

TUBERCULOSIS in Contra Costa County 2016

A Story of Tuberculosis in Contra Costa County

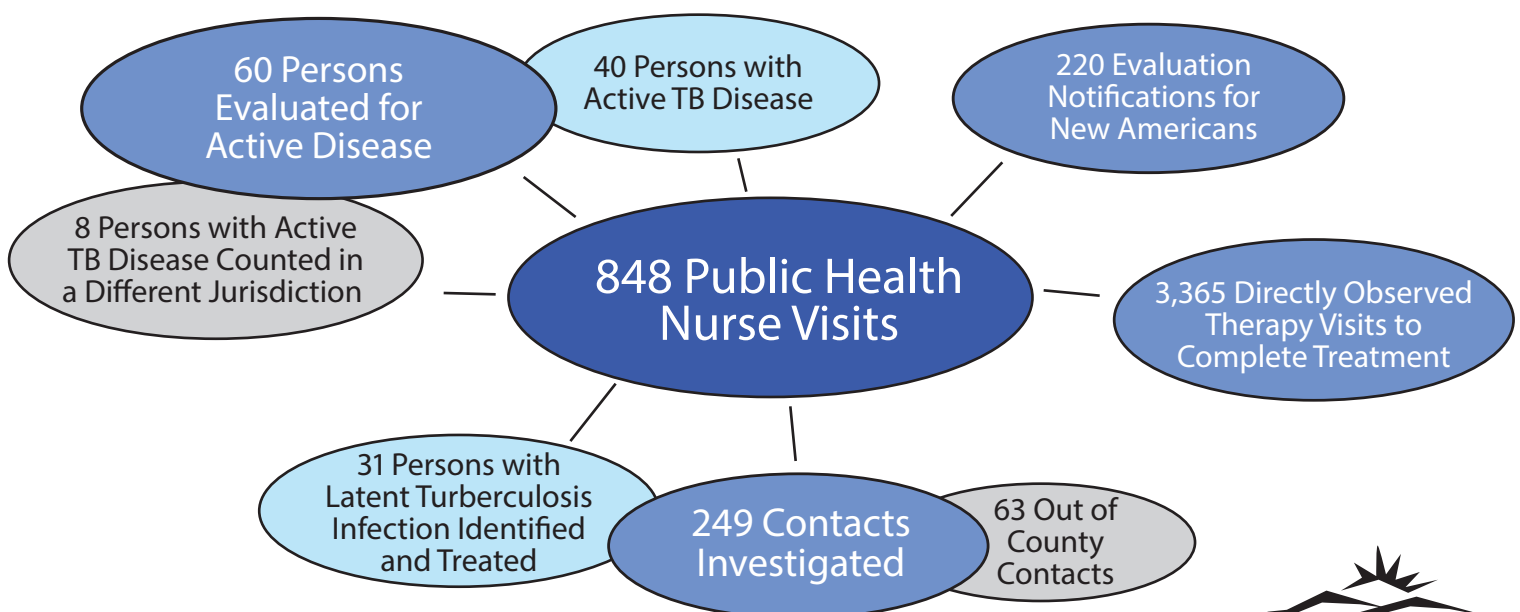
Mario was 18 years old in 1938 when he was diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB). His illness was discovered during a school health screening at his high school in Martinez. At that time, one in nine adults died of TB and there were no medications to treat it. Mario was sent to Alum Rock sanatorium in San Jose. He was put on bed rest (he was only allowed to get up to go to the bathroom), required to eat a large amount of healthy food daily, and had air pumped into his chest cavity to collapse the part of his lung that was most affected by the TB infection. When he was sent home two months later, he continued on a strict regimen of diet and rest. He went to his doctor regularly to make sure his lung remained collapsed for the next 4 years, though he was able to return to school in the fall of 1939.

Mario continued to report to the Contra Costa County Health Department for yearly chest x-rays until 1977 when he was 57 years old. If Mario contracted TB today, he would be one of only 40 cases in the county. The rate of people who get TB in California has decreased 24 fold since 1938. Mario would take 6-9 months of medications for his TB in his community instead of having to leave his family and suffer a painful procedure far from home. He would have to stay home from school for 2-3 weeks instead of 1½ years. Due to the hard work of

scientists, healthcare professionals, and the public health workforce, in the past 100 years, TB has gone from a terrifying disease that was the number one cause of death and disability in the US, to an illness that is treatable and curable. We are lucky here in Contra Costa County to have access to the benefits of TB care and prevention that are still not available in many parts of the world today.

