

Tuberculosis (TB) – statistics and key points

See the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) TB Fact Sheet for more information. about TB

Key points to note about TB

- TB is treatable.
- TB is curable.
- TB is not easy to catch.
- Only some forms of TB are infectious.
- After 2 weeks of treatment with anti-TB medicines, most people with TB are no longer infectious to others, and if they are well enough can return to all normal activity at school or at work.
- Stigma and discrimination against people with TB is widespread and is very common in different populations worldwide. However stigma is unfair, unnecessary and based on fear and myths. Stigma is a potent barrier to controlling TB. It causes people to delay seeking medical help and isolates them.

Key aspects of TB control – general principles

- Awareness of TB
- Early recognition/detection of cases
- Adequate treatment and follow up of cases
- Follow up of contacts of cases
- Treatment of latent TB infection
- BCG vaccination for eligible infants.

TB globally

- TB remains one of the top ten causes of illness and disability globally.
- 2006 World Health Organization (WHO) data (estimates based on surveillance and survey data):
 - 9.2 million new cases
 - 1.7 million deaths
 - 44% of TB cases were infectious (sputum smear positive i.e. had TB bacteria in sputum visible under a microscope)
 - 8% of TB cases were HIV positive
 - 5.4% of cases had multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB)
 - Estimated global TB incidence rate: 139 per 100,000 population
 - Rates vary by country and region
 - Important factors: HIV/AIDS, poverty, drug resistance.

TB in New Zealand

New Zealand TB case numbers:

As at 25/11/08 (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 to date)

Year	Number of TB cases	
	New Zealand (including Auckland)	Auckland (% of NZ cases)
2005	330	180 (55%)
2006	352	154 (44%)
2007	286	131 (46%)
2008 (to 25/11)	292	154 (53%)

New Zealand TB incidence rates:

New Zealand:

- Average annual incidence rate from mid-1980s to early 2000s: \pm 10 per 100,000 population
- Average annual incidence rate for the period 2003-2007: 8.6 per 100,000

Auckland:

- Average annual incidence rate for the period 1995-2006: \pm 15 per 100,000 population

Multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) in New Zealand:

- MDR-TB is rare in New Zealand (MDR-TB is defined as resistance to the two most important first-line TB drugs – isoniazid and rifampicin).
- There have been a total of 21 cases of MDR-TB in NZ during the last 10 years, comprising an average of 0.8% per year of all TB cases.
- In 2007, 0.9% of cases (two cases) were multi-drug resistant.

New Zealand BCG eligibility criteria: (see ARPHS TB Fact Sheet for more information about BCG vaccination)

Neonatal BCG eligibility criteria

(from page 248, Immunisation Handbook, Ministry of Health, 2006):

Neonatal BCG should be offered to infants at increased risk of TB, defined as those who:

- will be living in a house or family/whanau with a person with either current TB or a past history of TB
- have one or both parents who identify as being Pacific people
- have parents or household members who within the last five years lived for a period of six months or longer in countries where there is a high incidence of TB
- during their first five years will be living for three months or longer in a high incidence country.