



# Tuberculosis Incidence Rates and Case Counts from 2017-2022

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PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM

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# About PDPH Tuberculosis Control Program

**Mission:** The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) TB Control Program (TBC) aims to prevent the transmission of tuberculosis (TB) and eliminate TB as a public health threat in Philadelphia by collaborating with healthcare providers, hospitals, laboratories, and our community.

## Goals:

1. Identify all individuals with suspected or confirmed TB disease to provide case management and provide directly observed therapy (DOT).
2. Ensure individuals who may be exposed to TB and those who suffer from Latent TB Infection (LTBI) do not progress to TB disease by completing preventative treatment.

## About TBC:

- Flick Clinic provides high quality clinical services to individuals living with and at risk for TB. For more information about the Flick Clinic, please visit: [www.phila.gov/programs/tuberculosis-control-program](http://www.phila.gov/programs/tuberculosis-control-program)
- PDPH field staff conduct DOT, patient interviews, contact investigations, among a variety of other services to promote adherence, completion of treatment, and locating those persons at highest risk for TB.
- Surveillance and Epidemiology provide reliable and accurate data reporting on TB cases.



# What is TB?

- Tuberculosis (TB) is a curable bacterial illness caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
- Symptoms include coughing, fevers, weight loss & fatigue.
- Close contacts of persons with symptomatic TB are at highest risk of becoming infected.
- TB is the world's second leading cause of death by a bacterium or virus (behind COVID-19) but rates in the US are very low.
- Due to global migration, TB can be found in every country of the world.
- For more information about TB, please visit: [www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/default.htm) or [www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tuberculosis](http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tuberculosis)

# About the Data

- This report provides a high-level summary of TB surveillance data from 2017 to 2022 and discusses Philadelphia TB case counts and incidence rates.
- TBC is still exploring the burden the COVID-19 pandemic put on TB transmission, diagnosis, care, and reporting.

# Tuberculosis Incidence Rates and Case Counts from 2017-2022

There were 44 cases of active TB disease counted in Philadelphia during 2022. The TB incidence rate was 2.8 per 100,000 in Philadelphia and nationally the TB incidence rate was 2.5 cases per 100,000 persons<sup>2</sup>.

- Since the start of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, TBC has seen a 27.9% decrease in overall reported TB cases from 2020 to 2022.
- TB cases in Philadelphia decreased 10.2% from 2021 to 2022.
- Multiple factors can be attributed to this decline like COVID-19 mitigation strategies as well as less complete reporting due to pandemic-related healthcare interruptions.
- Nationally, the number of reported cases is increasing as of 2022 but remains lower than pre-pandemic years (before 2020).

