the U.S. since the peak of the resurgence.

More TB cases were reported among Hispanics than any other racial/ethnic group.

Although American Indians/Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islanders each accounted for only 1 percent of all TB cases, rates among these groups (6.4 and 20.8, respectively) were also high.

TB rates declined among all racial/ethnic groups, except for among Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.
Foreign-Born Individuals Bear Significant Burden

- Despite declines in the rates of TB among both foreign- and U.S.-born individuals, the TB rate among foreign-born persons (18.1/100,000) was 11 times higher than among U.S.-born persons (1.6).
- Among persons with TB, approximately 94 percent of Asians, 75 percent of Hispanics, 34 percent of blacks, and 19 percent of whites were foreign-born.

CDC officials note that these data underscore the need to address TB as a severe health threat globally. According to the World Health Organization, approximately one-third of the world’s population is infected with the bacteria that cause TB; in 2010, approximately 8.8 million people became ill with the disease and an estimated 1.45 million people died. (2011 Global Tuberculosis Control Report, available at http://www.who.int/tb)

Severe Impact Among Persons Living with HIV

- People living with HIV are at high risk for rapid progression to TB disease once infected and are more likely to die during treatment.
- In 2010, among 7,286 persons with TB and a known HIV test result, 622 (6 percent) were co-infected with HIV.

Drug Resistance Remains a Serious Challenge

Multidrug-Resistant TB

- Cases of multidrug-resistant TB, or MDR TB — defined as TB that is resistant to at least two first-line therapies (isoniazid and rifampin) — are difficult and costly to treat and can be fatal.
- MDR TB accounted for 1.2 percent (88 cases) of all TB cases in 2010, representing a slight increase from previous years in the proportion of cases that were MDR TB (1.0 percent in 2008, 1.1 percent in 2009).

Extensively Drug-Resistant TB

- Extensively drug-resistant TB, or XDR TB, is defined as TB that is resistant to at least isoniazid and rifampin among first-line anti-TB drugs, resistance to any fluoroquinolone (e.g., ciprofloxacin or ofloxacin), and resistance to at least one second-line injectable drug (e.g., amikacin, capreomycin, or kanamycin).
- XDR TB patients have few treatment options because the drugs that are most highly effective against TB will be ineffective against their disease. This problem is amplified in areas of the world with limited access to the full range of anti-TB drugs.
- One case of XDR TB was reported in the U.S. during 2010.

If you are a member of the news media and need more information, please visit www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/Newsroom or contact the News Media Line at CDC’s National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (404-639-8895 or NCHHSTPMediaTeam@cdc.gov).