



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# World TB Day

24<sup>th</sup> March 2022



This newsletter is to raise awareness of World TB Day 2022 and its message Invest to End TB and as a reminder that – ‘Not Every Cough is Covid-19’

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## TB is an Important Public Health Issue

- TB remains a global health emergency affecting a quarter of the world’s population
- In 2020, deaths due to TB ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> to Covid-19 for an infectious disease
- TB is the 13<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death worldwide
- The number of deaths from TB increased in 2020 with 1.4m deaths reported compared to 1.3m deaths in 2019.
- This is the first year-on-year increase in deaths since 2005
- TB rates in England remain some of the highest in Western Europe

WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2021

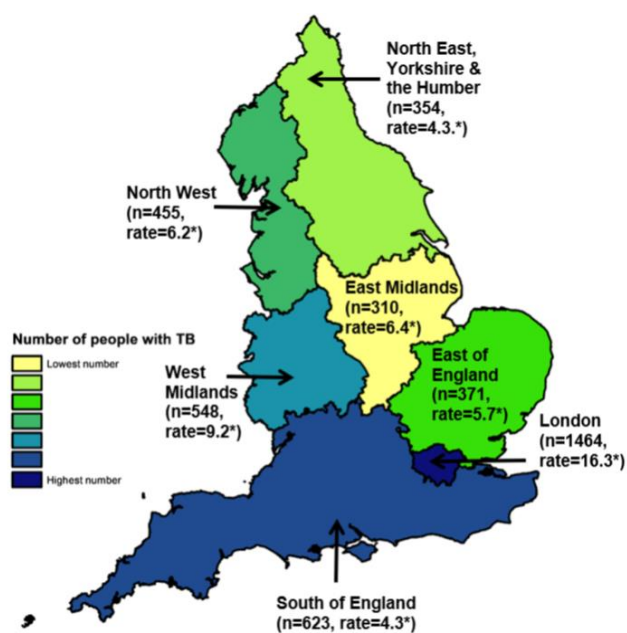
## UKHSA is addressing TB; WHO end TB Strategy & National Action Plan

- UKHSA is committed as a global partner to meeting the WHO TB elimination targets by 2035 (90% reduction in new TB notifications, 95% reductions in TB deaths by 2035, from 2015 baseline.
- TB Action Plan for England, 2021 – 2026 was launched jointly by the UKHSA & NHS England in July 2021. It sets out a programme of work that will support a year-on-year reduction in TB incidence and in UK TB transmission, and enable the UK to meet its commitment to the WHO elimination targets by 2035

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tuberculosis-tb-action-plan-for-england>

## Tuberculosis in England 2020

Number TB notifications & rates by TB Control Board, England 2020



\*Per 100,000

Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright & database right 2021

Contains National Statistics data © Crown copyright & database right 2021

Tuberculosis in England: 2021 report (presenting data to end 2020)

Source: Tuberculosis in England, 2021 Report UKHSA

## Tuberculosis in the South West

Three year average annual number of TB cases and rate per 100,00 of the population in the South West, categorised by Upper Tier Local Authority, 2018-2020

Area Name	3 year average annual no of cases*	Three year average annual rate per 100,000 population (95% CI)**
Bath & North East Somerset	4	2.2 (1.2-3.8)
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	17	4.4 (3.3-5.7)
Bristol	47	10.1 (8.5-11.9)
Cornwall	12	2.2 (1.5-3.0)
Devon	19	2.3 (1.8-3.0)
Dorset	5	1.2 (0.7-2.1)
Gloucestershire	22	3.5 (2.7-4.4)
Isles of Scilly	0	0.0 (0.0-0.0)
North Somerset	6	2.8 (1.7-4.4)
Plymouth	10	3.8 (2.6-5.4)
Somerset	11	2.0 (1.3-2.7)
South Gloucestershire	12	4.2 (2.9-5.8)
Swindon	19	8.7 (6.6-11.2)
Torbay	3	2.4 (1.2-4.5)
Wiltshire	10	1.9 (1.3-2.8)
South West***	198	3.5 (3.2-3.8)

\*TB average annual number of cases from reporting years 2018, 2019 & 2020

\*\* TB average annual rate per 100,000 population from reporting years 2018,2019, 2020

\*\*\* Overall number for the South West is 2020 total/rate

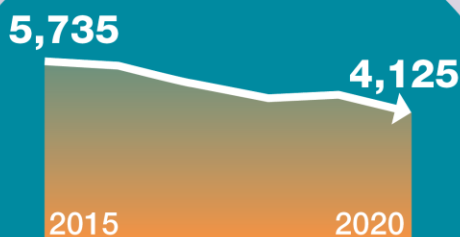
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1030165/TB\\_annual-report-2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1030165/TB_annual-report-2021.pdf)

