

World TB Day - 24th March 2023

This newsletter is to raise awareness of World TB Day 2023 which this year has the theme '**Yes! We can end TB!**' by the World Health Organisation. It aims to 'inspire hope and encourage high-level leadership, increased investments, faster uptake of new WHO recommendations, adoption of innovations, accelerated action, and multisectoral collaboration to combat the TB epidemic'.

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TB is still an important global public health issue

- In 2021, TB was the cause of death in 1.4 million people globally (more than double that of HIV/AIDS deaths) and infected an estimated 10.6 million people, this is an increase of 4.5% from 2020.
- It is anticipated that TB will rank as second leading cause of death from a single infectious agent, after COVID-19, between years 2020 and 2021.
- The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted essential TB services which caused more people to have undiagnosed and untreated TB.
- TB can affect anyone, regardless of age or sex, however, remains more prevalent in men than women, and gaps in case detection and reporting are higher among men.
- Multidrug resistant TB case numbers grew in year 2021, most likely caused by the increased incidence of undiagnosed people during the COVID-19 pandemic
- TB preventative treatment and interventions such as infection prevention and control and BCG vaccination in children, remains the main health care intervention in reducing risk of TB infection progressing to active TB disease.

(Source: WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2022)

RCGP Tuberculosis in General Practice e- course: [Summary of Tuberculosis in General Practice \(rcgp.org.uk\)](https://www.rcgp.org.uk/education/courses/tuberculosis-in-general-practice)

Comparison between South West & England (based on cases notified in 2020)

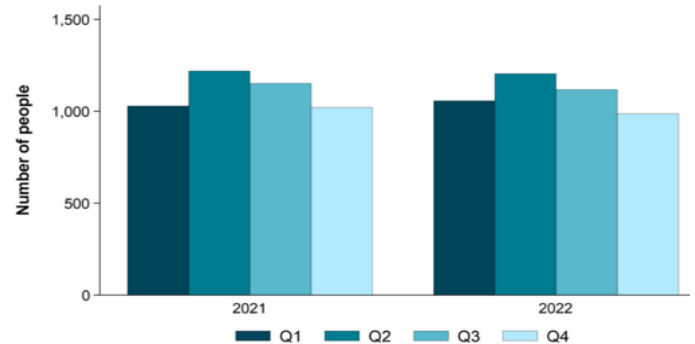
- The South West had the **lowest regional rate** of TB in England and **the second lowest regional rate** of disease in the non-UK born population
- The rate of TB among UK born children (<15 years) in the South West (0.6 per 100,000 population) was **lower than in England** (1.0 per 100,000 population)
- In the South West, the percentage of pulmonary cases (63.5%) was **higher** than recorded nationally (53.5%). In England, 60.7% of all TB cases and 75.3% of pulmonary cases were culture confirmed in 2020, compared to 65.9% and 78.3%, respectively, in the South West
- The South West had the **highest proportion** of cases reporting at least one social risk factor of all regions (22.4%), which has increased from 17.6% in 2019. Nationally, this figure was 12.7%
- The South West had a **lower** proportion of culture confirmed cases exhibiting resistance to at least one first-line drug (6.6%). Nationally, 11.6% of cases displayed the same resistance
- Regarding treatment outcomes at 12 months for drug sensitive 2019 notifications, the South West had a treatment completion rate of 73.6%, which is the **lowest rate of all regions**. Nationally, the completion rate was 84.5% over the same time period. The South West also had the **highest proportion of all regions** in England where treatment outcome was not evaluated among this group of cases (10.6%)

[Tuberculosis in the South West: 2021 \(presenting data to end of 2020\)](#)
(publishing.service.gov.uk)

Overall Numbers & Rates – (2020 – 2022)

