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CDC Reports a Decline in TB Cases for Second Year in a Row

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Medical News Editor

The CDC recently reported that there were 24,361 new US tuberculosis (TB) cases in 1994, a 3.7% decrease from 1993's 25,287 cases. This decline is the second in a row, 8.7% below 1992, and partially reverses the 20% increase in cases that occurred from 1985 through 1992. Dr. Kenneth Castro, director of CDC's division of tuberculosis elimination, reported these figures at the American Thoracic Society's annual meeting in Seattle, Washington. CDC's director, Dr. David Satcher, said, "This is a public health success made possible by increased federal funding of approximately $100 million over 2 years, as well as state and local TB control efforts."

Experts report that the resurgence in TB in the United States has been related to funding cutbacks in the 1980s, the HIV epidemic, increased immigration from countries in which TB is endemic, and increases in the homeless and prison populations. It is estimated that 10 to 15 million people in the United States have latent TB infection. Worldwide, TB is the leading cause of adult death from an infectious disease.

FROM: CDC reports 24,361 cases of TB, a decline from 1992. Press release; May 23, 1995: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia.

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