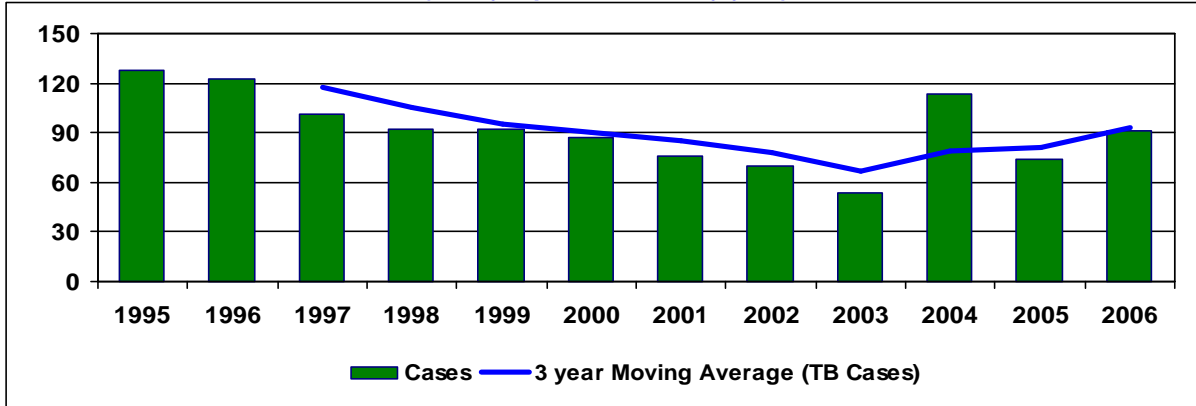


Tuberculosis (TB) Cases, Bexar County

(Newly reported cases by year)



Tuberculosis Cases, Bexar County, 2006 (Newly reported in 2006)		
CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENT
Total	91	100.0%
Tuberculosis by Sex		
Male	60	65.9%
Female	31	34.1%
Tuberculosis by Race / Ethnicity		
Hispanic, All Races	56	61.5%
White, Non-Hispanic	12	13.2%
Black, Non-Hispanic	12	13.2%
Asian/Pacific Islndr., Non-Hisp.	11	12.1%
Tuberculosis by Age		
0 to 5	7	7.7%
6 to 14	1	1.1%
15 to 24	8	8.8%
25 to 44	27	29.7%
45 to 64	29	31.9%
65 and over	19	20.9%
Tuberculosis by Risk Factors ^{1,2}		
Unemployed ³	62	68.1%
Foreign Born	34	37.4%
Alcohol Abuse ⁴	15	16.5%
Drug Use (injectable & not) ⁴	6	6.6%
Diabetes	6	6.6%
HIV/AIDS	5	5.5%
Homeless ³	6	6.6%
Long-Term Care Facility Resident	3	3.3%
Prison/Jail Inmate/Employee ³	4	4.4%
Health Care Worker ³	2	2.2%

1 Cases can have multiple risk factors.
 2 Denominator includes all cases.
 3 Risk within past 2 years
 4 Risk within past year

Tuberculosis Cases, 2006 (Newly reported in 2006)		
AREA	NUMBER	RATE ¹
Bexar County	91	5.85
Texas	1,585	6.74
United States (provisional data)	13,767	4.60
per 100,000 population using the 2006 Census Pop. Estimate		
2006 Census Population Estimate:		
Bexar County	1,555,592	
Texas	23,507,783	
United States	299,398,484	

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infection caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It primarily affects the respiratory system, but can occur in any tissue or throughout the body. TB is spread through the air by a person with active TB disease of the respiratory tract. Many factors influence the spread of TB, including the length of time (more than 6-8 hours/week) spent in close contact with the diseased person.

There are two "types" (or stages) of TB. The first is **latent TB infection (LTBI)**. This person is infected with the bacteria, but does not have signs or symptoms of the disease and cannot spread TB to others. The second is **active TB disease**. This person's untreated LTBI has progressed to disease and he/she usually has symptoms of the disease. This person may be contagious to others and often requires respiratory isolation for a period of time. Both "types" of TB are treatable and curable.

All persons suspected of having active TB disease in Bexar County are reported to SAMHD. Each person is assessed and treatment and health care are provided to those with TB. In 2006, there were 151 TB cases and suspects from Bexar County. An additional 77 TB cases and suspects from other jurisdictions were managed by SAMHD in 2006.

SAMHD screens **contacts**, persons who are determined to be at risk of exposure to a known TB case in Bexar County. There were over 2,200 contacts identified in 2006 in Bexar County. Those contacts that were found to have latent TB infection (LTBI), were offered treatment. There were 176 contacts that began treatment for LTBI in 2006 in Bexar County with SAMHD.

At least one-third of the world's population is infected with TB. People who travel to other countries and those who are born in foreign countries have a greater risk of developing TB disease. In 2006 in Bexar County, 37% of our TB cases were born outside the US, which is a lower percent than for both the state of Texas (48% in 2005) and the United States (56% in 2006).

SAMHD also screens people with a **high risk** of developing TB disease. These groups include recent immigrants, people who are homeless, unemployed, have been in prison or abused drugs or alcohol. Those found to have latent TB infection (LTBI), were offered treatment. There were 217 people with high risk that began treatment for LTBI in 2006 in Bexar County with SAMHD.

Some medical conditions increase the risk of developing active TB disease. In Bexar County in 2006, 5% of TB cases were also infected with HIV. Infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the strongest risk factor for development of TB disease. If infected with TB (LTBI) and HIV, the risk of developing active TB disease is 100 times greater. The risk is 3 times greater for people with diabetes.

TB has no boundaries; we are all at risk of exposure. It is important for exposed family members to receive preventative treatment to stop the spread of tuberculosis. It is also important for cases to complete their therapy to prevent drug resistance.