

Tuberculosis in the USA – incidence, trends and case studies

The United States continues to have one of the lowest rates of tuberculosis in the world, with 3 new cases diagnosed per 100,000 population per year.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website contains a wealth of information on TB incidence and trends, both nationally and by individual state, plus a question and answers section.

See <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/statistics/tbtrends.htm> for more on the figures below.

A total of 9,421 TB cases (a rate of 2.96 cases per 100,000 persons) were reported in the United States in 2014. Both the number of TB cases reported and the case rate decreased; this represents a 1.5% and 2.2% decline, respectively, compared to 2013.

The most recent State by State surveillance report, *Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 2014*, includes data from 60 reporting areas (the 50 states, the District of Columbia, New York City, Puerto Rico, and seven other U.S. jurisdictions in the Pacific and Caribbean). The report can be found online at <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/statistics/default.htm>

Since the 1992 peak of TB resurgence in the United States, the number of TB cases reported each year has decreased, however, according to the National TB Controllers Association, TB cases have become more complex to manage, with more medical complications and associated conditions, including diabetes. A significant number of cases are resistant to one of the major first line medications, INH, making treatment more complicated.

What are the rates of TB for different racial and ethnic populations in the USA?

- American Indians or Alaska Natives: 5.0 TB cases per 100,000 persons
- Asians: 17.8 TB cases per 100,000 persons
- Blacks or African Americans: 5.1 TB cases per 100,000 persons
- Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders: 16.9 TB cases per 100,000 persons
- Hispanics or Latinos: 5.0 TB cases per 100,000 persons
- Whites: 0.6 TB cases per 100,000 persons

For this report, persons identified as white, black, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or of multiple races are all non-Hispanic. Persons identified as Hispanic may be of any race.

Overall, the percentage of MDR TB cases has remained fairly constant in recent years, making up 1.3% (91 cases) in 2014 compared with 1.3% (91 cases) in 2013, with California as the state with the most cases. However, according to an analysis by the CDC, these cases lead to an additional 1000 exposures and more than 300 infections with MDR-TB, over a two to three year period. In the US a case of MDR-TB can cost up to \$400,000 to treat.

Case studies: USA

For the story of one-and-a-half year old Scarlett Fritschy, diagnosed with TB in 2013, please see this link:

http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/global/plan/plan2/Rutgers_ScarlettStory2015.pdf

For more information, please contact Scarlett's mother Carrie Fritschy. With Scarlett now thankfully cured and back to full health. Carrie is, through various advocacy work, attempting to create a support network for the TB community.

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For other case studies in the USA, please contact David Bryden, TB Advocacy Officer RESULTS, on T) +1-202-783-7100 x 145 mobile: +1-202-549-3664 E) dbryden@results.org