

# TUBERCULOSIS IN NASSAU COUNTY

## 2015

Tuberculosis is a reportable and contagious bacterial disease. Most commonly, it affects the lungs. However, it can also affect other parts of the body, such as the lymph nodes, bones, joints, and brain. It is characterized by chronic cough, fever, weight loss, and night sweats. Pulmonary TB is spread through the air when someone with the disease coughs, sneezes, or speaks. TB can be treated through a combination of several different medications taken for at least 6 months. In 2015, the rate of TB in Nassau County was 3 cases per 100,000 individuals, up from 2014's rate of 2.5 cases per 100,000 individuals.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### CASES BY AGE

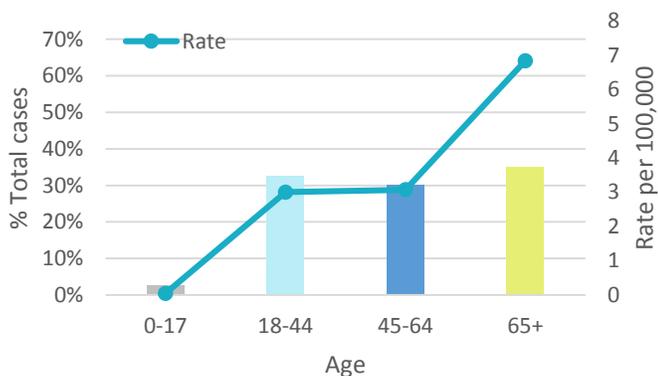


Figure 1: Percentage and rate of all tuberculosis cases by age group, Nassau County, 2015

### BIRTHPLACE

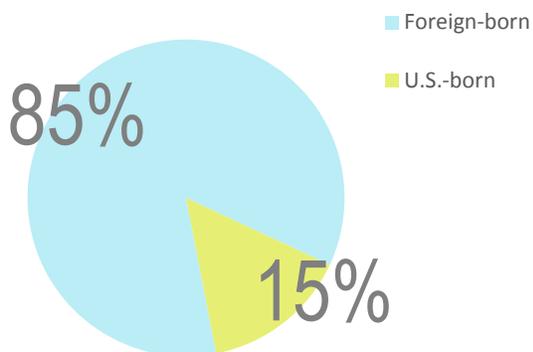


Figure 3: Tuberculosis cases of foreign-born and U.S.-born Nassau County residents, 2015

### AGE

- The majority of TB cases in Nassau County occurred in patients aged 18 to 64 (62.5%). The rate of TB in those over 65 was the highest of any age group (6.8 per 100,000).
- The age group with the lowest rate was under 18 (<1 per 100,000).
- The average age for all patients was 54. The average age for men was 59 and for women was 44.

### SEX

- Males had a higher rate of TB than females, the rates being 3.79 per 100,000 and 2.14 per 100,000, respectively.
- Males accounted for 62% of all county cases and females accounted for 38% of all county cases.

### CASES BY SEX

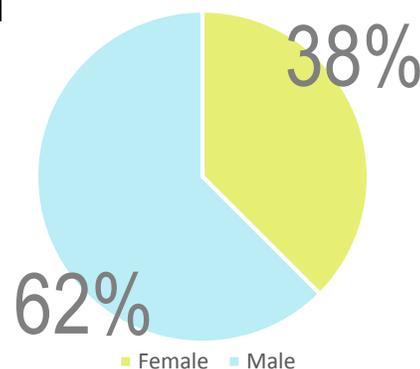


Figure 2: Tuberculosis cases by sex, Nassau County, 2015

### BIRTHPLACE

- 85% of patients with TB disease were foreign-born.

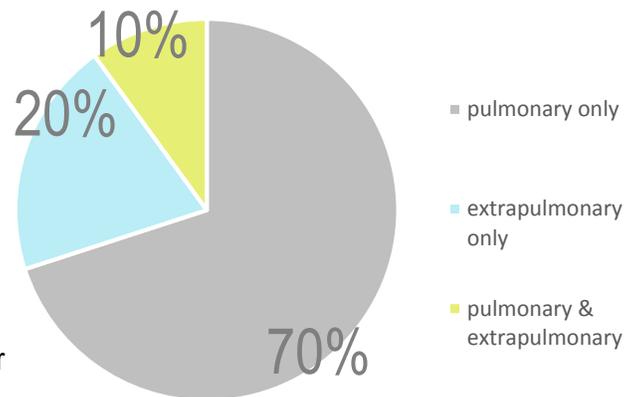
# DISEASE DATA

## SITE OF DISEASE

### SITE OF DISEASE

TB can be pulmonary (occurring in the lungs), extrapulmonary (occurring somewhere other than the lungs), or a combination of the two.

- 70% of all cases of TB were pulmonary only. 20% were extrapulmonary only, and 10% were both pulmonary and extrapulmonary.
- Of extrapulmonary cases, almost half were pleural, with one quarter being lymphatic.



### PULMONARY

Those suspected of having TB have sputum samples collected for AFB smear and culture tests. A positive AFB smear is a strong indication that a patient is infectious. A patient that tests negative for AFB smear can still have a positive culture, which confirms the diagnosis of TB disease.

- 55% of all cases were sputum smear-positive.
- 70% of all cases were sputum culture-positive.
- 71% of sputum culture-positive cases converted to negative within 60 days of treatment initiation.

Figure 4: Tuberculosis cases by disease site, Nassau County, 2015

Disease site	Percent of extrapulmonary cases
Pleural	42%
Lymphatic	25%
Other	33%

Table 1: Extrapulmonary cases by disease site, Nassau County, 2015

### LTBI

Latent TB Infection occurs when someone is infected with TB bacteria, but does not have active TB. People with LTBI do not have any symptoms and are not infectious. They can, however, develop TB disease if the bacteria are activated. Generally, 5-10% of those with LTBI develop TB disease (CDC, 2014).

- There were 308 contacts to active TB cases identified. Of those, 189 were evaluated.
- 19% of evaluated contacts were found to have LTBI.
- Of those with LTBI, 77% accepted treatment.

### TREATMENT

Directly Observed Therapy is the most effective way to ensure patients adhere to and are able to complete their treatments. The goal is for patients to complete treatment within 12 months. DOT is offered by the Department of Health's TB Control Bureau to all patients receiving medicine for TB disease.

- 82% of patients were on DOT administered by either the Nassau County Department of Health or another agency.
- Of those eligible, 100% have completed or are likely to complete treatment within 12 months.