



TUBERCULOSIS IN NASSAU COUNTY

2014

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 2014, the rate of TB in Nassau County was 2.5 per 100,000.

DEMOGRAPHICS

CASES BY AGE

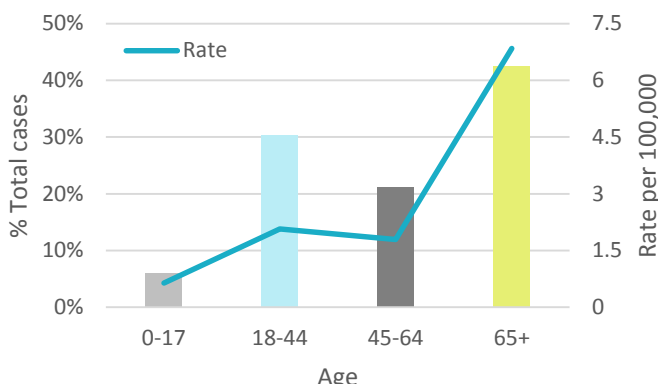


Figure 1: Percentage and rate of all tuberculosis cases by age group, Nassau County, 2014

AGE

- The majority of TB cases in Nassau County occurred in patients over the age of 65 (42%). 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 61 and for women was 49.

SEX

- Males and females had similar rates of TB, with men and women having rates of 2.6 per 100,000 and 2.3 per 100,000 respectively.

BIRTHPLACE

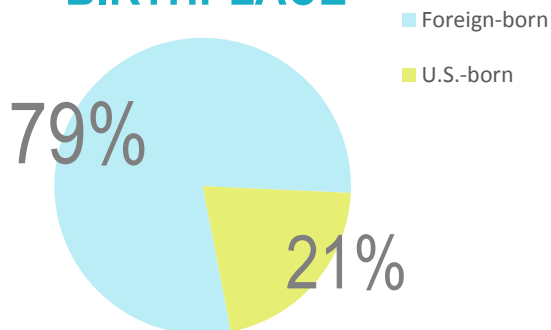
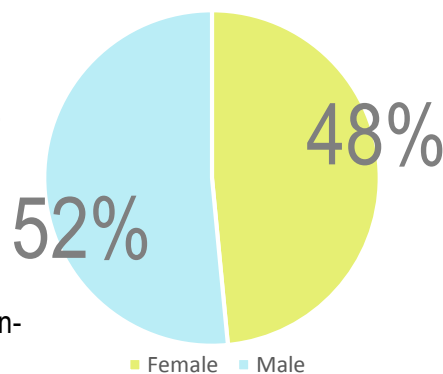


Figure 3: Tuberculosis cases of foreign-born and U.S.-born Nassau County residents, 2014

CASES BY SEX

- Both accounted for about half of all cases in Nassau County, with males making up 52% and females making up 48% of all cases.



BIRTHPLACE

- 79% of patients with TB disease were foreign-born.

Figure 2: Tuberculosis cases by sex, Nassau County, 2014

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.

- Over half of all cases of TB were pulmonary only. 33% were extrapulmonary only and 15% were both pulmonary and extrapulmonary.
- Of extrapulmonary cases, over half were lymphatic and one quarter were bone/joint.

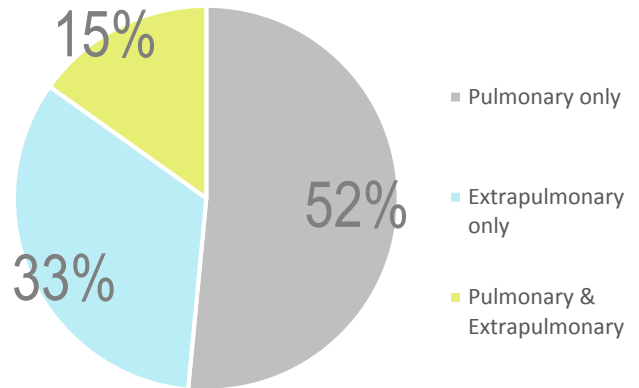


Figure 4: Tuberculosis cases by disease site, Nassau County, 2014

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.

- 27% of cases were sputum smear-positive.
- 48% of cases were sputum culture-positive.
- 79% of sputum culture-positive cases converted to negative within 60 days of treatment initiation.

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 267 contacts to active TB cases identified. Of those, 129 were evaluated.
- 17% 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.

- 84% of patients were on DOT.
- Of those eligible, 100% have completed treatment within 12 months.

Disease site	Percent of extrapulmonary cases
Lymphatic	56%
Bone/joint	25%
Pleural	13%
Other	6%

Table 1: Extrapulmonary cases by disease site, Nassau County, 2014