## Overview of TB epidemiology during the last 10 years – steady decline

### TB in England




**73%**  
of TB cases  
born abroad



**28% reduction in TB incidence in England since 2015**



TB in both the UK and foreign born population **decreased in 2020**

 UK Health Security Agency

Source: Tuberculosis in England, 2021 Report UKHSA

**Despite Reduction in overall rates, TB rates are not declining among those most affected – inequalities remain stark**

### Under-served groups are most at risk of TB

**11.0%**

Over the last 5 years, the proportion of **people with TB who had a social risk factor has increased**



People with social risk factors are:



**1.5** times more likely to have infectious TB



**1.5** times more likely to die

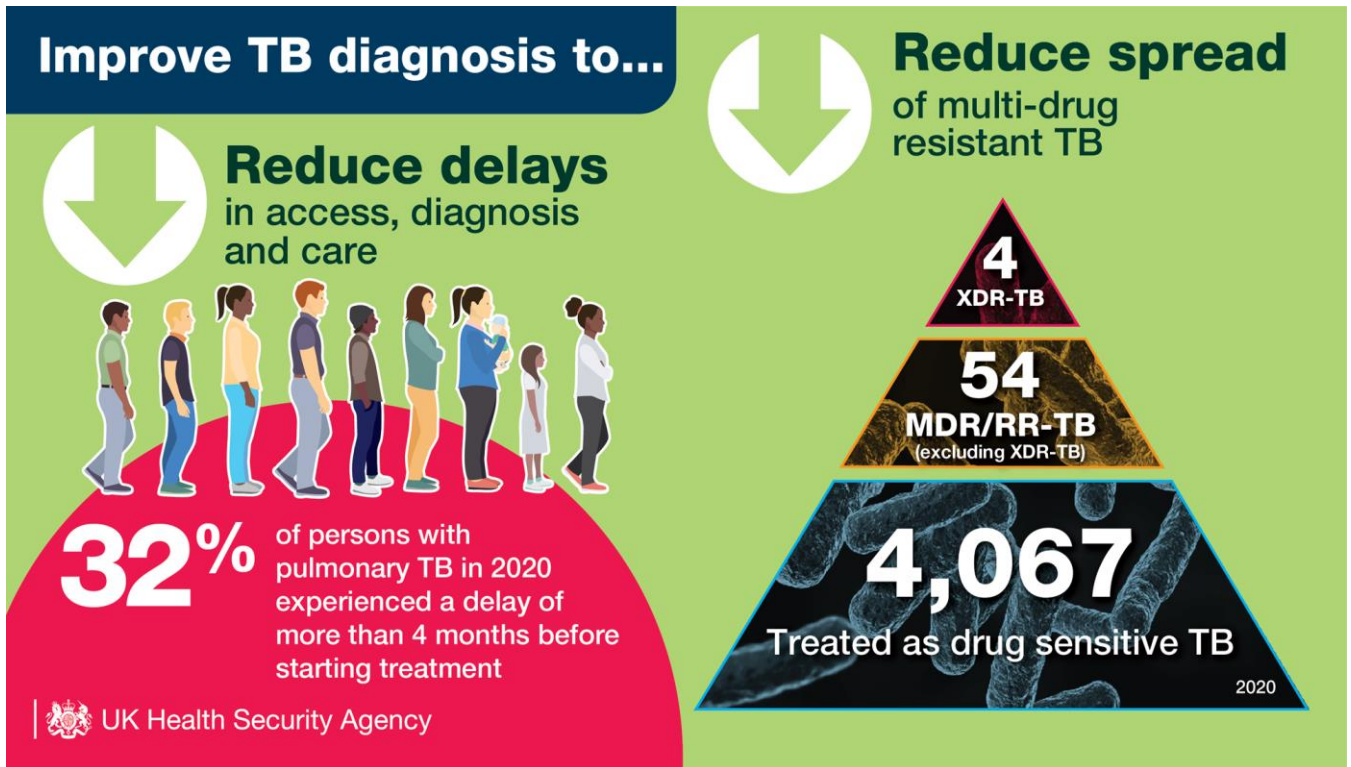
**12.7%**

2016

2020

 UK Health Security Agency

## Drug Resistant Disease remains a problem

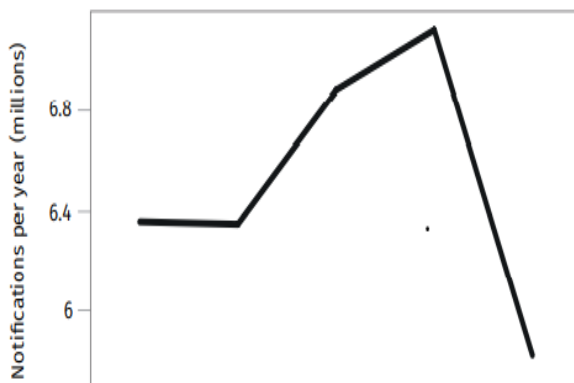


## Think TB! – Not Every Cough is Covid-19

### Covid-19 Impact – No 1 Disruption

**FIG. 1**

**Global trend in case notifications of people newly diagnosed with TB, 2016–2020**



[https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/hq-tuberculosis/impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-tb-detection-and-mortality-in-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=3fdd251c\\_16&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/hq-tuberculosis/impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-tb-detection-and-mortality-in-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=3fdd251c_16&download=true)

