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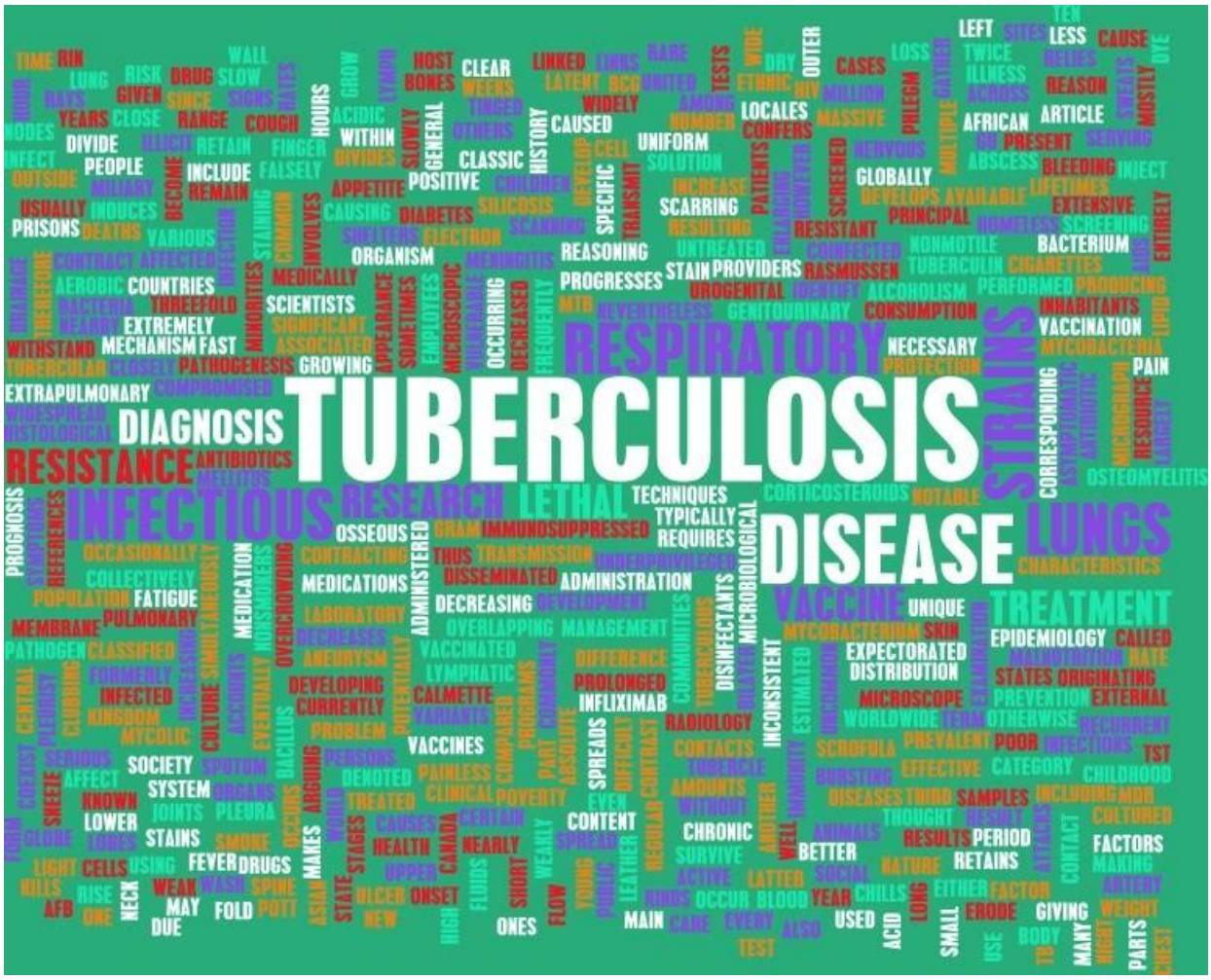

Report on the Epidemiology of Tuberculosis in Ireland 2011

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Epidemiology of Tuberculosis in Ireland 2011

A Report by the
Health Protection Surveillance Centre

March 2014

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Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who participated in the collection of data used in this report. This includes the notifying physicians, public health doctors, surveillance scientists, microbiologists, nurses, laboratory staff and administrative staff.

Report prepared by Sarah Jackson, Joan O'Donnell and Darina O'Flanagan, HPSC.

Summary of 2011 TB notifications

- TB case notifications decreased in 2011 (n=413, rate 9.0/100,000) compared to 2010 (n=420, rate 9.2/100,000). This is the lowest crude notification rate recorded since TB enhanced surveillance began in 1998.

- Regional variation was noted in TB notification rates (per 100,000) ranging from 5.0 in HSE North West to 12.6 in HSE South.

- The highest rates were reported by Dublin West and Dublin South City in HSE East and by North Lee and South Lee in HSE South.

- The highest age-specific rate occurred among those aged 25-34 years old (14.4/100,000).

- The age-specific rate (per 100,000) among 15-24 years olds decreased from 12.1/100,000 in 2010 to 7.4/100,000 in 2011.

- Rates were higher in males for all age groups except for the 0-14 year age group. The highest rates among males were in those aged 65 years and older and among females in those aged 25-34 years.

- In 2011, 46.7% of cases were born outside Ireland compared to 40.7% in 2010 and 43.0% in 2009.

- There was a notable difference in age between cases born in Ireland (median age 49 years) and foreign born cases (median age 32 years).

- In 2011, 289 (70.0%) of TB cases had a pulmonary disease component of which 214 (74.0%) were culture positive and 120 (41.5%) were smear positive.

- There were two cases of TB meningitis notified, both in adults.

- Treatment outcome data were provided for 74.8% of cases. Treatment was reported as completed for 59.1% of total cases and for 55.8% of sputum smear positive cases notified.

- There were 28 deaths reported (9 attributable to TB).

- There were 24 drug-resistant cases notified, including three MDR-TB cases. There were no cases of XDR-TB reported in 2011.

