

People's Health

Outcomes • Planning • Evaluation



Know the Facts: Tuberculosis (TB)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria that spread from person to person through the air.
- TB usually affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body, such as the brain, kidneys or spine.
- The number of cases in the United States has dropped steadily over time.
- Populations at greatest risk for tuberculosis include foreign-born people from areas with a high prevalence of disease, those who are immunocompromised including people living with HIV, homeless people, injection drug users, alcoholics, and residents of long-term institutions (nursing homes and correctional facilities).

WHERE WE WERE (BASELINE):

In 1999-2001, there were 2.8 tuberculosis cases per 100,000 people in Shasta County.

WHERE WE ARE:

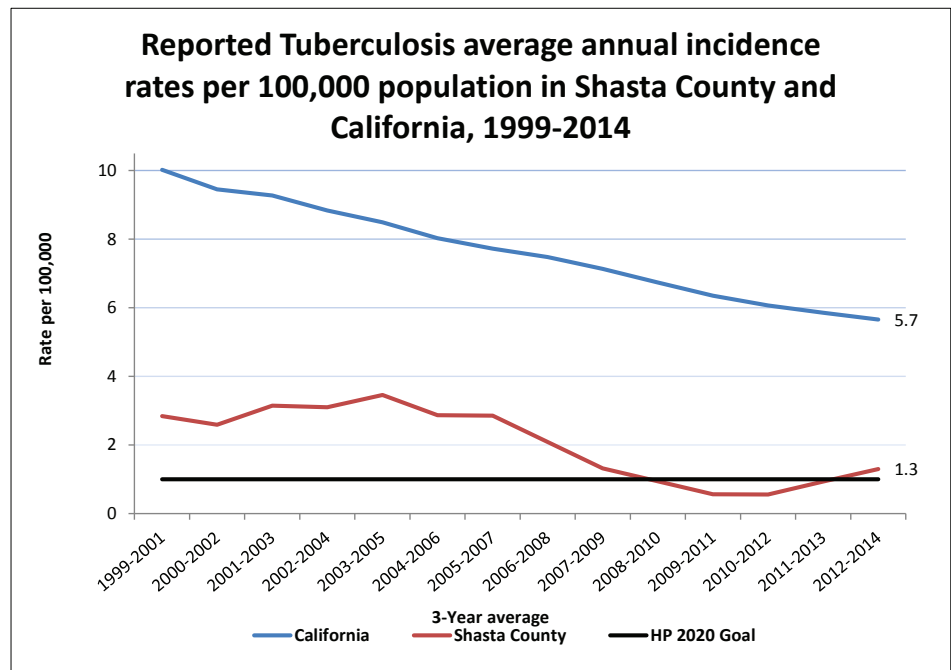
In 2012-2014, there were 1.1 tuberculosis cases per 100,000 people in Shasta County.

WHERE WE ARE AIMING:

The Healthy People 2020 goal is to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis to no more than one case per 100,000 people.

DEFINITION:

Reported number of new tuberculosis cases per 100,000 people in Shasta County.



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KEY POINTS:

- A total of 9,421 cases of TB disease were reported in the United States in 2014 (3 cases per 100,000 people) — an all-time low. This is the lowest recorded rate since national reporting began in 1953.
- Estimates suggest that TB prevention and control efforts in the United States have helped to prevent more than 200,000 cases since 1993.
- California is one of the four states (along with Texas, New York and Florida) that account for more than half of all TB cases in the country.
- The incidence rate of tuberculosis in Shasta County has been one-fourth that of California since 1999. Factors contributing to low rates in Shasta County may include intense public health follow-up, low prevalence of HIV infection, and relatively low numbers of immigrants from countries with a high rate of tuberculosis.
- The rate in Shasta County is close to the Healthy People 2020 target, while California's is much higher.

PRIMARY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:

- Ensure that populations at higher risk of contracting tuberculosis are screened regularly.
- Increase identification of people who are at risk, but who don't have symptoms.
- Directly observed therapy (DOT) increases compliance in taking medicine, decreases the spread of TB and prevents development of drug-resistant strains of the bacteria that cause tuberculosis.

From the Desk of Andrew Deckert, MD, MPH

*Shasta County
Public Health Officer*



Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious, airborne disease that usually affects the lungs. It usually doesn't cause symptoms immediately, so the person does not feel sick. Effective treatment exists, but the disease can be fatal.

In the United States, most cases occur among immigrants from countries where the disease is prevalent, immunocompromised persons, and residents of long-term institutions.

Identifying people who are at risk, diagnosing people early and effectively treating patients can help control the disease.

To your health!