TB in the United States, 2018

Tuberculosis (TB) is a preventable, curable disease that is also the world’s leading infectious disease killer. The United States has one of the lowest TB disease case rates in the world, thanks to investments in domestic TB programs. Over the last 20 years, health departments and CDC TB control efforts have prevented as many as 300,000 people from developing TB disease and averted up to $14.5 billion dollars in costs. Yet, too many people in the United States still suffer from TB disease and our progress towards elimination has slowed.

We must continue to diagnose and treat cases of TB disease and test and treat persons with latent TB infection to prevent future cases of TB disease. With better diagnostic tests, shorter treatments, and new guidelines to assist physicians in testing, the United States has a greater opportunity than ever before to eliminate TB.

TB BY THE NUMBERS

9,025 CASES
In 2018, a total of 9,025 CASES of TB disease were reported, a 0.7% DECREASE from 2017.

1.3% DECREASE
In 2018, the national TB RATE WAS 2.8 CASES per one hundred thousand people, a 1.3% DECREASE from 2017.

515 DEATHS
In 2017, 515 DEATHS were attributed to TB.

1 IN 10 PEOPLE
Without treatment, 1 IN 10 PEOPLE with latent TB infection will develop TB disease.

THE PATH TO TB ELIMINATION IS CLEAR, BUT PROGRESS HAS SLOWED

REPORTED TB CASES AND TB RATES IN THE U.S., 1993–2018

LATENT TB INFECTION (LTBI)
TB bacteria can live in the body without making a person sick. People with latent TB infection cannot spread TB to others. Without treatment, people with latent TB infection can develop TB disease.

TB DISEASE
When TB bacteria multiply in the body, this is called TB disease. People with TB disease become sick and can spread TB bacteria to others.

DRUG RESISTANCE THREATENS OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL TB

In 2018, a total of 98 CASES of multidrug-resistant TB were reported in the U.S. Drug-resistant TB is complex and costly. Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR TB) is resistant to at least two of the primary anti-TB drugs, while extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR TB) is a rare type of MDR TB resistant to the most potent TB drugs. People undergoing treatment for MDR TB face the most devastating consequences. Treatment can take two or more years and the medicines are more expensive, less effective, and can often cause serious side effects. For more information, see CDC’s “The Costly Burden of Drug Resistant TB in the U.S.” fact sheet.
TO ELIMINATE TB, WE MUST REACH THE HARDEST-HIT PLACES AND POPULATIONS

U.S. STATES WITH THE HIGHEST TUBERCULOSIS BURDEN

CALIFORNIA, TEXAS, NEW YORK, and FLORIDA accounted for approximately 50% of the total TB cases in the United States.

MOST TB CASES in the U.S. occur among racial and ethnic minorities, and some populations are disproportionately affected.

U.S. TB CASES AND RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RACE/ETHNICITY</th>
<th>RATE PER 100,000 PEOPLE</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE OF REPORTED TB CASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TESTING IS CRITICAL for populations at higher risk of TB infection and LTBI progression to TB disease, including people:

- With weak immune systems due to age, HIV infection, substance abuse, diabetes, renal failure, or other conditions
- Born in or who frequently travel to places where TB disease is more common
- Who have lived in group settings, such as long-term care, homeless, or correctional facilities

THE PATH TO ELIMINATION

CDC IS COMMITTED TO MAKING TB A DISEASE OF THE PAST. Eliminating TB would protect the health of Americans and reduce the burden on the health care system. Reaching the goal of elimination in the United States, defined as less than 1 case per 1 million people, requires a dual approach of maintaining and strengthening current TB control priorities while increasing efforts to test and treat latent TB infection among high-risk populations.

The end game of TB elimination requires engaging additional partners who can identify people at high risk for latent TB infection in their states and communities—and can test, diagnose, and treat them before they develop TB disease. Healthcare providers serving communities with high-risk populations, and leaders in these communities, are crucial to the successful expansion of testing and treatment initiatives for people with latent TB infection.

For more information visit www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom