



3/19/10 TB WIRE

Please pass this on to colleagues who support and/or provide TB prevention and control.

CDC REPORTS DRAMATIC DECREASE IN US TB CASES FOR LAST YEAR (2009)!

In today's March 19, MMWR, CDC is reporting that "the 2009 U.S. tuberculosis case rate showed the greatest single-year decrease ever recorded and the lowest recorded rate since national TB surveillance began in 1953. TB case counts (numbers) and rates both decreased substantially among both foreign-born and U.S.-born persons, although foreign-born persons and racial/ethnic minorities continued to have TB disease disproportionate to their respective populations. The TB rate in foreign-born persons was nearly 11 times higher than in U.S.-born persons. The rates among Hispanics and blacks were approximately eight times higher than among non-Hispanic whites, and rates among Asians were nearly 26 times higher."

CDC further reported that "the large decrease in reported cases during 2009 might represent a decrease in TB disease resulting from changes in population demographics or improved TB control. However, increased underreporting or underdiagnosis of TB also is possible. CDC currently is investigating possible causes for the sharp decrease in reported TB cases. Diagnosing and reporting all TB cases is essential to ensure treatment of patients with TB and implementation of other public health interventions that interrupt transmission."

The editorial note attached to this CDC report says: The 11.4% decrease in the reported TB rate in 2009 is the largest single-year decrease ever recorded. From 1953 to 1993, the single largest annual percentage decrease in TB case rate was 11.1% in 1956. During 1993--2000, TB case rates decreased an average of 7.8% each year (range: 4.8%--8.5%), and for 2000--2008, the rate decreased an average of 3.8% annually (range: 2.3%--6.7%). The decrease for 2009 is unusual and unexpectedly large. CDC and the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association (NTCA) are investigating whether the decrease represents a reduction in disease rate resulting from improved TB control or population demographic shifts, or might be the result of underdiagnosis or underreporting of disease."

The entire MMWR and related editorial report are available at:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5910a2.htm?s_cid=mm5910a2_e

CALL FOR ACTION ON TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION!

As noted above the number of reported TB cases in the United States is at an all-time low, with 17 consecutive years of decline, yet we are a long way from our stated and doable goal of eliminating this disease from the U.S. In conjunction with next week's World TB Day, we will be releasing *A Call for Action on the Tuberculosis Elimination Plan for the United States* developed by the STOP TB USA Tuberculosis Elimination Plan Committee. This Call for Action Plan will include updated action plans for accelerating progress toward tuberculosis elimination in the United States. (More on this will be reported in a STOP TB WIRE next week.)

WORLD TB DAY IS MARCH 24.

Worldwide, TB remains one of the leading causes of death from infectious disease. An estimated 2 billion persons (i.e., one third of the world's population) are infected with M. tuberculosis. World TB Day is observed each year on March 24 to commemorate the date in 1882 when Robert Koch announced the discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacterium that causes TB. World TB Day provides an opportunity to communicate TB-related problems and solutions and to support worldwide TB-control efforts. We encourage you to plan and become involved in World TB Day activities in your community. A number of World TB Day-related resources and related information are available at our partner websites:

CDC World TB Day Website: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/events/WorldTBDay/default.htm>

A large number of World TB Day Activities are planned for cities and states across the USA. These events will be continually added to the website on this map when available at the CDC website as we approach March 24. Check the this website for events in your area: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/events/WorldTBDay/2010/activities.htm>

More Resources for WTD: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/events/WorldTBDay/resources.htm>

State TB Control offices: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/links/tboffices.htm>

Stop TB Global Partnership: http://www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/2010/

If you wish to receive the **STOP TB USA** messages at a different e-mail address, or if you no longer wish to receive these messages, please reply to jseggerson@tbcoalition.com

Stop TB USA was formerly known as the National Coalition for Elimination of Tuberculosis (NCET).

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