

2022 TUBERCULOSIS SURVEILLANCE FACT SHEET

48

persons were diagnosed with active tuberculosis (TB) in the Bahamas in 2022. This represented a 50% increase from 2012 (n=32). Ninety-eight percent (n=47) of these cases were new and 2% were relapse cases (n=1); 29% of cases were also co-infected with HIV (n=14). The largest proportion of cases were male (67%), from New Providence (42%) and Bahamian (52%). In 2021 there were 34 successfully treated TB cases and 6 TB related deaths.

The incidence rate of TB in The Bahamas decreased by 26% from 18.2 cases per 100,000 in 2015 to 13.5 cases per 100,000 persons in 2022. TB Deaths decreased by 14% from 7 in 2015 to 6 in 2021.

26% reduction in TB incidence between 2015 and 2022

14% reduction in TB deaths between 2015 and 2021

48 active TB cases diagnosed in 2022

- 50% increase from 2012

4 TB related deaths in 2022

- 8% case fatality rate

14 TB/HIV co-infected cases

0 drug resistant TB cases identified

QUICK FACTS

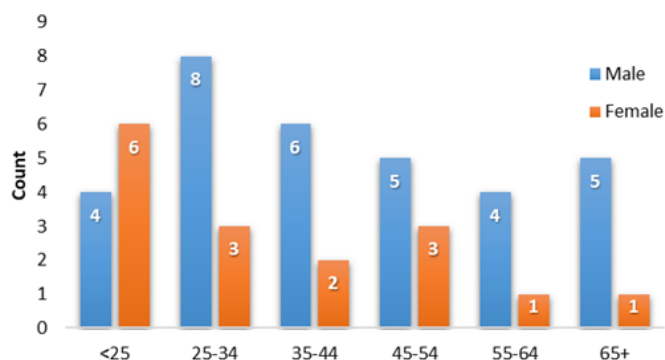
DID YOU KNOW?

TB testing and treatment is provided free of charge through the Ministry of Health and Wellness clinics and hospitals.

Demographic characteristics of new, active TB cases, The Bahamas, 2022

		n	%
Sex	Male	32	67%
	Female	16	33%
Age Group	<15	3	6%
	15-19	6	13%
	20-24	1	2%
	25-34	11	23%
	35-44	8	17%
	45-54	8	17%
	55-64	5	10%
	65+	6	13%
Island of Residence	New Providence	41	85%
	Eleuthera	2	4%
	Grand Bahama	2	4%
	Andros	2	4%
	Unknown	1	2%
Nationality	Bahamian	35	73%
	Other	13	27%
Vital Status	Alive	44	92%
	Deceased	4	8%
Case Type	New	47	98%
	Relapse	1	2%
Lab/Clinically Confirmed	Lab Confirmed	17	35%
	Clinically confirmed	31	65%
Total		48	100%

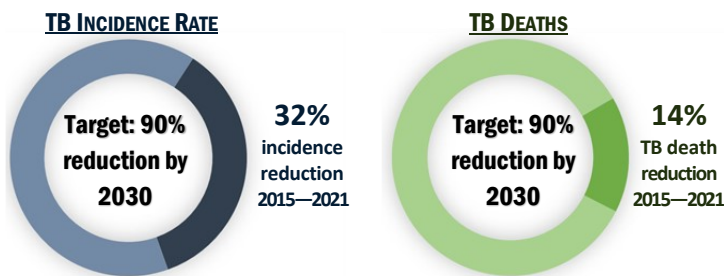
Number of incident active TB cases by age group and sex, The Bahamas, 2022



TB Elimination Targets, 2021

In accordance with the WHO-strategy to end TB, The Bahamas aims for a 90% overall reduction in TB incidence rates and deaths between 2015 and 2030. The incidence rate of TB in The Bahamas decreased by 32% from 18.2 cases per 100,000 in 2015 to 12.4 cases per 100,000 persons in 2021. TB deaths decreased by 14% from 7 in 2015 to 6 in 2021.

2030 TB elimination targets and observed percentage reduction in TB incidence rate and TB deaths 2015–2021, The Bahamas.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Direct Observed Therapy (DOTS) is available through the National TB Programme for all persons diagnosed with active TB.
- Gene Xpert technology was first used to detect TB infection and TB drug resistance in The Bahamas in 2020.