- There were 364 cases of TB provisionally notified in 2012 which is a decrease in comparison to 413 cases reported in 2011.

Introduction

In 2012, 6.1 million cases of TB were notified by national TB control programmes and reported to WHO (84.7 per 100,000 population). Of these, 2.5 million were new pulmonary sputum smear positive cases. Approximately 1.3 million TB deaths occurred globally in 2012.[1]

In 2012, 361,208 cases of TB were reported by 49 of the 53 countries of the WHO European Region. The overall notification rate averaged at 39.9 cases per 100,000, with a wide variation between countries and an incremental west-to-east gradient.[2] Figure 1 displays a map of TB notification rates in the WHO European region.

The lowest rate in the region occurred in Western Europe (EU countries plus Iceland and Norway) at 13.5 per 100,000 population, with rates lower than 10 per 100,000 reported in 18 countries and higher than 20 per 100,000 in Romania (85.2), Lithuania (59.2), Latvia (48.6), Bulgaria (31.1) and Portugal (25.2).

In 2012, 26.8% of reported TB cases in Western Europe were foreign born. This proportion ranged from 0.2% to 85.0% across 29 countries. Multidrug-resistance remained most frequent in the Baltic States (13.8-25.5%) followed by Romania (8.9%). Other countries reported lower levels of MDR-TB ranging from 0.0-6.9%.

In 2012, 292,778 notifications were reported from 20 of the 24 non-EU European and central Asian countries of which 51.2% were from the Russian Federation. The highest rates per 100,000 population in this region were reported by Moldova (152.0), Kazakhstan (132.3) and Kyrgyzstan (126.3) while the lowest rate was reported by Switzerland (5.8). The highest burden of MDR-TB cases in the European region is in this area where the prevalence is 18.3% in newly diagnosed cases, almost seven times higher than the prevalence reported in the EU/EEA countries (2.6%).

Overall, the proportion of cases with multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) across the entire European region was 23.9% an increase compared to 2011 (19.0%). The proportion of total cases with MDR-TB was higher in the non-EU countries of Europe (29.6%) compared to the proportion in Western Europe (4.6%).

In Ireland, national epidemiological data on TB have been collated by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) since 1998. From January 2000, this information has included enhanced surveillance data items based on the minimum dataset reported to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). The resulting National Tuberculosis Surveillance System (NTBSS) was set up following consultation with the eight former health boards and the National TB Advisory Committee. The National TB Advisory Committee was reconvened in October 2004 and new guidelines for TB prevention and control in Ireland were published in April 2010.[3]

This report presents an epidemiological review of all TB cases notified in Ireland in 2011. Data for 2011 have been validated and updated to include information relating to treatment outcome. Provisional data for 2012 are presented in Appendix 1.

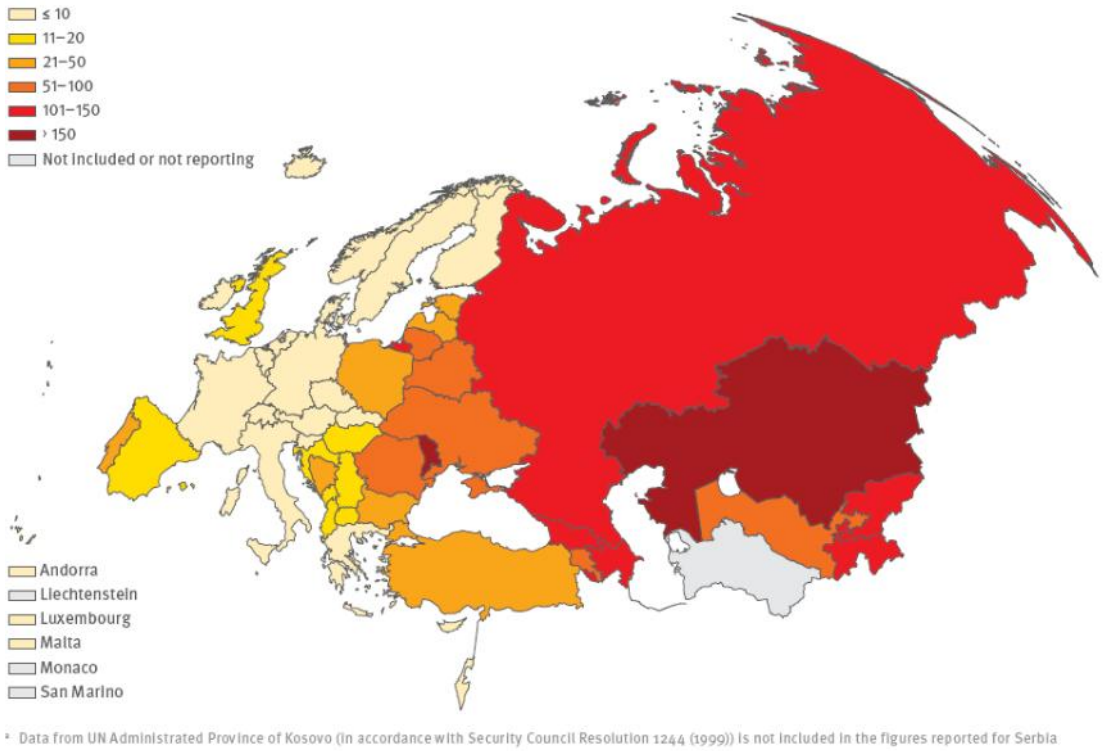

Figure 1: Tuberculosis notification rates per 100,000 population, WHO European region, 2011[2]

Case Definition

The case definition used for the analyses in this report is the Irish TB case definition under SI No. 452/2011 Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Regulations 2011.[4] This case definition is also in harmony with the 2012 EU case definition.

