

# TUBERCULOSIS IN NASSAU COUNTY 2024

Tuberculosis, also known as TB, 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, speaks, or sings. TB can be treated through a combination of several different medications taken for at least 6 months. **Nassau County had a total of 48 TB cases in 2024.** In 2024, the rate of TB in Nassau County was 3.44 cases per 100,000 individuals, which increased from 2023's rate of 3.22 cases per 100,000 individuals.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### SEX

- Males comprised 56% (27 cases) of all TB cases, whereas females comprised 44% (21 cases) of all TB cases.
- Males had a higher rate of TB than females, 4.0 per 100,000 males and 2.9 per 100,000 females, respectively.

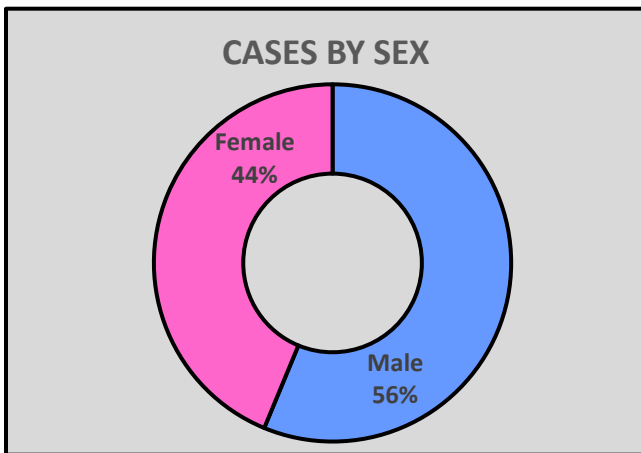


Figure 1: Tuberculosis cases by sex, Nassau County, 2024

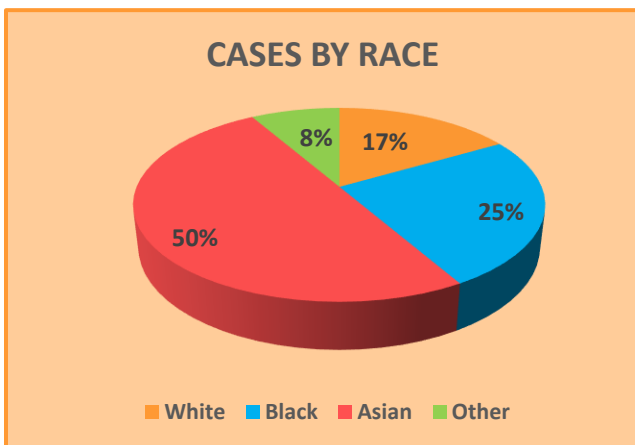


Figure 3: Tuberculosis cases by race, Nassau County, 2024

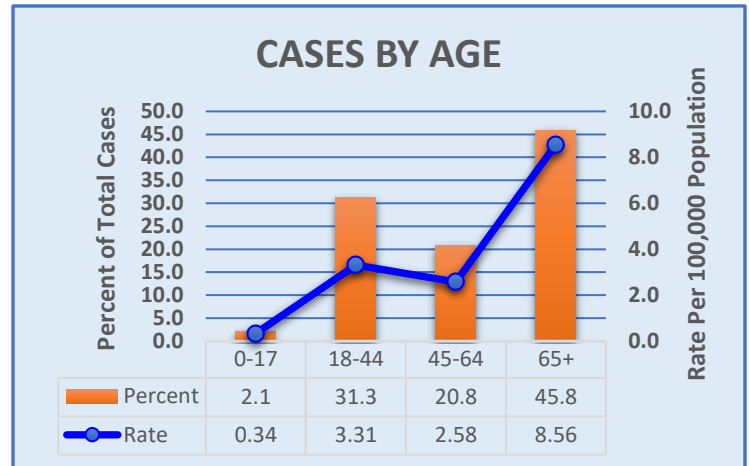


Figure 2: Percentage and rate of all tuberculosis cases by age group, Nassau County, 2024

### AGE

- Most TB cases were in patients aged 65 and over, 22 cases (45.8%, with a rate of 8.56 per 100,000 individuals 65 and older).
- The average age for all TB cases was 57.

### BIRTHPLACE

- 90% of all TB cases (43) were foreign-born. The remaining 10% (5) were U.S. born.
- The top 3 countries of birth for TB cases were India (8), Haiti (6), and Philippines (5).