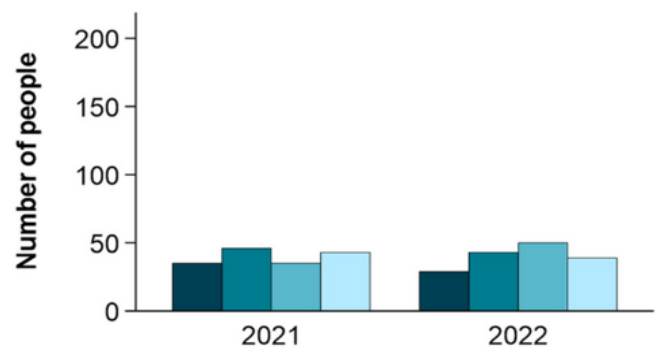
England

2020 total = 4125 cases
2021 total = 4421 cases
2022 total = 4367 cases



South West

2020 total = 167 cases
2021 total = 159 cases
2022 total = 161 cases



The Tuberculosis in England: 2022 report has been published today and can be found here: [Tuberculosis in England, 2021 report \(data up to end of 2020\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The national quarterly report of TB in England for Quarter 3, 2022 provisional data can be found here: [National quarterly report of tuberculosis in England: Quarter 3, 2022 provisional data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). The report highlights an increase of 20% of the number of people notified with TB in the South West compared to Q3 2021.

TB Action Plan for England 2021 – 2026

Developed jointly by NHS England & UKHSA

Purpose: to take forward the challenges/actions not met from the previous strategy & the challenges of a pandemic & post-pandemic world

What's in the Action Plan?

82 Actions across 5 priorities

107 outcomes & indicators

[Tuberculosis \(TB\): action plan for England, 2021 to 2026 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/94481/tb-action-plan-for-england-2021-to-2026.pdf)

- Priority 1 - Recovery from Covid-19
- Priority 2 - Prevent TB
- Priority 3 - Detect TB
- Priority 4 - Control TB Disease
- Priority 5 – Workforce



What is GIRFT (Get it Right First Time)



- GIRFT is a national programme in England designed to improve patient care, by reducing unwarranted variations in clinical practice. GIRFT helps identify clinical outliers and best practice amongst providers, highlights changes that will improve patient care and outcomes, and delivers efficiencies and cost savings.
- Working to the principle that a patient should expect to receive equally timely and effective investigations, treatment, and outcomes wherever care is delivered, irrespective of who delivers that care, GIRFT aims to identify approaches from across the NHS that improve outcomes and patient experience.

Project Objectives

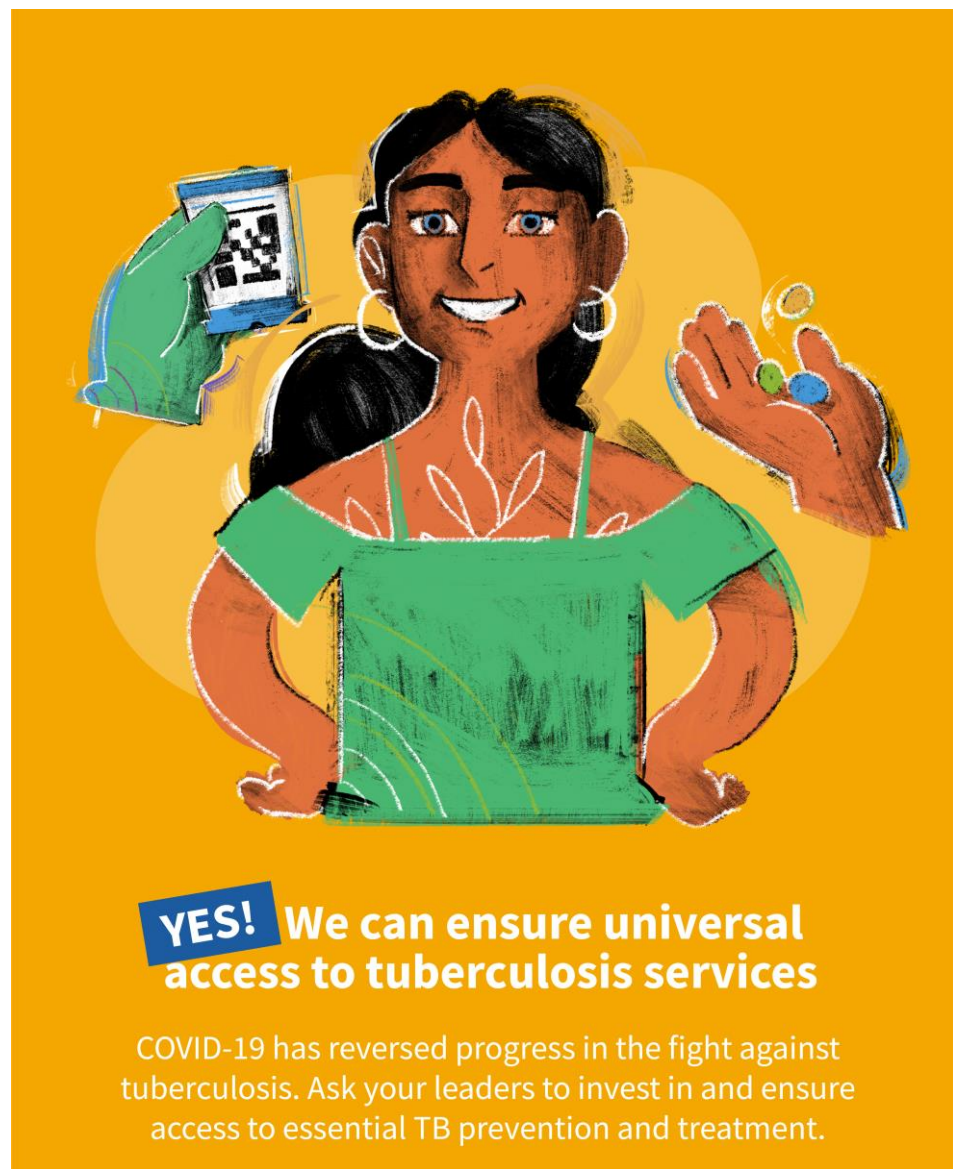
The aim of the GIRFT project is to:

- Identify how different services are providing TB care and reflect this back to each provider
- Identify good practice and develop a standardised pathway and care model for TB in phase 2
- Help to reduce diagnostic and patient delays
- Gain a better understanding of TB workforce models
- Improve TB services through appropriate rationalisation and service transformation that future proofs TB services

The project will support the delivery of the National Latent TB Testing and Treatment programme and the TB Action Plan for England, 2021 - 2026.

Events taking place for World TB Day

- The Stephen Lawn Memorial Lecture – ‘The Know-Do Gap In Tuberculosis’ by Professor Madhukar Pai. Recording can be found here: [The Stephen Lawn Memorial Lecture 2023 | LSHTM](#)
- 24th March – World TB Day Symposium 2023 by LSHTM/UCL. Register here for the online event [World TB Day Symposium 2023 | LSHTM](#). A recording will be available on this page after the event.
- 24th March – ‘Fight TB: This is your chance’ hosted by Qiagen. A first 24-hour event bringing together TB experts, advocates, and fighters from across the globe. Register here: [Global TB experts are ready to discuss how to fight TB. Are you? \(qiagen.com\)](#)
- Stop TB partnership have various social media toolkits for World TB Day 2023 found here: [World TB Day 2023 | Stop TB Partnership](#)
- TB factsheet for dissemination can be found here: [Ending Workplace TB Infographic](#)



UKHSA South West TB Educational Day – 14th March 2023

The South West Health Protection Team hosted an in-person TB educational event in aid of World TB day for internal and external colleagues across the south west.

Colleagues from NHS England, local authorities, TB teams and many others joined us at Somerset Country Cricket Club to learn from experienced voices in the field of TB in the UK such as Professor Onn Min Kon (British Thoracic Society), Dr Pranabashis Haldar (University of Leicester), and Dr Kheelna Bavalia, Medical Director of Primary Care, NHS England South West.

National and regional NHS England colleagues such as Dr Suzi Coles, UKHSA National TB Unit, gave up their time to discuss TB priorities and challenges.

The south west is a low incidence TB area which has brought up challenges especially with migrant health screening, and there were several presentations including from Health Inclusion Lead, Mathew Sidebottom from NHS England North East and Yorkshire who passionately gave a talk on the challenges faced in his area.

The feedback received from delegates has been positive and all enjoyed the range of presentations, the shared professional experiences, and the opportunity to network with colleagues old and new.



Dr Charles Beck, Consultant
Epidemiologist, UKHSA

Lynn Altass, Senior Programme
Manager, TB Prevention, NHS
England



Dr Derren Ready, Consultant in Public
Health Infection, UKHSA

Delegates to the SW TB educational day