

World TB Day — March 24, 2019

World TB Day is observed each year on March 24. This observance provides an opportunity to raise awareness about tuberculosis (TB) and the measures needed to find, treat, and prevent this devastating disease.

In 2018, a provisional total of 9,029 TB cases were reported in the United States (incidence = 2.8 cases per 100,000 persons) (1), a decline from the 9,094 cases reported in 2017 and the lowest number of cases on record in the United States since reporting began in 1953. Increased diagnosis and treatment of latent TB infection remains essential to eliminating TB in the United States.

Worldwide, an estimated 10 million cases of TB were reported in 2017, a decline of 1.8% from 2016. Approximately 1.57 million persons died from TB in 2017, a 3.9% decrease from 2016 (2). The implementation of effective strategies, including expansion of TB preventive treatment, defined in the global setting as treatment for those who might be infected with TB and are at risk for progressing to TB disease, including persons living with human immunodeficiency virus infection, is necessary to reach global targets.

CDC is working with domestic and global partners to diagnose and treat TB in the United States and around the world. Additional information about World TB Day and CDC's TB activities is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/worldtbdays>.

References

1. Talwar A, Tsang CA, Price SF, et al. Tuberculosis—United States, 2018. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:257–62.
2. MacNeil A, Glaziou P, Sismanidis C, et al. Global epidemiology of tuberculosis and progress towards achieving global targets — 2017. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:263–6.

Tuberculosis — United States, 2018

Amish Talwar, MD^{1,2}; Clarisse A. Tsang, MPH¹;
Sandy F. Price¹; Robert H. Pratt¹; William L. Walker, DVM, PhD¹;
Kristine M. Schmit, MD¹; Adam J. Langer, DVM¹

In 2018, a total of 9,029 new tuberculosis (TB) cases were reported in the United States, representing a 0.7% decrease from 2017.* The U.S. TB incidence in 2018 (2.8 per 100,000 persons) represented a 1.3% decrease from 2017; the rate among non-U.S.-born persons was >14 times that in U.S.-born persons. This report summarizes provisional TB surveillance data reported to CDC's National Tuberculosis Surveillance System (NTSS) through 2018. Although the total number of cases and incidence are the lowest ever reported in the United States, a recent model predicted that the U.S. TB elimination goal (annual incidence of <1 case per 1 million persons) will not be attained in the 21st century without greatly increased investment in detection and treatment of latent TB infection (LTBI) (1). Programs to identify, test, and treat populations at high risk for TB remain important to eliminating TB in the United States.

Health departments in the 50 states and District of Columbia (DC) electronically report provisional case data that meet the national TB surveillance case definition to CDC.† Data reported include demographic information (e.g., birth date,

* This report is limited to National Tuberculosis Surveillance System provisional data as of February 11, 2019. Updated data will be available in CDC's annual TB surveillance report later this year.

† <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/programs/rvct/instructionmanual.pdf>.

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Continuing Education examination available at https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted_info.html#weekly.