### RACE AND ETHNICITY

- 50% of all TB cases (24) identified as Asian, 25% Black (12), 17% White (8), and 8% Other (4).
- 83% of all TB cases (40) were non-Hispanic or Latino, 17% (8) identified as Hispanic or Latino.

# DISEASE DATA

## SITE OF DISEASE

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

- The majority of all TB cases were pulmonary only, 77% (37).
- There were 6 extrapulmonary cases, comprising, 13% of all TB cases.
- 10% of all TB cases (5), were both pulmonary and extrapulmonary.

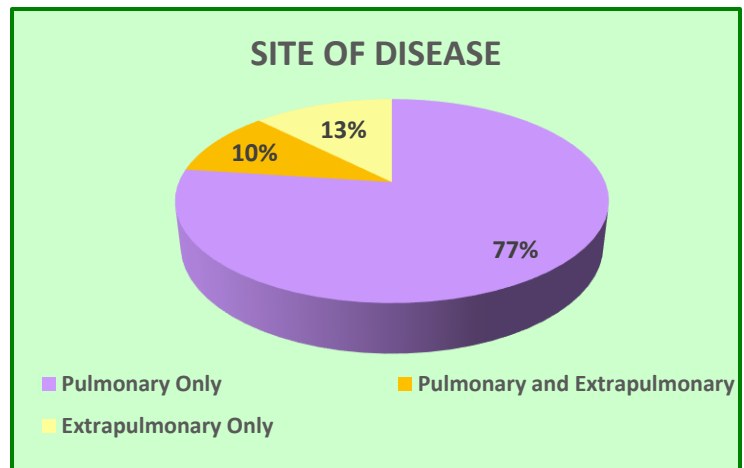


Figure 4: Tuberculosis cases by disease site, Nassau County, 2024

## PULMONARY

Individuals suspected of having pulmonary 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 sputum culture, confirming the diagnosis of TB disease. Sputum culture conversion is used to determine treatment success.

- 39.6% of all TB cases were AFB smear positive.
- 66.7% of all TB cases were sputum culture positive.
- 71.4% of sputum culture-positive cases converted to negative culture within 60 days of treatment initiation.

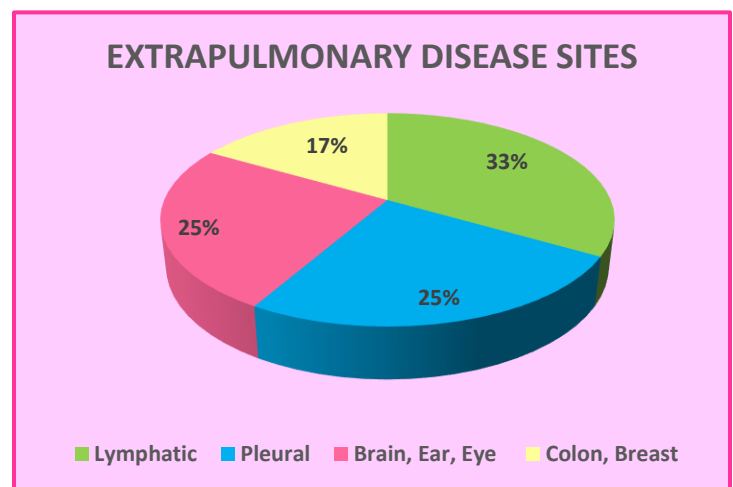


Figure 5: Extrapulmonary cases by disease site, Nassau County, 2024

## LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION

Latent TB Infection (LTBI) 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).

- Nassau County Department of Health identified 214 contacts to active TB cases. Of those, 61.2% were evaluated (131).
- 26.0% of evaluated contacts were diagnosed with LTBI (34).
- Of those diagnosed with LTBI, 79.4% started LTBI treatment (27), 70.4% of those completed LTBI treatment (19), 18.5% are still being treated (5), and 11.1% stopped LTBI treatment (3).

## TREATMENT

Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) is the most effective way to ensure patients adhere to and 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 treatment for TB disease.

- 89.1.6% of eligible patients received DOT administered by the Nassau County Department of Health or another facility. This includes partial DOT.
- To date, of those eligible (39), 71.8% (28) have completed treatment within 12 months. Seven more of those eligible are due to complete within 12 months of treatment initiation. Four cases were lost to follow-up.