



# DuPage County Health Department R E V I E W

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Environmental Health  
(630) 682-7979, ext. 7046

Immunizations  
(630) 682-7400

Sexually Transmitted Diseases  
(630) 682-7979, ext. 7575

HIV/AIDS  
(630) 682-7979, ext. 7310

Tuberculosis  
(630) 682-7979, ext. 7522

School Health  
(630) 682-7979, ext. 7300

Travel Clinic  
(630) 682-7400

Animal Care & Control  
(630) 407-2800

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to send suggestions  
or to be added to the  
distribution list.

The purpose of this two-page surveillance update is to promote the control and prevention of **communicable disease (CD)** by providing clinically relevant information and resources to healthcare professionals in DuPage County.



## Under the Microscope *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

For questions or to report a suspect or known case of TB, please call the TB Clinic at (630) 682-7979, ext. 7522. All services for active TB cases and their contacts, including medication, are free of charge.

**World TB Day is observed each year on March 24th** to commemorate the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes tuberculosis (TB). 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***. In 2006, approximately 9.2 million persons became ill from TB, and 1.7 million died from the disease. World TB Day provides an opportunity for TB programs, nongovernmental organizations, and other partners to describe problems and solutions related to the TB pandemic and to support worldwide TB control efforts. The U.S. theme for this year's observance is **Partnerships for TB Elimination**.<sup>1</sup>

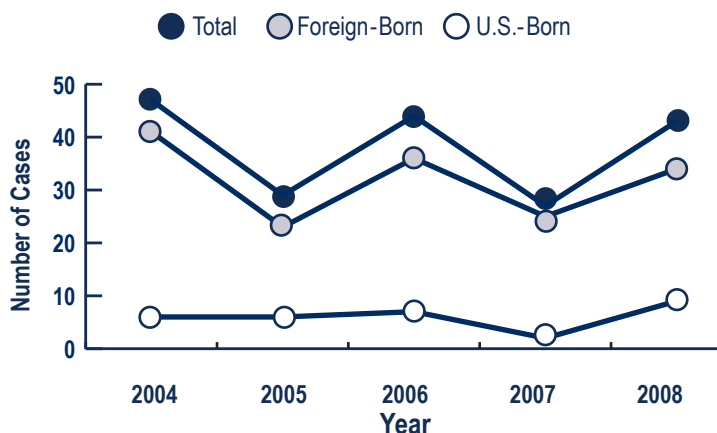
After approximately 30 years of decline, the number of TB cases reported in the U.S. increased 20% during 1985--1992. This led to a renewed emphasis on TB control and prevention during the 1990s and actions that reversed the increase in cases. Although the 2008 TB rate (4.2 cases per 100,000 population) was the lowest recorded in the U.S. since national reporting began in 1953, **the average annual decline has slowed since 2000**.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, **multidrug resistant TB (MDR TB)** remains a threat, **extensively drug resistant TB (XDR TB)** has become an emerging threat, and persons of racial/ethnic minority populations and foreign-born persons continue to account for a greater percentage of TB cases.<sup>1</sup> In 2007, CDC issued **revised technical instructions for TB screening and treatment** among persons applying for immigration to the United States.<sup>2</sup>

### Dispelling the Myth: Testing for TB in BCG-Vaccinated Persons

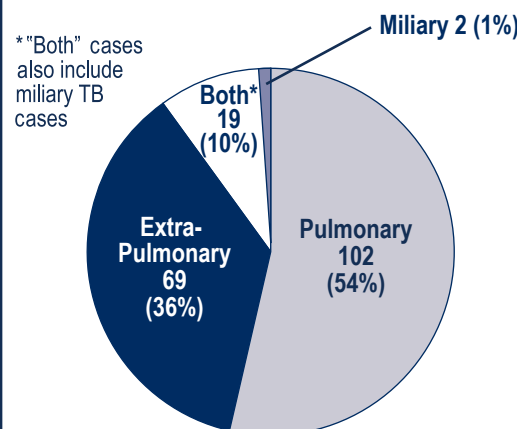
Many foreign-born persons have been BCG-vaccinated. BCG vaccination may cause a false-positive reaction to the tuberculin skin test (TST), which may complicate decisions about prescribing treatment. Despite this potential for BCG to interfere with test results, **the TST and the QuantiFERON-TB test (QFT) are not contraindicated for persons who have been vaccinated with BCG**. The presence or size of a TST reaction in these persons does not predict whether BCG will provide any protection against TB disease. Furthermore, **the size of a TST reaction in a BCG-vaccinated person is not a factor** in determining whether the reaction is caused by latent TB infection (LTBI) or the prior BCG vaccination. **Evaluation of TST reactions in persons vaccinated with BCG should be interpreted using the same criteria for those not BCG-vaccinated**. In addition, **QFT is not affected by prior BCG vaccination** and is less likely to give a false-positive result.<sup>3</sup>

Cases of Tuberculosis in DuPage County  
Foreign-Born vs. U.S.-Born, 2004 - 2008 (n=190)



Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, TB Section

Cases of Tuberculosis in DuPage County  
By Major Site of Disease, 2004 - 2008 (n=190)



Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, TB Section

### References:

1. www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5810.pdf

2. www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/pdf/ti\_tb\_8\_9\_2007.pdf

3. www.cdc.gov/tb/pubs/tbfactsheets/BCG.htm

