

Global Tuberculosis

Accessible Link cdc.gov/global-hiv-tb/php/resources/tb-overview-fact-sheet.html



Overview

Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading infectious disease killer worldwide, **claiming approximately 1.2 million lives each year.**

Nearly 2 billion people, 1 in 4 people worldwide, are infected with TB worldwide.

10.7 million people became sick with TB disease in 2024. Of those, 1.2 million (11%) were children.

TB spreads from person to person and can move across borders with serious health and financial impacts. In the U.S., treating a single case of TB can cost anywhere from \$20,000 to up to \$500,000 for the most drug-resistant strains. Responding to TB globally ensures a safer America and a safer world.

CDC is at the forefront of the global response to TB, supporting countries to end the threat of TB to save lives abroad and in the U.S.

What is Driving the Continued Spread of TB?

Missed TB

Each year, **around 25%** of people who become sick with TB remain undiagnosed and untreated. Untreated people can infect **10 to 15 additional people** per year — and **10%** of those infected go on to develop TB disease in their lifetime.

Health Care System Gaps

Limited testing, gaps in coverage of screening and preventive treatment, interruptions in sample transportation and supply chains, and shortages of trained healthcare personnel can lead to **delays in diagnosis and treatment**, which further fuel transmission and emergence of drug resistance.

HIV-associated TB

TB is the **#1 cause of death among people living with HIV (PLHIV)**, whose weakened immune system makes them more susceptible to TB disease.

Drug Resistant TB

TB has grown resistant to the best available drugs. Drug resistant TB (DR TB) is deadlier, costlier and harder to treat. It is now found in every country, with **390,000 new cases of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and rifampicin-resistant TB (RR TB)** in 2024.



Addressing global TB saves lives, delivers cost-savings, and strengthens health systems.

More than 79 million lives have been saved since the year 2000 due to global efforts to combat TB.

TB response efforts will **yield \$40** in savings for **every \$1 invested** by 2050.

From 2003 to 2024, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) helped prevent more than **11 million TB cases and 2.1 million TB-related deaths among people living with HIV.**

TB efforts have **strengthened labs, surveillance, infection prevention and control (IPC), and workforce capacity** that have proven critical against other disease threats.



CDC's Efforts

CDC is at the forefront of scientific excellence, innovation, and operational expertise, supporting countries to end TB as a global public health threat.

CDC works with Ministries of Health (MOHs) in 42 countries with a high burden of TB to prevent, diagnose, and treat TB disease, and enhance global TB response efforts. Through a unique combination of scientific expertise and on-the-ground implementation, CDC is accelerating countries' progress towards global TB elimination.



Diagnose

- Expanding access to better screening, diagnostics, and contact tracing.
- Providing training and technical support to scale up the use of new and faster diagnostic tools.
- Transforming the approach to diagnosing TB among children, PLHIV and other populations at-risk of TB.



Treat

- Working with MOHs to implement high-quality TB programs and services designed with data to rapidly adjust to operational and contextual challenges.
- Working with MOHs to strengthen disease surveillance systems critical for finding and curing TB, as well as emerging drug resistance.



Prevent

- Identifying areas with a higher prevalence of TB disease, to target screening efforts.
- Strengthening IPC programs in health facilities and communities.
- Addressing HIV-associated TB by providing antiretroviral treatment, TB screening, and TB preventive treatment (TPT) for PLHIV.



Sustain

- Developing and strengthening surveillance and laboratory systems.
- Expanding workforce and research capacity through guidelines, mentorship, and training programs.
- Strengthening programs through operational research, implementation, and evaluation.

CDC's Key Accomplishments and Programs

Building on PEPFAR's platform, CDC and partners have supported over 9 million PLHIV to complete TPT. In 2024 alone, CDC supported TB screenings for over 10 million PLHIV and helped over 950,000 PLHIV complete TPT.

CDC is scaling up novel approaches to diagnosing TB in children by working with MOHs and partners to strengthen clinical and microbiological TB diagnosis among this population. In collaboration with MOHs, CDC developed an IPC toolkit and implemented it in PEPFAR-supported facilities across 18 countries in Africa, Asia, Central America, and the Caribbean.

CDC and partners are driving progress against DR TB by intensifying efforts to find missing cases, boost laboratory capacity, and strengthen IPC measures.

Looking Towards the Future

TB anywhere is TB everywhere. A safer and stronger America means that this deadly, airborne threat is identified, treated, and stopped from spreading. This is possible through:



Scaling up the use of effective tools and strategies.



Developing new approaches, including less toxic drugs and more effective diagnostics.



Strengthening surveillance systems, lab capacity and TB IPC measures.



Developing an effective TB vaccine.



Continuing to ensure efficient use of every dollar and supporting countries to self-sustain their TB responses.