Tuberculosis: (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex including *M. tuberculosis, M. africanum*, *M. bovis*, *M. canetti*, *M. caprae*, *M. microti* and *M. pinnipedii*)

Clinical Criteria – Any person with:

- Signs, symptoms and/or radiological findings consistent with active tuberculosis in any site

  AND
- A clinician's decision to treat the person with a full course of anti-tuberculosis therapy

  OR
- A case discovered post-mortem with pathological findings consistent with active tuberculosis that would have indicated anti-tuberculosis antibiotic treatment had the patient been diagnosed before dying

Confirmed case – A person meeting the clinical criteria and at least one of the following two:

- Isolation of *M. tuberculosis* complex (excluding *Mycobacterium. bovis*-BCG) from a clinical specimen

OR

- Detection of *M. tuberculosis* nucleic acid in a clinical specimen

  AND
- Positive microscopy for acid-fast bacilli or equivalent fluorescent staining bacilli on light microscopy

Probable case – A person meeting the clinical criteria and at least one of the following three:

- Microscopy positive for acid-fast bacilli or equivalent fluorescent staining bacilli on light microscopy

OR

- Detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* nucleic acid in a clinical specimen

OR

- Histological appearance of granulomata

Possible case: A person meeting the clinical criteria without laboratory confirmation

Definitions

Pulmonary TB: TB of the lung parenchyma or the tracheo-bronchial tree or the larynx. The WHO defines pulmonary TB, for the purpose of analysis, as any case that has a pulmonary disease component.

Extra-pulmonary TB: TB affecting any site other than pulmonary as defined above. Pleural TB and intra-thoracic lymphatic TB by themselves are considered as extrapulmonary.

Pulmonary and extra-pulmonary TB is a case of TB that meets the previous two definitions

Smear positive case[5]**:** A patient with the presence of at least one acid-fast bacillus (AFB+) in at least one sputum sample in countries with a well functioning external quality assurance (EQA) system

A new case is defined as a patient where no previous history of TB was reported.

A recurrent case is defined as a patient with a documented history of TB prior to their 2011 notification

Multidrug-resistant (MDR-TB) is defined as a TB case resistant to at least isoniazid and rifampicin with or without resistance to ethambutol and streptomycin

Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) is defined as a TB strain resistant to any fluoroquinolone and at least one of three injectable second-line drugs (capreomycin, kanamycin and amikacin), in addition to MDR-TB. This definition of XDR-TB was agreed by the WHO Global Task Force on XDR-TB in October 2006.[6]

TB Outbreak

In general an outbreak is defined as the occurrence of cases of active TB disease* above the expected level usually over a given period of time† in a geographic area, facility or within a specific population group.[3]

The following are examples of situations to report:

- An unexpected increase (significantly above baseline) of newly identified TB‡ cases in any setting
- Two or more TB cases on treatment from a congregate (e.g. school or prison) or high risk setting (e.g. HIV positive individuals occurring within a relatively short space of time).†
- Three or more TB cases on treatment from a community setting (outside a household) occurring within a relatively short period of time† that may be related.
- Three or more TB cases on treatment in a household
- Two or more cases of MDR-TB (multidrug-resistant TB) or XDR-TB (extensively drug-resistant) that may be related and occur outside a household

When assessing whether a cluster of TB cases represents an outbreak, indicators to consider include:

- Epidemiological links between cases
- Similar unique characteristics among cases
- Matching drug resistance patterns of isolates
- Matching DNA fingerprint patterns of isolates

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* This definition of a TB outbreak relates to cases of TB disease only and not to cases of latent TB infection (LTBI).

† In general, within 6 months but outbreaks over longer periods may also be considered where epidemiological/microbiological evidence suggests that cases are linked. This should be based on local risk assessment or in consultation with HPSC if deemed appropriate.

‡ TB cases as defined by the new Irish case definition, see http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/NotifiableDiseases/CaseDefinitions/

Methods

Data collection

An enhanced TB notification form was completed by public health doctors for each case of TB notified in 2011. These forms summarise all available clinical, microbiological, histological and epidemiological data. Forms were then collated in the regional departments of public health, where data were entered onto the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system. Finalised 2011 data (with outcome information) and provisional 2012 data were extracted from CIDR between July and November 2013.

The introduction of the amendment to the Infectious Disease Regulations 1981 on January 1st 2004, made outbreaks, unusual clusters or changing patterns of illness statutorily notifiable by medical practitioners and clinical directors of laboratories to the medical officer of health. Standard reporting procedures for the surveillance of TB outbreaks were formally agreed in 2007. Outbreak data are collated on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system.

Data analysis

National TB data from 1992 to 1997 were provided by the Department of Health and Children (DoHC). National TB data from 1998 to 2010 were obtained from the NTBS system. Data for 2011 and provisional 2012 data were taken from the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) system.

Rates for 1991 to 1993 are based on the 1991 population census; rates for 1994, to 1999 are based on the 1996 population census; rates for 2000 to 2003 are based on the 2002 population census; rates for 2004 to 2008 are based on the 2006 population census and rates for 2009 to 2012 are based on the 2011 census.

For the calculation of rates in the indigenous and foreign-born population, denominator data represent persons usually resident in each province and county, and present in the state on census night. The indigenous population was defined as those persons who were born in Ireland.[7]

Direct methods of standardisation were used to allow comparison of rates between geographical areas using the 2011 Irish population as the standard population. In order to compare rates between groups of interest, 95% confidence intervals were used.

Three-year moving averages were calculated by applying the formula (a+2b+c)/4 to each three successive points a, b and c (each letter representing a year) in the series. They are useful for smoothing irregularities in trend data and make it easier to discern long-term trends that otherwise might be obscured by short-term fluctuations.

For 2011 data, analysis was performed using local health office (LHO) denominators rather than community care area (CCA) denominators. The LHOs came into operation on 1st September 2005. 2011 LHO rates were calculated using Census 2011 LHO denominator data extracted from Health Atlas[8] for all LHOs except HSE-SE, who supplied regionally calculated Census 2011 LHO denominator data.