TB Incidence

Forty-eight persons were diagnosed with active TB in 2022. This represented an overall increase of 50% since 2012 (n=32), but a decrease of 46% since 2016 (n=89). Cases among males declined by 47% between 2016 (n=61) and 2022 (n=32), and females cases declined by 43% between 2016 (n=28) and 2022 (n=16). The overall TB incidence rate increased from 9.6 cases per 100,000 population in 2012 to 25.8 cases per 100,000 population in 2016. The incidence rate then decreased to 13.5 in 2022.

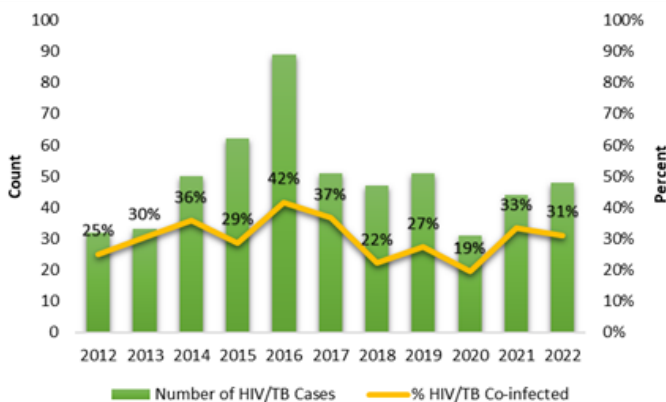
Number of incident active TB cases by year and sex, The Bahamas, 2012—2022



TB and HIV Co-Infection

Persons living with HIV are at an increased risk for TB infection because HIV weakens the immune system. Twenty-nine percent of TB cases in 2022 were also HIV positive (n=14), compared to 42% in 2016 (n=46). However, the 2022 HIV/TB co-infection rate was higher than that of 2012 (25%, n=32).

Number of incident active TB cases and HIV/TB co-infection rate by year and sex, The Bahamas, 2012—2022



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TB

Ministry of Health and Wellness

- Tuberculosis Unit: 502-4728
- Health Information Research Unit: 502-4700

WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme:

- <https://www.who.int/teams/global-tuberculosis-programme/tb-reports>

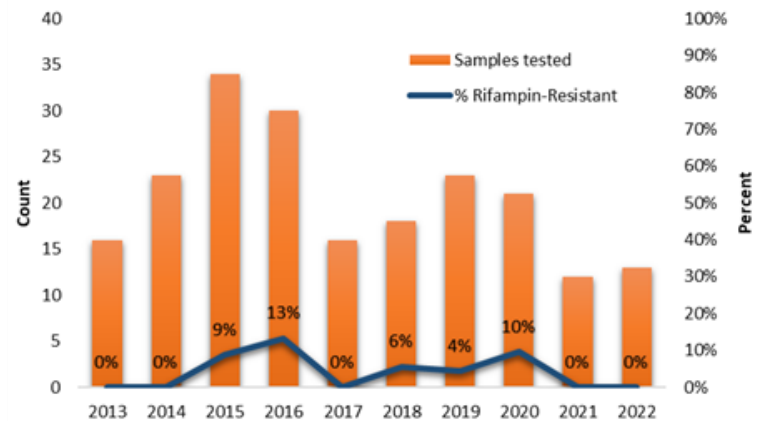
TB Drug Resistance

TB drug resistance (DR-TB) occurs when TB medication can no longer kill TB bacteria. Some of the causes of DR-TB include:

- Not completing the full prescribed course of TB treatment
- Not taking TB medication on time

Thirteen cases of bacteriologically confirmed pulmonary TB were tested for rifampin resistance in 2022. No cases of DR-TB were observed (0%) among these cases. This is a decrease from 13% rifampin resistance in lab-confirmed TB cases reported in 2016.

Number of laboratory-confirmed active TB cases tested for rifampin resistance and percentage rifampin-resistant by year, The Bahamas, 2013-2022



DID YOU KNOW?

The National HIV/AIDS Programme, DPH Tuberculosis Unit and DPH STI Unit were merged to form the MOHW HIV/STI/TB Programme in 2023.

TB Related Outcomes (2021)

Forty-four persons were diagnosed with active TB in 2021. Thirty-four (77%) successfully completed treatment and 6 cases (13%) of died of TB infection. Four cases (9%) were either lost to follow-up or not evaluated.

Annual TB treatment completion declined from 84% in 2012 to 77% in 2021, and TB deaths increased from 6% in 2012 to 14%. The percentage of TB cases lost to follow up or not evaluated has remained under 10% since 2016.

Percentage of active TB case outcomes by year, The Bahamas, 2012—2021

