



TUBERCULOSIS (TB) IN CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS

In 2020,
**1.1
MILLION**
children aged 0-14 years
old fell ill with TB around
the world.

Globally, an estimated
63.5%
of children with TB
go undiagnosed,
untreated or
underreported.

THE BURDEN OF CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT TB

In 2020

226K
Children died
from TB

80%
Died before the
age of five

95%
of the children who died
from TB did not receive
TB treatment

**World Health Organization Global TB Report 2021*

**2018 WHO Roadmap towards ending TB
in children and adolescents*

CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT TB



Difficulties in Diagnosis

TB in children is difficult to detect using traditional tools for diagnosing TB among adults. However consistent use of child friendly specimen can improve case finding among children.



TB Preventative Treatment Remains Low

Provision of TB preventive treatment among children remains low with only 1/3 of all eligible children receiving preventative treatment every year.



TB/HIV Co-Infection

TB is the leading cause of death for children living with HIV.

CDC'S ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD TB



FIND

Working with ministries of health to promote use of child friendly approaches and diagnostic to diagnose TB in children. **In Mozambique, Uganda, and in other PEPFAR-supported countries, CDC is working to improve TB diagnosis and linkage to treatment for children through household contact tracing.**



CURE

Linking every child screened through PEPFAR platforms to diagnostic evaluation and treatment for TB. **Through CDC and PEPFAR-supported programs, 80% of all children living with HIV were screened for TB in 2020.**



PREVENT

Scaling-up TB preventive treatment to all eligible children, including household contacts of those with TB and children living with HIV. **Since 2019, CDC, as part of PEPFAR, supported almost 65% of eligible children in initiating and completing TB preventive treatment.**



SUSTAIN

Providing leadership and technical assistance to identify and address gaps that hinder childhood TB elimination. **CDC and the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease have established a global, virtual platform with nine ministries of health to provide a community of learning and practice for childhood and adolescent TB in countries hardest hit by the epidemic.**

**Source: Annual Performance Results from The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)*

Significant progress has been made in response to child and adolescent TB, but there is still much left to do

RESPONDING TO CHILD AND ADOLESCENT TB

1. **Less invasive diagnostic methods discovered**, simplifying the diagnosis of TB in children.
2. **Child-friendly, fixed-dose combination TB treatment developed** and endorsed by WHO.
3. **Comprehensive roadmap for ending childhood TB developed** by CDC and WHO, using new knowledge about how TB presents in children under 15.

THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE TO END CHILDHOOD TB

1. **Slow adoption and uptake of child-friendly diagnostic tools** create a gap in TB diagnosis.
2. **Child-friendly TB treatment has not been optimized and development of child-friendly formulations often lags behind**, slowing access to timely and life-saving treatment for children with TB.
3. **Additional research is needed to close the gaps** in diagnosis, treatment and prevention of TB in children.

To learn more, visit:
cdc.gov/GlobalHIVTB