Data completeness

For the case based dataset, 18 key variables from NTBSS were analysed for completeness. Appendix 2 shows the completeness of reporting for these variables during 2011.

Results: TB cases in Ireland, 2011

Overall cases and rates

There were 413 cases of TB notified in 2011, a rate of 9.0 per 100,000 population. A summary of the 2011 data is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Summary of the epidemiology of TB in Ireland, 2011

Parameter	Number (Rate/100,000)	% of Total
Total cases	413	-
Cases in indigenous population[§]	214 (5.7)	51.8
Cases in foreign-born persons[*]	193 (25.2)	46.7
Culture positive cases	274	66.3
Pulmonary cases	289	70.0
Smear positive pulmonary cases	120	29.1
Multidrug-resistant cases	3	0.7
Mono-resistant to isoniazid	9	2.2
Deaths attributable to TB	9	2.2
Outcomes reported in cases	309	74.8
TB meningitis cases	2	0.5

[§] Country of birth was unknown for 6 (1.5%) cases

The number and rates of TB cases notified for each of the years from 1991-2011 are shown in table 2. Three-year moving averages for the years 1992-2010 are also shown.

Table 2: Number and rates of notified cases of TB in Ireland, 1991-2011 with 3-year moving averages, 1992-2010

Year	Number of cases	Crude rate per 100,000 population	3-year moving average
1991	640	18.2	
1992	604	17.1	612
1993	598	17.0	581
1994	524	14.5	526
1995	458	12.6	469
1996	434	12.0	436
1997	416	11.5	423
1998	424	11.7	433
1999	469	12.9	439
2000	395	10.1	410
2001	381	9.7	391
2002	410	10.4	402
2003	406	10.4	413
2004	433	10.2	430
2005	448	10.6	448
2006	463	10.9	464
2007	481	11.3	473
2008	467	11.0	474
2009	479	10.4	461
2010	420	9.2	433
2011	413	9.0	

Crude incidence rates by HSE area

The total number of TB cases in each HSE area is shown in table 3 with crude incidence rates and 95% confidence intervals included.

The highest crude rates were reported in HSE South (12.6/100,000) and HSE East (11.6/100,000) both of which were higher than the national rate. Rates in HSE North East (5.7/100,000) and HSE North West (5.0/100,000) were significantly lower than the national rate.

The crude incidence rates seen in each HSE area from 1992 to 2011 are shown in table 4 while the 3-year moving average TB notification rates for each HSE area from 1992 to 2010 are shown in table 5.

Table 3: Notified TB cases by HSE area, 2011

HSE area	Number of cases	Crude rate per 100,000	95% CI for rate
HSE E	188	11.6	9.9 - 13.3
HSE M	18	6.4	3.4 - 9.3
HSE MW	24	6.3	3.8 - 8.9
HSE NE	25	5.7	3.4 - 7.9
HSE NW	13	5.0	2.3 - 7.8
HSE SE	30	6.0	3.9 - 8.2
HSE S	84	12.6	9.9 - 15.3
HSE W	31	7.0	4.5 - 9.4
Ireland	**413**	**9.0**	**8.1 - 9.9**

Table 4: Crude TB incidence rates per 100,000 population by HSE area, 1992-2011

Year	HSE E	HSE M	HSE MW	HSE NE	HSE NW	HSE SE	HSE S	HSE W	National
1992	16.1	18.7	20.9	10.0	15.9	12.3	21.4	22.2	**17.1**
1993	11.9	10.8	16.1	10.0	37.5	16.7	23.9	23.0	**17.0**
1994	12.9	14.6	17.3	11.4	9.0	11.0	17.4	22.7	**14.5**
1995	11.9	8.8	15.1	8.5	11.4	9.5	20.5	11.1	**12.6**
1996	8.7	8.3	17.7	12.1	7.1	6.9	22.5	13.1	**12.0**
1997	9.9	9.2	12.6	9.1	10.4	12.8	16.5	11.1	**11.5**
1998	11.7	4.9	14.8	9.5	9.0	8.9	14.3	15.3	**11.7**
1999	13.9	7.3	17.0	8.2	9.0	7.9	13.7	19.9	**12.9**
2000	10.2	7.1	13.8	6.1	4.1	9.7	13.8	10.0	**10.1**
2001	12.3	3.1	7.1	11.0	5.9	4.7	12.4	8.9	**9.7**
2002	11.6	8.4	9.7	7.0	5.4	11.6	13.3	8.7	**10.5**
2003	11.9	5.3	12.1	7.5	4.1	8.3	16.0	6.0	**10.4**
2004	12.7	3.6	12.2	5.8	6.7	7.4	12.6	10.4	**10.2**
2005	12.9	6.4	14.7	3.3	6.3	8.0	12.2	10.9	**10.6**
2006	12.7	6.0	10.2	8.4	3.8	11.1	15.3	7.7	**10.9**
2007	14.6	6.4	8.3	6.1	7.2	6.3	16.4	10.6	**11.3**
2008	15.9	9.5	6.9	4.6	5.9	6.5	14.0	7.5	**11.0**
2009	14.5	8.9	7.1	6.1	9.7	7.4	12.3	4.7	**10.4**
2010	11.1	8.5	7.6	6.8	7.4	5.4	13.5	4.7	**9.2**
2011	11.6	6.4	6.3	5.7	5.0	6.0	12.6	7.0	**9.0**

Table 5: 3-year moving average TB notification rate per 100,000 population by HSE area, 1992-2010