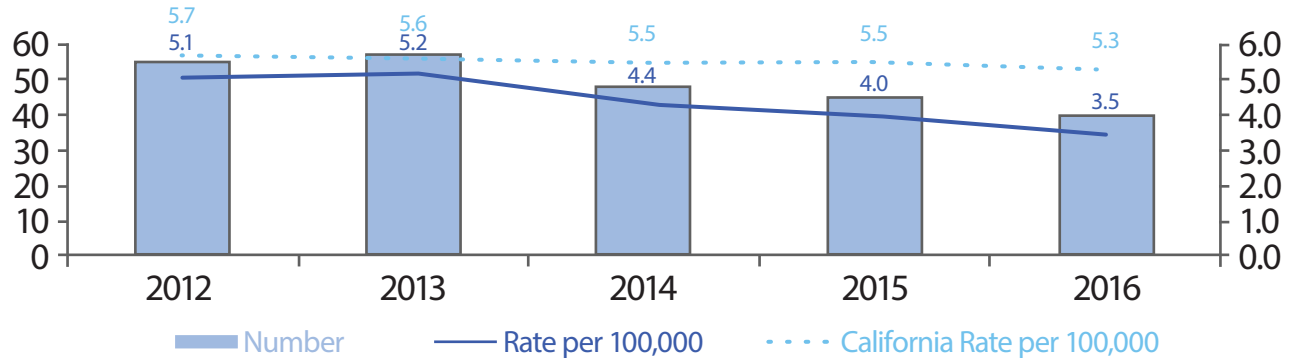
Public Health Department Role in Managing Tuberculosis

The Contra Costa Public Health Department TB Control Program is responsible for protecting the health of both individuals and our community. We are charged with investigating persons with known or suspected TB disease as well as persons exposed to TB to ensure successful TB treatment and to prevent the spread of TB in our community. The team of Public Health Nurses (PHN) and Disease Intervention Technicians monitor each person closely to ensure those with TB disease receive effective treatment, and those exposed to TB disease or are new Americans from TB-endemic countries (B-Immigrants) are located and receive prompt evaluation and treatment services. This is accomplished by intensive case management, thorough contact investigations and daily home visits to provide Directly Observed Therapy (DOT).

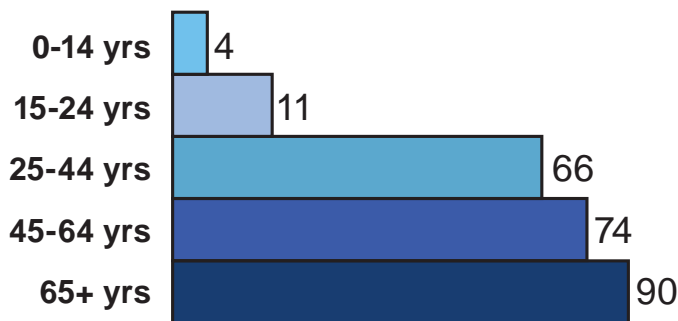


TUBERCULOSIS in Contra Costa County 2016

Contra Costa County Tuberculosis Cases & Case Rates Over 5 Years, 2012-2016

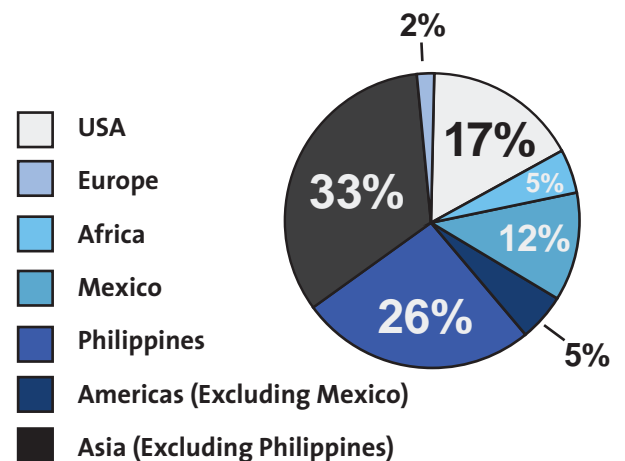


Age Distribution of People with TB Disease, Over 5 years, 2012-2016



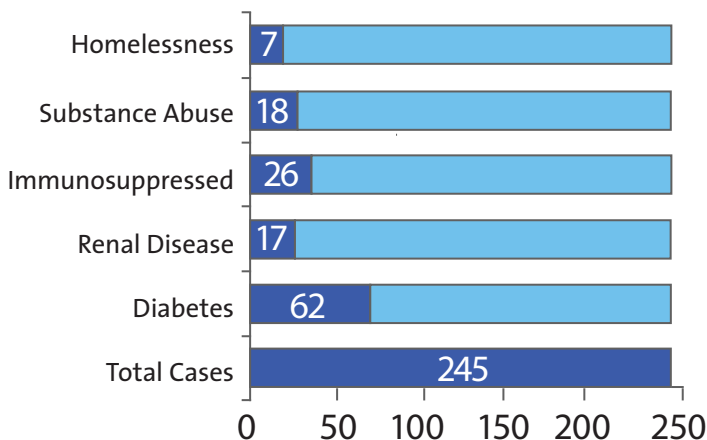
Older people are more likely to get sick with TB disease. They can have latent TB for many years and then get sick as their immune system weakens.

Origin of People with TB Disease Over 5 years, 2012-2016



Many people with TB come from parts of the world where they do not have access to the level of TB care and prevention that we provide in the United States.

Risk Factors for People with TB Disease Over 5 years, 2012-2016



Prepared by Contra Costa Health Services, Public Health Communicable Disease Programs. Data obtained from the Contra Costa Public Health Tuberculosis Program and the California Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Branch. For more information, call the Contra Costa Public Health Tuberculosis Program at 925-313-6740 or visit cchealth.org