

**Medical Director's Report
Board of Health
February 2010**

Tuberculosis Update - Statewide Trends - 2008

Upstate New York in 2008 had an increase in cases of tuberculosis. However, most of those cases arose in the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester reporting at least half of them.

Overall, New York State was fifth nationally with a case rate of 6.3 per 100,000, which is strongly influenced by New York City's rate of 11.2 per 100,000. Looking outside of New York City, the state had a rate of 2.8 per 100,000 and the national average was 4.2 per 100,000.

For our area, the major source of tuberculosis is foreign-borne individuals coming into this country. Statewide, Asians, Hispanics, and Blacks had higher rates of TB compared to Whites.

People of Chinese origin contributed the greatest number of TB cases with people of Indian origin also contributing significant numbers.

The number of multiple-drug resistant TB cases remained about the same in 2008, totaling 11 cases.

The total number of TB cases in 2008 for the entire state was 1,200. 895 cases were in New York City and 305 cases in the remainder of the state. The most recent peak epidemic year was 1992, with 4,574 cases. Overall, New York State has experienced a 74% decline in cases over the time period of 1992-2008 compared to a national decline of 49%.

Comment: Overall, controlling the importation of tuberculosis is the major burden for public health.

General Activities

- Reviewed Incident Reports of vaccine delivery issues. Two of these were from recent clinics; none revealing any major issues.
- Reviewed and signed minutes of the Patient Quality Assurance Committee.
- Physically Handicapped Children's Program – reviewed cases of children needing therapy. One in which multiple second opinions were obtained with interaction with staff concerning state and local tax dollars in cases where families are desiring more than one second opinion on an intervention.