Year	HSE E	HSE M	HSE MW	HSE NE	HSE NW	HSE SE	HSE S	HSE W	National
1992	14.7	16.1	20.3	10.1	20.2	21.7	12.6	26	**17.3**
1993	13.2	13.7	17.6	10.4	24.9	14.2	21.6	22.7	**16.4**
1994	12.4	12.2	16.5	10.3	16.7	12.0	19.8	19.9	**14.6**
1995	11.3	10.1	16.3	10.1	9.7	9.2	20.2	14.5	**12.9**
1996	9.8	8.6	15.8	10.5	9.0	9.0	20.5	12.1	**12.0**
1997	10.1	7.9	14.4	10.0	9.2	10.3	17.4	12.6	**11.7**
1998	11.8	6.6	14.8	9.1	9.4	9.6	14.7	15.4	**11.9**
1999	12.4	6.6	15.7	8.0	7.8	8.6	13.9	16.3	**11.9**
2000	11.7	6.2	12.9	7.8	5.8	8.0	13.4	12.2	**10.7**
2001	11.6	5.4	9.4	8.8	5.3	7.7	13.0	9.1	**10.0**
2002	11.9	6.3	9.6	8.1	5.2	9.0	13.7	8.1	**10.3**
2003	12.0	5.7	11.5	7.0	5.1	8.9	14.5	7.8	**10.4**
2004	12.6	4.7	12.8	5.6	6.0	7.8	13.4	9.4	**10.3**
2005	12.8	5.6	12.9	5.2	5.8	8.6	13.1	10.0	**10.6**
2006	13.2	6.2	10.9	6.5	5.3	9.1	14.8	9.2	**10.9**
2007	14.5	7.1	8.4	6.3	6.0	7.5	15.5	9.1	**11.2**
2008	15.2	8.6	7.3	5.3	7.2	6.7	14.2	7.6	**11.0**
2009	14.0	8.9	7.2	5.9	8.2	6.7	13.1	5.4	**10.3**
2010	12.1	8.1	7.2	6.4	7.4	6.1	13.0	5.3	**9.4**

Age and sex distribution

There were 175 (42.4%) cases of TB notified in females in 2011 and 238 (57.6%) in males, giving a male to female ratio of 1.4:1. Table 6 gives the breakdown of notified TB cases by sex and HSE area.

Table 6: TB cases by HSE area and sex, 2011

HSE area	Female	Male	Male: Female ratio	Total
HSE E	80	108	1.4	**188**
HSE M	6	12	2.0	**18**
HSE MW	9	15	1.7	**24**
HSE NE	16	9	0.6	**25**
HSE NW	7	6	0.9	**13**
HSE SE	9	21	2.3	**30**
HSE S	35	49	1.4	**84**
HSE W	13	18	1.4	**31**
Total	**175**	**238**	**1.4**	**413**

In 2011, the median age of cases was 39 years (range: 1-91 years). The median age for Irish-born cases was 49 years and 32 years for foreign-born cases.

Table 7 shows the number of cases and the age-specific rates for males and females in 2011. The highest age-specific rates in 2011 occurred in the 25-34 year age group (14.4/100,000) and among those aged 65 years and older (12.7/100,000). The age-specific rate among 15-24 year olds decreased from 12.1/100,000 in 2010 to 7.4 in 2011.

Rates in males were higher in all age groups except in the 0-14 year age group (F 3.1 vs. M 0.8). The highest rate among females was in the 25-34 year age group (12.7) and the highest rate among males was in the over 65 year age group (18.5). Figure 2 shows the cases by age and sex and the male and female age-specific rates in Ireland for 2011. Figure 3 shows the age-specific rates of TB in Ireland from 2000 to 2011.

Table 7: TB cases and age-specific rates per 100,000 population for males and females, 2011

Age Group (years)	Female**		Male		Total	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
0-14	15	3.1	4	0.8	**19**	**1.9**
15-24	19	6.6	24	8.3	**43**	**7.4**
25-34	49	12.7	60	16.3	**109**	**14.4**
35-44	28	8.1	46	13.2	**74**	**10.6**
45-54	26	8.9	38	13.2	**64**	**11.0**
55-64	14	6.1	21	9.1	**35**	**7.6**
65+	23	7.9	45	18.5	**68**	**12.9**
Total	**174**	**7.6**	**238**	**10.5**	**412**	**9.0**

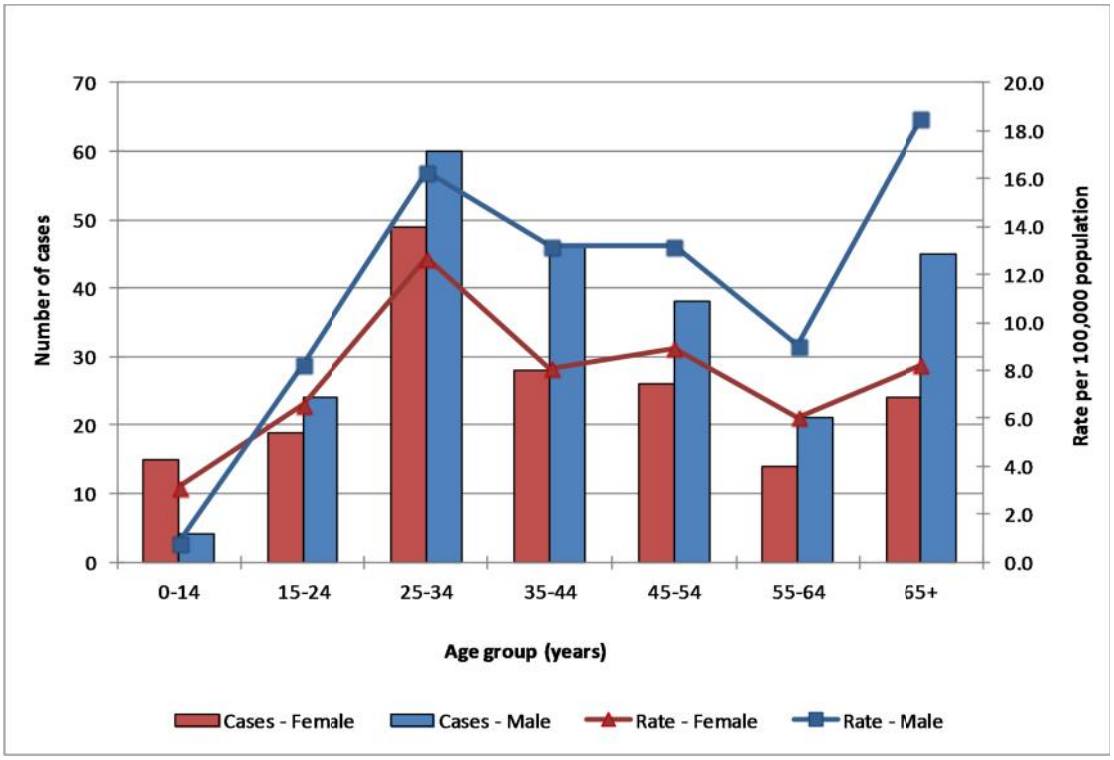

Figure 2: TB cases by age and sex, and age-specific rates per 100,000 population, 2011

