

TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM

The Ben Franklin Tuberculosis (TB) Program includes the TB Clinic, the Case Management Team, and the Contact Investigation (CI) and Community Education and Outreach (CEO) Team.

The TB Clinic treats patients with active TB, and provides TB assessment and TB and LTBI treatment to governmental quarantine referrals.

The Case Management Team provides medical case management for patients with suspected or active TB and directly observes patients taking their medications. These services are provided for 6 to 24 months.

The Contact Investigation and Community Outreach and Education Team investigates new case contacts and provides TB testing for close contacts. The team also provides community and medical provider education, technical assistance and targeted TB testing to populations at high risk for TB infection.

The Ben Franklin TB Clinic does NOT provide walk-in TB testing, routine TB testing or testing for employment, school or housing. Routine testing for TB can be accessed through a primary care provider or a “minute clinic.”

For more information, visit www.columbus.gov/tb.

FOR DOCTORS & LABORATORIES:

REPORTING TUBERCULOSIS

What is reportable: Confirmed or suspected cases of active TB

What is not reportable: A positive TB skin test or blood test or latent TB infection (LTBI)

TB is considered a class “B” reportable disease. Case and suspect case reports and reports of positive laboratory results for diseases specified as class “B” in paragraph (B) of rule 3701-3-02 of the Administrative Code shall be provided by the end of the next business day.

For detailed information on reporting in Ohio, go to <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-3-05> and <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/pdf/idcm/tb.pdf> or call 614-645-2199.

Ben Franklin Tuberculosis Program

Serving Columbus and Franklin County Residents

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www.columbus.gov/tb

Funded by: Franklin County Board of Commissioners, Ohio Department of Health and the City of Columbus



COLUMBUS
PUBLIC HEALTH



COLUMBUS & FRANKLIN COUNTY OHIO'S BEN FRANKLIN TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM

2016 REPORT

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) STATISTICS

	2013	2014	2015	2016
TB Cases in Franklin County	50	49	40	50
Cases per 100,000 in Franklin County	4.2	4.0	3.2	4.0
TB Cases in Ohio	148	156	143	141
Cases per 100,000 in Ohio	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
Cases per 100,000 in the U.S.	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9

2016 CASES IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Residence & Origin:

- 35% of Ohio's active TB patients lived in Franklin County.
- 80% of active TB patients were foreign-born.

Cases by Age & Sex:

- Average: 41 years
- Range: 8-80 years
- Male: 32 cases (64%)
- Female: 18 cases (36%)

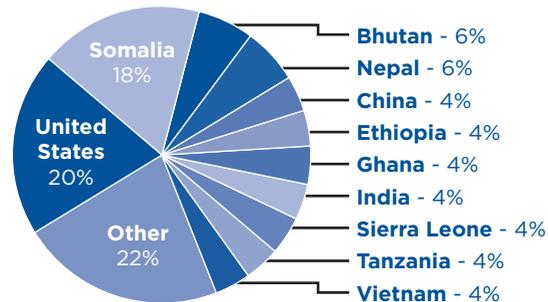
Infection Location:

- TB infection in the lungs: 68%
- TB in the lymph system (fluid that flows between cells): 14%
- TB in the peritoneum (membrane that lines the abdominal and pelvic cavities): 8%

Other Demographics:

- 58% of TB cases were non-Hispanic Black or African-American, 32% were non-Hispanic Asian, and 8% were non-Hispanic White.
- 4% of active TB cases were HIV positive.
- 8% of active TB cases were homeless in the year prior to TB diagnosis.
- 53% of foreign-born TB cases arrived in the U.S. more than 4 years prior to diagnosis.
- 88% of cases had symptoms or a chest X-ray consistent with TB; 2 cases (4%) were identified during a Quarantine Referral exam.

TB Cases By Country of Birth



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- TB Program staff provided more than 3,000 TB clinic visits and 7,000 directly observed therapy (DOT) visits.
- 93% of eligible, newly diagnosed TB cases completed or are still undergoing treatment.
- 85.5% of patients diagnosed with LTBI and started on TB prevention medication treatment completed their treatment regimen.

ABOUT THE DISEASE

What is TB? Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The bacteria usually attack the lungs, but TB bacteria can attack any part of the body such as the kidney, spine and brain. Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick. As a result, two TB-related conditions exist: latent TB infection (LTBI) and TB disease. If not treated properly, TB disease can be fatal. <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/default.htm>

How TB Spreads: TB bacteria are spread through the air from one person to another when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, speaks or sings. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected.

TB Disease: TB disease is an illness in which TB bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) multiply and attack the body, usually the lungs. Symptoms of TB disease include weakness, weight loss, fever, no appetite, chills and night sweats. Other symptoms of TB disease depend on where in the body the bacteria are growing. If TB disease is in the lungs (pulmonary TB), the symptoms may include a persistent cough, pain in the chest or coughing up blood. **A person with TB disease may be infectious and may spread TB bacteria to others.**

Latent TB Infection (LTBI): Persons with latent TB infection have the TB germ in their body, but do not feel sick and do not have any symptoms of TB disease. There are two ways to test for TB infection; the tuberculin skin test or TB blood test. **Persons with latent TB infection are not infectious and cannot spread TB germs to others.**

Overall, without treatment, about 5% to 10% of infected persons will develop TB disease at some time in their lives. About half of those people who develop TB will do so within the first two years of infection. For persons whose immune systems are weak, especially those with HIV infection, or persons with poorly controlled diabetes, the risk of developing TB disease is considerably higher. <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/general/lbtiandactivetb.htm>

TB Treatment: Persons with **latent TB infection can take medicine** to reduce their risk of developing TB disease and spreading the germ to others. There are several treatment options for latent TB infection and the health care provider will select the right treatment option based on each person's medical history and current medical conditions, if any. If medicine is taken as instructed, it can prevent TB disease.

If **TB disease is suspected, persons should be referred to a skilled provider** for a complete medical evaluation. If that person has TB disease, therapy is prescribed and a nurse case manager is assigned to follow their care. TB disease is a serious condition and can lead to death if not treated.

The Columbus Public Health Ben Franklin Tuberculosis Program provides medical and case management services for all persons living in Franklin County with TB disease. These services include coordination of care, directly observed therapy (DOT), nursing assessments, laboratory testing and medical management. These services are provided to insured and uninsured TB patients and no one is turned away due to inability to pay.