- In 2020 the number of people newly diagnosed with TB fell by 18%
- Attributed to disruption in both supply and demand in TB services
- The number of deaths from TB increased in 2020 with 1.4 million deaths reported compared to 1.3 million deaths in 2019. This is the first year-on-year increase in deaths since 2005
- In 2020, deaths due to TB ranked second to Covid-19 for an infectious disease.
- There was a 21% reduction in the number of people who received treatment to prevent active TB in 2020 (n= 2.8 million) compared to 2019 (n=3.6 million).

## Covid-19 Impact No 2

### Prevention Programmes – NHS New Entrant Migrant Screening



- The new migrant screening programme offers latent TB testing to high-risk groups at increased risk of developing active TB
- The programme was paused between April and October 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Approximately 48% fewer new entrants were screened in 2020, compared to 2019. This equates to almost 1000 cases of undetected and untreated latent infection
- CCGs were advised to restart their programmes in October 2020 as part of the national restoration of non Covid-19 programmes
- The NHS screening programme is fully operational

Source: Tuberculosis In England, 2021 Report, UKHSA

## Covid-19 Impact No 3

### Think TB! – Not Every Cough is Covid-19

- Symptoms of TB, Covid-19 are often similar, and it is possible for TB to be overlooked which may result in diagnostic delay
- Feedback through clinical networks - anecdotal concern about cases presenting late and with more extensive disease.
- Awareness raising is important
- Think TB! Not every cough is Covid-19.

### Summary

TB remains an important global public health problem; UKHSA and NHS E/I are addressing TB control through the National Action Plan and WHO End TB Strategy.

The steady decline in TB rates in England is faltering; this will delay achievement of WHO TB elimination goals.

The proportion of drug resistant disease remains a problem.

Inequalities remain an important feature of TB epidemiology in the UK and globally.

The individuals and communities most affected by TB are also those most affected by other infectious hazards.

Progress can be improved to reduce TB rates in the groups most disproportionately affected by TB.

Covid-19 has impacted the supply and demand of TB services, which may have led to many cases of undetected and untreated infectious and latent TB.

TB and Covid-19 symptoms can be similar. 'Think TB! Not every cough is Covid-19'. This is an important message for high risk groups and healthcare workers.



# Overview of the UK Health Security Agency and NHS England and Improvement TB Action Plan for England 2021-2026 Webinar

## TB Action Plan for England 2021-2026 webinar

Presentation slides of the webinar can be [downloaded here](#).

A recording of the session can be [viewed here](#) and presentation slides can be downloaded below:

- [Lauren Ahyow - What are the data showing and Action Plan One: Recovery from Covid-19 and forthcoming work](#)
- [Jessica Potter - Impact of Covid-19: Access to TB healthcare](#)
- [Lynn Altass - Impact of Covid-19: Service delivery](#)
- [Katie Spence - Impact of Covid-19: Public health infrastructure: Role of TB Control Boards and the changing landscape](#)

### **The History and epidemiology of TB webinar**

Slides from the webinar can be [downloaded here](#), and the recording can be [viewed here](#).

### **TB disease, diagnosis and treatment webinar**

Presentations from the webinar can be [downloaded here](#), and the recording can be [accessed here](#).

### **TB medication: a pharmacy update' webinar**

Slides from the webinar can be [downloaded here](#), and the recording can be [viewed here](#).

### **Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) and its role in cluster management webinar**

Presentations from the webinar can be [downloaded here](#), and a recording can be [accessed here](#).

### **Introduction to the Mantoux test webinar**

Presentations from the webinar can be [downloaded here](#), and a recording can be [accessed here](#).

### **Introduction to the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination webinar**

Presentations from the webinar can be [downloaded here](#), and a recording can be [accessed here](#).

A recording from the webinar can be [accessed here](#).

### **Management of TB in children webinar**

A recording from the webinar can be [accessed here](#).

### **Celebrating World TB Day 2022 - Wednesday 23 March - 13:00 to 14:10 - [www.ukhsa-events.org.uk/worldtbdays22](http://www.ukhsa-events.org.uk/worldtbdays22)**

I would like to invite you to attend the **Celebrating World TB Day 2022** webinar, taking place online on **Wednesday 23 March** from **13:00 to 14:10**. The webinar will be hosted by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

This session is part of a series of webinars, aimed at those new to working in the speciality of TB but also open to anyone wanting an update on TB care, management, and prevention.

Further details including the full programme can be found on the [webinar website](#).