

Tuberculosis Cases Statewide by Year

Summary Brief 2024

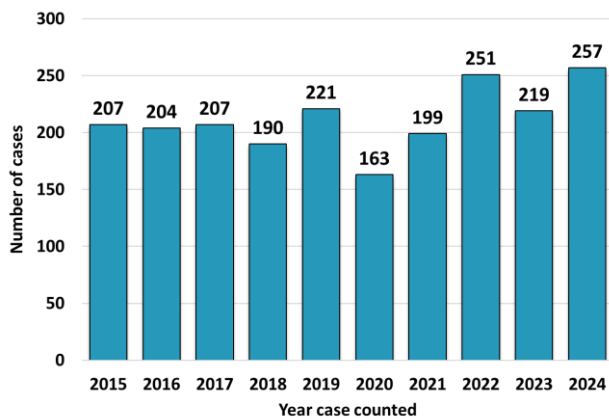
// Key Points

- > Tuberculosis (TB) disproportionately affects vulnerable populations in Washington State (WA).
- > In 2024, nearly 5 cases of TB disease were diagnosed on average in WA each week.
- > An estimated 200,000 people in WA are infected with TB.
- > Decades of consistent decline in TB nationally and locally has been interrupted with recent increasing TB incidence trends.

// Reported TB Cases

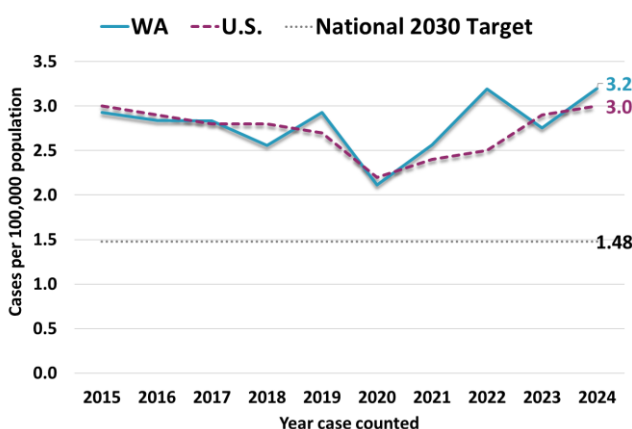
In 2024, 257 cases of TB disease were counted in WA. This represents a 17.4% increase from 2023 and the highest case count since 2007.

Reported TB Cases, Washington State, 2015 – 2024



Incidence rates of TB in WA have progressed downward for decades, with increased fluctuation since 2020. This is similar to the trend seen nationally. Recovery from pandemic-related health care disruptions, an outbreak within WA correctional facilities, and changes in post-pandemic travel and relocation have likely contributed to recent increasing reports of TB.

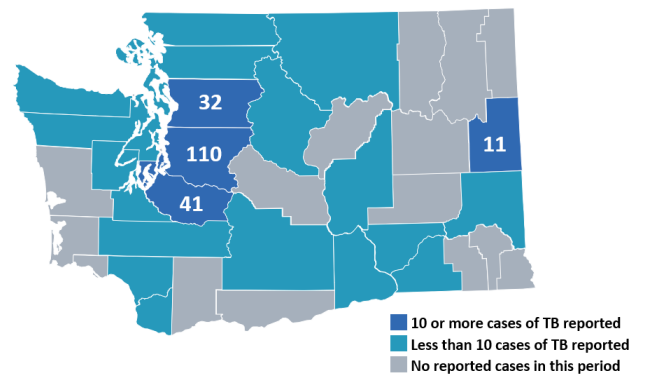
TB Case Rates, Washington State and U.S., 2015 – 2024



// County-Level

TB disease incidence is concentrated in urban areas, although most WA counties report some number of cases of TB. In 2024, King, Pierce, Spokane, and Snohomish counties accounted for 75.5% of the state's 257 counted cases.

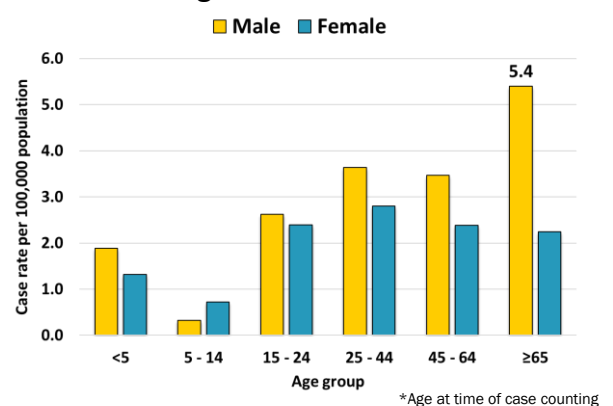
Reported TB Cases, 2024



// Age and Sex at Birth

Anyone can get TB, but TB affects some groups more than others. The risk of developing TB disease increases with age, and from 2020 through 2024, males aged 65 and older had the highest average TB risk among all age-sex groups (5.4 cases per 100,000 population).

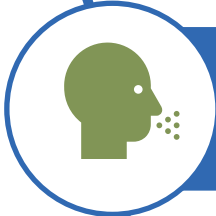
TB Case Rate by Age Group* and Sex Washington State 2020 - 2024



// Risk Factors



The greatest TB disease burden in WA continues to be among persons who have lived or spent extensive time in parts of the world where TB is more common, and risk of exposure to TB is greater. From 2020-2024, WA residents born somewhere other than the U.S., its territories, insular areas, or minor outlying islands accounted for 72.5% of all TB cases.



Known TB exposure is a risk factor for developing TB disease in WA and elsewhere. In 2024, 10.9% of TB cases were found during contact identification for another TB case.



Congregate settings typically have shared airspace, which can increase transmission of TB. In WA from 2020-2024, 3.2% of TB cases resided in a correctional facility and 1.2% were a resident of a long-term care facility at time of TB diagnosis. Almost 5% of TB cases experienced a history of homelessness within the year prior to their TB diagnosis.



Certain medical conditions and health behaviors lessen the ability of the immune system to keep TB infection from progressing to TB disease. Diabetes mellitus was the most frequently reported medical risk (23.4%) among all TB disease cases diagnosed from 2020-2024. Excess alcohol use was the most commonly recorded risk behavior (5.1%).

// Drug Resistance

Drug resistance is a concern for successful treatment of TB disease. There have been between one and six reported cases of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) in WA per year over the last five years. To date, there has been one reported case of extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) in WA.

// Mortality

Although TB is preventable, treatable, and curable, it remains the deadliest infectious disease worldwide. From 2020 through 2024, there were a total of 49 TB-related deaths in WA. Most people with TB in WA survive with effective treatment.



- Learn more about TB at www.doh.wa.gov/TB
- For questions about TB, contact the Washington State Department of Health Tuberculosis Program: TBServices@doh.wa.gov, 206-418-5500