

Active Tuberculosis Cases and Rates in Whatcom County from 2007-2016

April 2017

Published by WCHD Communicable Disease & Epidemiology Division

What is Tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by TB bacteria that are spread from person to person through the air. TB usually affects the lungs, but can affect lymph nodes, bones, joints, and other parts of the body.

Symptoms

General symptoms of TB disease include fever, night sweats, weight loss and tiredness. Symptoms of TB disease in the lungs also include coughing, coughing up blood, and chest pain. Symptoms of TB disease in other parts of the body depend on what area is affected. Some people with TB disease have no symptoms. (WADOH, 2016)

Reported Tuberculosis in Whatcom County

Annual active tuberculosis case counts and population rates for Whatcom County, Washington and US, 2007-2016								
Year	Whatcom County					Washington		US
	Total Population	Annual TB Cases	TB rate per 100,000*	Extra-Pulmonary Subset Cases	Multidrug-Resistant Cases	Annual TB Cases	TB rate per 100,000	TB rate per 100,000
2016	212,540	4	1.88*	1	0	205	2.9	2.9
2015	209,790	7	3.33	2	0	208	2.9	3.0
2014	207,600	4	1.92*	1	0	195	2.8	3.0
2013	205,800	4	1.94*	1	0	210	3.05	3.0
2012	203,500	1	0.49*	0	1	185	2.71	3.2
2011	202,100	2	0.99*	1	0	200	2.96	3.4
2010	201,140	6	2.98	1	1	236	3.51	3.6
2009	199,736	3	1.5*	1	0	256	3.84	3.8
2008	197,675	5	2.53	1	0	228	3.45	4.2
2007	195,298	7	3.58	3	0	291	4.46	4.4

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Tuberculosis Program, PHIMS-TB data, 1993-2016, accessed March 2017.

*Rates calculated with less than 5 cases are not considered a statistically reliable population estimate.

Definitions

Annual TB Cases: An annual total of residents diagnosed with an active case of TB and reported to the Washington State Department of Health under WAC 246-101 and RCW 70.28

TB Rate per 100,000: A crude rate of the number of cases divided by the total population per a multiple of 10 (such as 100,000 for infectious diseases).

Definitions (cont'd)

Extra-Pulmonary Subset Cases: An annual total on residents with an active case of extra-pulmonary TB, these cases are included in the Annual TB Case Count. Extra-Pulmonary is a term used to describe the occurrence of TB at sites other than the lung. The most common sites of extra-pulmonary TB are lymph nodes, genitourinary tract, pleura, bones and joints, meninges and the central nervous system, peritoneum and other abdominal organs.

Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) Cases: An annual total on residents with an active case of multidrug-resistant TB. Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR TB) is caused by an organism that is resistant to at least isoniazid and rifampin, the two most potent TB drugs. These drugs are used to treat all persons with TB disease.

Technical Notes

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Tuberculosis Program, PHIMS-TB data, 1993–2014.

Description: Washington State residents diagnosed with an active case of TB and reported to the Washington State Department of Health under WAC 246-101 and RCW 70.28.

- Coverage: Comprised of all verified cases of TB for WA residents the WA-DOH TB program estimates these data to be 99% complete.
- TB diagnostic categories: Pulmonary, extra-pulmonary, both pulmonary and extra-pulmonary, site unknown using CSTE-CDC case definitions
- Years: 1993–most recent year available; updated annually

Limitations:

- Consistent with the WA-DOH Data Use Guidelines, the WADOH TB program recommends using crude rates when presenting TB data.

Additional Washington State Department information:

WA-DOH Tuberculosis Program- www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Tuberculosis

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