** Age was not reported for 1 female case

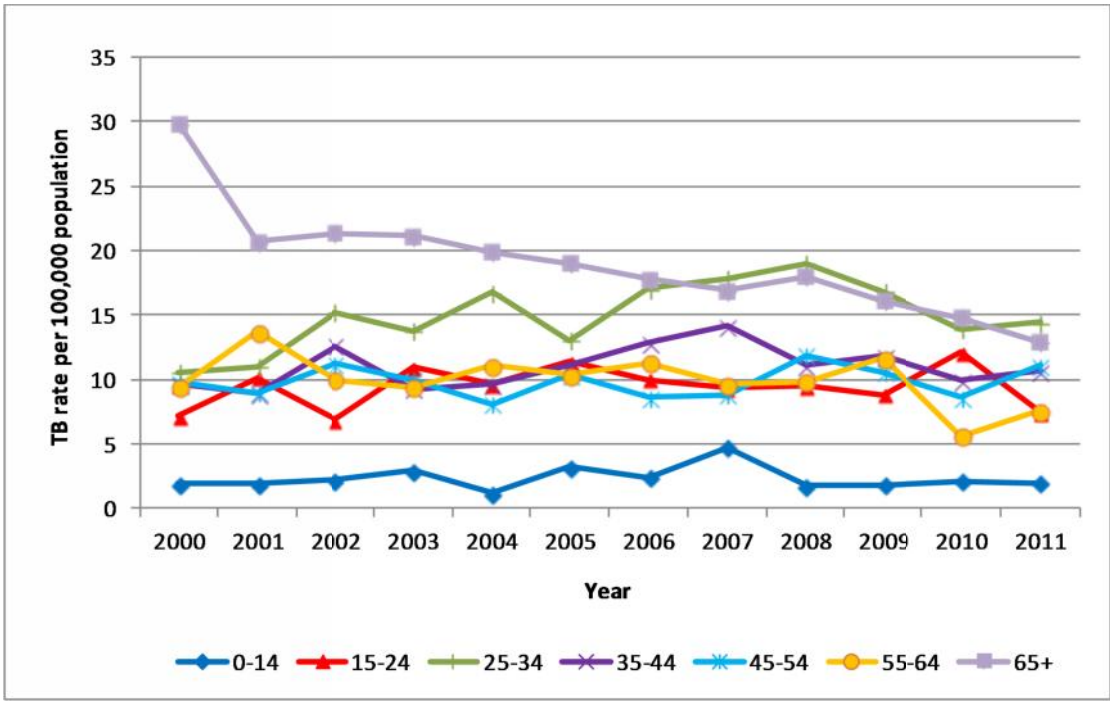

Figure 3: Age-specific rates of TB by year, 2000-2011

Age-standardised TB incidence rates by HSE area, county and LHO

Age-standardised TB incidence rates for each HSE area are presented in figures 4 and 5 (figure 4 includes 95% confidence intervals).

The highest age-standardised TB incidence rates (per 100,000 population) were seen in HSE South (12.6) and HSE East (11.3). The rate in HSE South was significantly higher than the national rate (9.0). The lowest rates were reported by HSE North East (5.8) and HSE North West (5.1), both of which were significantly lower than the national rate.

Age-standardised incidence rates for each county for 2011 are shown in table 8 and figure 6 (95% confidence intervals are included in table 8). The highest rates (per 100,000 population) were reported from Cork (14.1), Dublin (12.8) and Offaly (11.4). The lowest rates (per 100,000) were in Monaghan (1.6) and Sligo (1.9). No cases were reported from Leitrim.

Crude incidence rates for each local health office (LHO)[††] in 2011 are shown in table 9. Three-year moving averages for the crude incidence rates are presented in table 10. In 2011, the highest crude rates (per 100,000 population) were in Dublin West LHO (28.0), Dublin South City LHO (16.6) and North Lee LHO (16.0) and South Lee LHO (15.2).

[††] Note: Local Health Offices (LHOs) came into operation on 1st September 2005, taking over operations from Community Care Areas (CCAs)

