



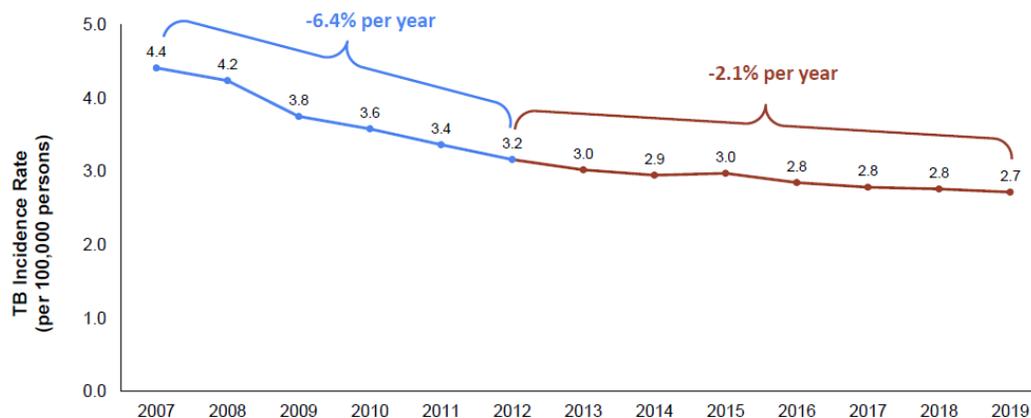
Progress Towards TB Elimination Still Slowing Despite Lowest U.S. Case Count Ever Reported

On March 19, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provisionally reported the lowest number of new TB cases and the lowest TB case rate ever recorded in the U.S. However, the rate of decline remains slow and is insufficient for the U.S. to achieve TB elimination in this centuryⁱ.

There were 8,920 new TB cases in 2019, down 1.1 percent from 2018 and the 2019 case rate of 2.7 TB cases per 100,000 population (or about 27 cases per million) was 1.6 percent lower than the 2018 case rate. Pennsylvania reported 198 new TB cases and a case rate of 1.5 TB cases per 100,000 in 2019. Both figures were 7 percent lower than in 2018.

The following graph illustrates the slowing rate of decline in the U.S. TB incidence rate. Between 2007 and 2012 the average annual percentage change in the U.S. TB incidence rate was a decrease of 6.4 percent per year. Since 2012, the average annual percentage decrease has slowed to 2.1 percent per year.

Average Annual Percent Change in TB Incidence Rate* — United States, 2007–2019



*Based on provisional NTSS data as of March 3, 2020.

For decades, most new U.S. TB cases were the result of recent transmission in this country. More recently, the slowing rate of decline in the U.S. case rate is due to the growing proportion of new U.S. cases attributable to the reactivation of LTBI acquired years before and often outside the U.S. This shifting dynamic has prompted the CDC to promote an expanded TB elimination strategy that encourages public and private healthcare providers to identify and treat persons with LTBI while continuing to limit TB transmission in the U.S. by quickly identifying and treating cases of TB disease, evaluating contacts to persons with infectious TB, and treating those contacts diagnosed with TB or LTBI.

In 2019, nearly 71 percent of all new U.S. TB cases were in people born outside the U.S. It is estimated that most of these cases were due to the reactivation of LTBI acquired outside the U.S. The top five countries of birth among non-U.S. born persons with reported TB in 2019 were Mexico, the Philippines, India, Vietnam and China.

In 2019, the distribution of U.S. TB patients by race/ethnicity continued to differ widely by origin of birth.

- Of the 2,553 U.S.-born persons diagnosed with TB in 2019, 35% were blacks/African Americans, 30% were whites and 25% were Hispanics/Latinos. For those three groups, the TB case rate was 2.5 cases per 100,000 population among blacks/African Americans, 1.6 for Hispanics/Latinos and 0.4 for whites.
- In contrast, of the 6,322 new TB cases among non-U.S.-born persons in 2019, 47% were Asians, 33% were Hispanics/Latinos, and 13% were blacks/African Americans. The TB case rate was 25.7 per 100,000 population among Asians, 10.2 for Hispanics/Latinos and 19.5 for blacks/African Americans.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) status was known for 87 percent of TB cases reported in 2019. Overall, 4.9 percent of those TB cases were coinfecting with HIV but the coinfection rate was significantly higher for persons ages 25 to 44 at 7.8 percent.

To eliminate TB in the U.S., the CDC recommends that we continue to limit TB transmission by quickly identifying and treating cases of TB disease while also expanding efforts to identify persons with LTBI and successfully treating them to completion. Achieving these objectives requires increased collaboration between public and private healthcare providers and greater use of short-duration LTBI treatment regimens in clinically appropriate patients.

Worldwide, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* is the number one cause of death from a single infectious agent – taking more lives than HIV. In 2018, the most recent year for which global data are available, an estimated 10 million people became sick with TB and 1.5 million died.

ⁱ March 20, 2020 CDC Morbidity and Mortality Report available at https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6911a3.htm?s_cid=mm6911a3_w