



Philadelphia TB Newsletter

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WORLD TB DAY EDITION

Spring 2014

Tuberculosis Control Program
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The Philadelphia TB Newsletter is a publication that is intended to be a resource for clinicians, infection control personnel, and laboratories who diagnose, treat, and/or report tuberculosis (TB) in Philadelphia. It provides treatment updates and recommendations, reviews local and national TB epidemiology, and presents case studies.

Contributing to this issue:

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World TB Day 2014

Christina Dogbey-Smith, MPH
Epidemiologist, Tuberculosis Control Program

World TB Day is held annually on March 24th in order to raise awareness about the threat of TB and the steps needed to control the disease. World TB Day also commemorates the discovery of the TB bacillus by Dr. Robert Koch in March 1882. At that time, TB killed one in seven people in the United States and Europe. Although this disease can be cured and controlled, TB still remains the second leading cause of death among infectious diseases in the world.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the global healthcare community continues to make significant progress toward eliminating tuberculosis as a public health threat. Yet, despite these efforts, each year TB continues to cause new cases worldwide. In 2012, there were an estimated 8.6 million incident cases of TB, 1.1 million of those cases being among persons infected with HIV and 1.3 million deaths from TB (WHO, 2014). Over 95% of these deaths occurred in low and middle income countries. Drug resistant TB, particularly multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) continues to present a challenge to controlling the spread of the disease and treating patients to cure.

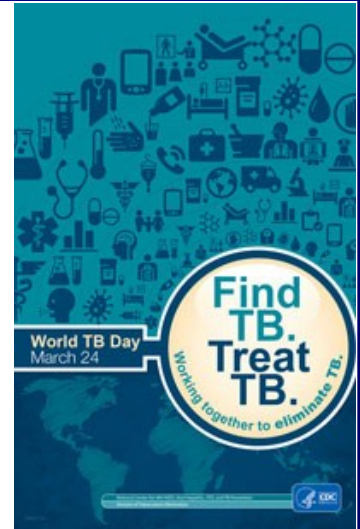
This year, the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention selected the theme **“Find TB. Treat TB. Working together to eliminate TB!”**

The focus for World TB Day 2014 is to highlight that despite the declining rate of TB in the U.S., anyone can get TB. Therefore, finding and treating persons with latent TB infection is key to stopping tuberculosis. This is part of the WHO’s **“The ‘missed’ 3 million”** campaign which is working to focus on vulnerable populations who are infected with TB but “missed” by the health care systems around the world.

To commemorate World TB Day 2014, the Tuberculosis Control Program is issuing the annual World TB Day edition of the Philadelphia TB Control Newsletter. Included in this issue are surveillance updates on TB in Philadelphia, information about requirements for reporting suspected and confirmed TB cases, and more.

For more information about World TB Day, please visit the World Health Organization at: www.worldtbd.org



TB in Art and Culture

Tuberculosis is often included in the storylines of classic, and modern works of art, film and literature. Here is sampling:

In the HBO series *Boardwalk Empire* (2010), the main character Enoch "Nucky" Thompson states that he lost his young wife to Consumption.

In *Moulin Rouge!* (2001), Satine dies of tuberculosis at the end of her biggest performance.

It has been thought that the Hunchback of Notre Dame had Pott's Disease—tuberculosis of the spine.

The Sick Child (1886) by Edvard Munch was a portrait of his sister, Sophie who died of TB.

In the film *The Citadel*, Robert Donat's character, Dr. Andrew Manson, is dedicated to treating Welsh miners suffering from tuberculosis and later assists a TB specialist in successfully performing a pneumothorax on a girl who is dying from the disease.

Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle* portrays tuberculosis as common among bovine in the meat-packing plants of Chicago; consumption is a common illness for packers.

Van Morrison's song "TB Sheets" (from the 1974 album of the same name) is about the narrator nursing a girl, who is dying of tuberculosis. The song is a re-working of the TB theme in American blues music.

Source: World Health Organization

TB Program Director Barry Dickman Retires

Dan Dohony, MPH
CDC Senior Public Health Advisor

After 39 years of dedicated service to the City of Philadelphia, including the last 10 years as the Program Director of the Tuberculosis Control Program, we want to wish Barry Dickman a very happy, healthy and relaxing retirement. During his career at the Department of Public Health he has served as the Administrator for both the Medical Examiner's Office and the Health Center #1 STD Clinic, as well as Manager of the health facility building at 500 S. Broad St.

Barry's contributions to the Tuberculosis Control Program were numerous. During his tenure TB Cases reached historic lows while services for those at highest risk for TB were expanded. He was a national advocate for maintaining resources for big-city TB Control Programs at a time when both funding and cases were in decline. He realized that success in TB Control could lead to the misconception that the problem was solved, resulting in fewer resources, yet he recognized that a resurgence of TB is always just around the corner. He consistently supported the principle of TB control programs being key to controlling TB. He also championed Public Health Program Evaluation and his implementation of TB Cohort Review made Philadelphia a model for TB Programs around the country.

At a celebration of his retirement Barry quoted Groucho Marx: "There's one thing I always wanted to do before I quit...retire!" And on that note we wish him all the best in the future.

As Barry begins his retirement, we would like to welcome Molly Harrar, MS as the new

PPD Solution Shortage: Update

In January 2013, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health released a Health Alert regarding the reported shortage of the availability of the two FDA approved brands of purified protein derivative (PPD) solution, sold under the brand names Tubersol® (Sanofi Pasteur) or Aplisol® (JHP Pharmaceuticals). According to the December 13, 2013 issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly, in mid October 2013, both the 10 dose and 50 dose presentations were being returned to the market by both manufacturers. The 10 dose presentation has been returned to market "on allocation", meaning that the historical purchasing practices of customers will determine how many vials each customer is allotted for purchase. The 50 dose presentation was also returned to market on allocation, with each customer receiving one vial per month (MMWR, 2013). Supplies were expected to approach normal by January 2014, however providers are encouraged to call their preferred vendor with their account number to determine their current availability and account specific allotments. The customer service numbers for both Sanofi Pasteur and JHP Pharmaceuticals can be found on Food and Drug Administration website at <http://www.fda.gov/biologicsbloodvaccines/safetyavailability/shortages/ucm351921.htm>

Tuberculosis Surveillance Update: 2014

Christina Dogbey-Smith, MPH
TB Program Epidemiologist

In 2013, the Philadelphia TB Control Program reported 89 confirmed cases of TB. This represents a 2% increase from the prior year when 86 new cases of TB were reported. This continues a stable trend in the number of TB Cases over the last five years during which there were generally fewer than 100 cases per year and is well below the period from 2002 to 2008 during which cases fluctuated between approximately 120 and 160 cases per year. Philadelphia TB cases represent 66% (up from 57% in 2012) of the TB cases reported in the Southeast Pennsylvania Health District and 42% of the cases in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the period.

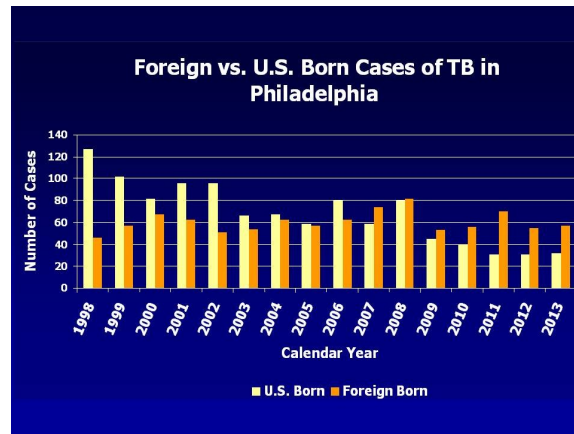
The majority of cases were male (61%) and 38% were between the ages of 45-65 years. There was a single case among children less than 5 years of age, which is consistent with the data for 2012. Tuberculosis cases among those 65 years of age and older decreased from 21% in 2012 to 7% in 2013.

African Americans continue to be disproportionately affected by TB and in 2013 accounted for nearly 43% percent (38/89) of the reported cases. Of the thirty eight non-Hispanic African Americans identified with TB in 2012, nearly twenty-nine percent (11/38) were born outside the US. The percent of cases among

Asians decreased from 43% to 36%, while the percentage of TB cases among white patients increased from 13% last year to 20% this year.

Continuing the trend over the last seven years, once again more than half of Philadelphia TB cases (64%) were foreign born. This trend closely reflects the national data, in that as U.S. born cases steadily decline, foreign born cases remain constant, but continue to consistently exceed the number of U.S. born cases. The fifty-seven foreign-born TB cases reported in 2013 originated from 28 different countries and all 6 World Health Organization (WHO) regions. The Western Pacific Region (which includes Cambodia, China, the Philippines and Vietnam) have accounted for over 35% of the foreign-born cases since 2008.

Eleven percent of our cases were resistant to at least one anti-tuberculosis agent, including two cases that



were multi-drug resistant (resistance to both Isoniazid and Rifampin). The World Health Organization

has identified increasing drug resistance as a disturbing global trend in managing and treating TB patients. Drug resistance emphasizes the need for timely reporting of cases and suspects, effective case management, treatment of latent TB infection and innovation for the development of new tuberculosis drugs in the near future.



Philadelphia Department of Public Health

Tuberculosis Control Program

500 S. Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19146

Phone: 215-685-6873 or 215-685-6744

Reporting

All TB cases and suspected cases must be reported to the TB Control Program within 24 hours of identification. To report a case or suspect, call 215-685-6873. Reports can also be faxed to 215-685-6477 or submitted through the Pennsylvania National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS). Reporting information is available on the TB Control website at www.phila.gov/health, the Health Information Portal (<https://hip.phila.gov/xv/>) or can be obtained by calling 215-685-6873.

World TB Day 2014: News, Facts and Links

- ⇒ Centers for Disease Control World TB Day Podcast: <http://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=8631468>
- ⇒ Ten Facts About Tuberculosis from the World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/tuberculosis/en/>
- ⇒ Global Tuberculosis Report 2013: http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/
- ⇒ STOP TB Partnership World TB Day Brochure (PDF): http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/resources/publications/acsm/WORLD_TB_DAY_BROCHURE_14March.pdf
- ⇒ Promising class of antibiotics discovered for treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis (journal article PDF): <http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v20/n2/full/nm.3458.html>
- ⇒ Roadmap to combating pediatric TB deaths (article): <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/266936.php>
Brochure: http://www.who.int/tb/challenges/childtb_factsheet.pdf?ua=1



Reach the 3 million.
Find. Treat. Cure TB.

FIND

Every year 3 million people with TB are missed. Failure to reach the missed has devastating human, health and economic consequences.

TREAT

A person with TB infects about 10 people in a year. Without treatment, half of the people with TB die.

CURE

With urgent action and increased investment, we can cure the missed 3 million and ensure we leave no one behind.

ACCESS TO
TUBERCULOSIS CARE
IS A RIGHT.

Stop TB Partnership



REACH THE 3 MILLION

WORLD TB DAY 24 MARCH 2014