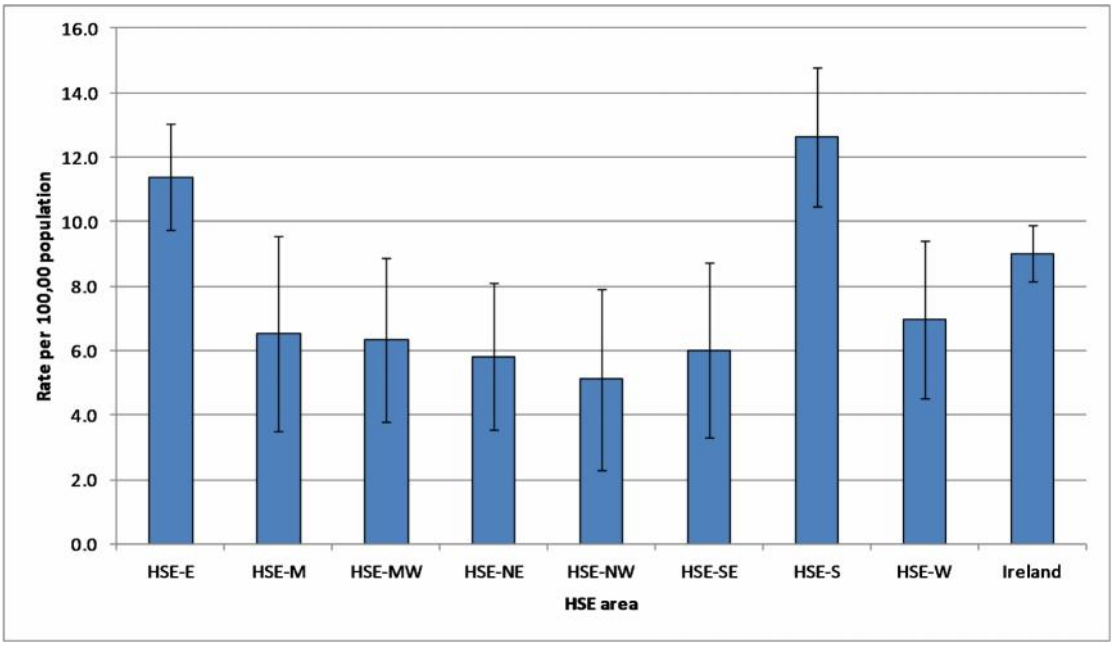

Figure 4: Age-standardised TB incidence rates per 100,000 population by HSE area with 95% confidence intervals, 2011

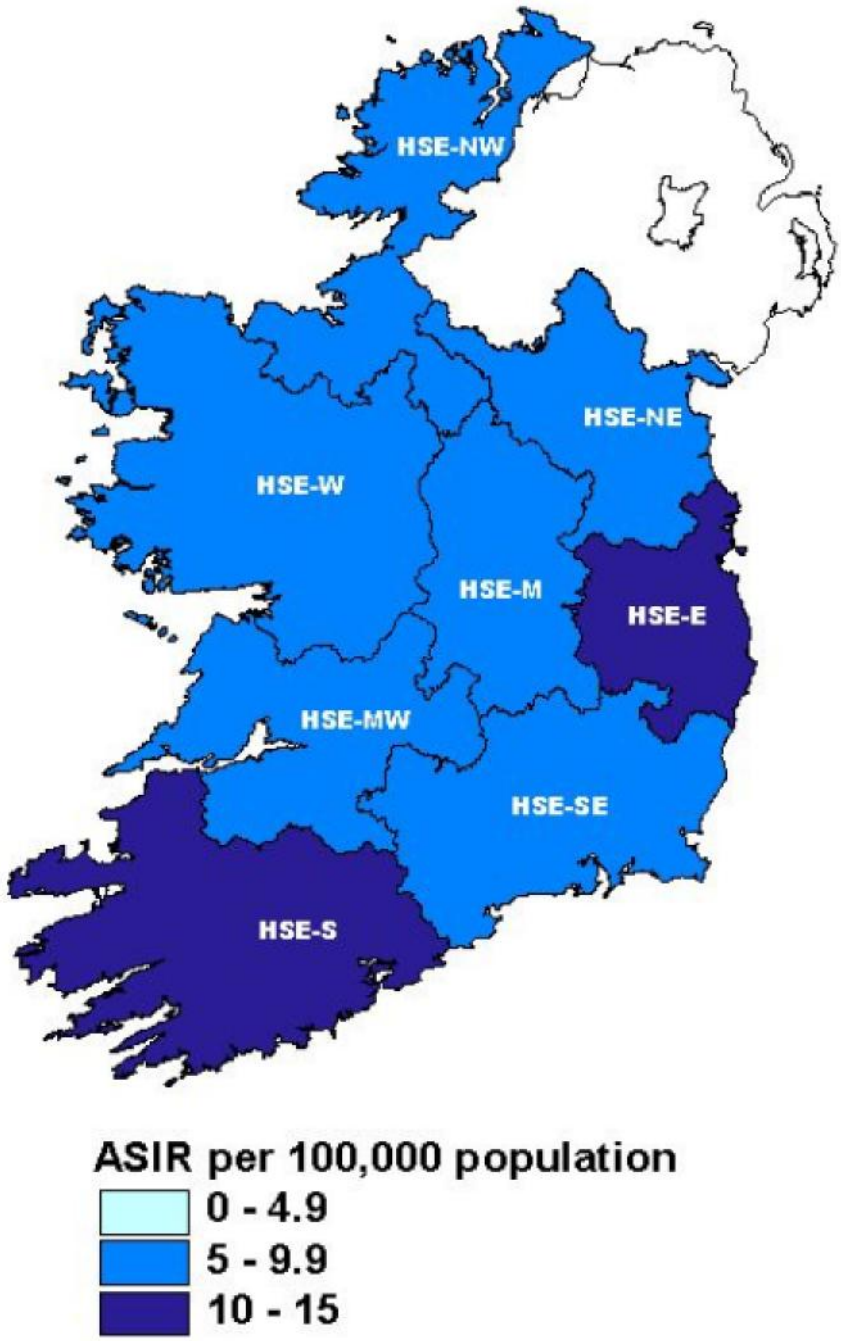

Figure 5: Age-standardised TB incidence rates per 100,000 population by HSE area, 2011

Table 8: Age-standardised TB incidence rates (per 100,000 population) by county with 95% confidence intervals, 2011

County	ASIR	95% CI
Dublin	12.8	10.9 - 14.9
Kildare	5.4	2.1 - 8.6
Wicklow	6.7	2.3 - 11.2
Laois	3.5	-0.5 - 7.5
Longford	3.0	-2.9 - 8.8
Offaly	11.4	3.5 - 19.3
Westmeath	7.0	1.4 - 12.6
Clare	7.3	2.2 - 12.5
Limerick	6.7	3.1 - 10.4
Tipperary North	3.5	-0.5 - 7.5
Cavan	5.1	0.1 - 10
Louth	9.2	3.7 - 14.6
Meath	5.0	1.7 - 8.3
Monaghan	1.6	-1.5 - 4.7
Donegal	7.7	3.3 - 12.1
Leitrim	0.0	0 - 0
Sligo	1.9	-1.8 - 5.5
Carlow	3.6	-1.4 - 8.5
Kilkenny	5.4	0.6 - 10.2
Tipperary South	5.2	0.6 - 9.8
Waterford	9.6	3.9 - 15.3
Wexford	4.8	1.2 - 8.4
Cork	14.1	10.8 - 17.3
Kerry	7.5	3 - 12
Galway	7.5	4.1 - 10.9
Mayo	4.1	0.7 - 7.5
Roscommon	10.3	1.9 - 18.7
Ireland	**9.0**	**8.0 – 9.9**

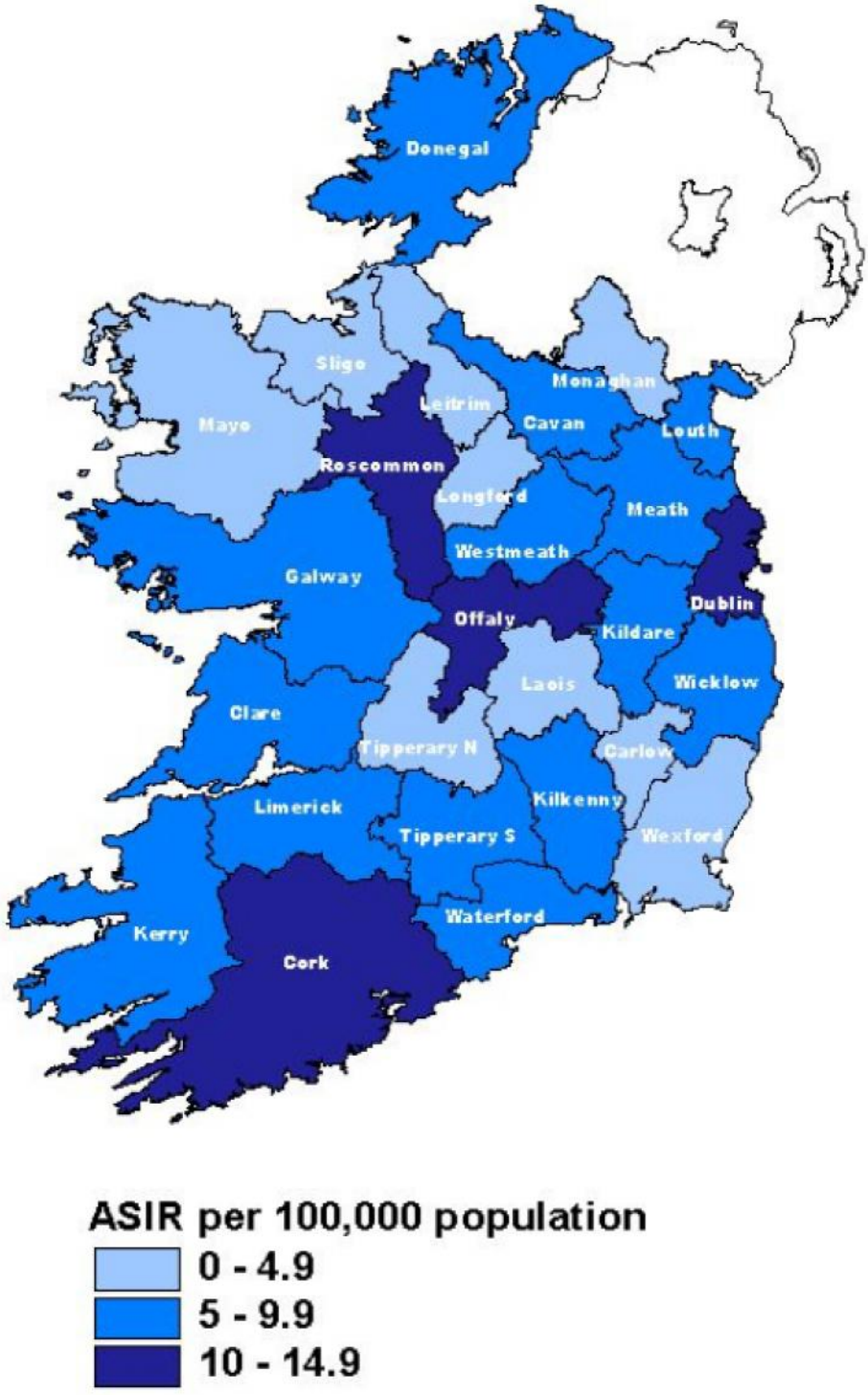

Figure 6: Age-standardised TB incidence rates per 100,000 population by county, 2011

Table 9: TB Crude incidence rate per 100,000 population by local health office (LHO[‡‡]), 2000-2011

HSE area	LHO	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
HSE-E	**Total**	**10.2**	**12.3**	**11.6**	**11.9**	**12.7**	**12.9**	**12.7**	**14.6**	**15.9**	**14.5**	**11.1**	**11.6**
	Dublin South	5.4	2.3	4.7	4.7	9.5	4.0	5.5	8.7	4.7	6.9	4.6	6.1
	Dublin South East	13.3	5.7	8.6	7.6	10.0	7.2	5.4	10.0	15.4	8.7	6.9	8.7
	Dublin South City	7.7	26.1	21.5	23.0	23.1	20.1	19.4	29.8	29.8	20.0	17.3	16.6
	Dublin South West	6.9	8.2	7.5	10.3	8.1	12.2	5.4	14.9	6.8	17.5	12.3	9.1
	Dublin West	11.9	10.3	18.3	19.1	20.1	18.7	17.9	16.4	28.4	17.8	14.4	28.0
	Dublin Nth West	16.8	18.7	23.0	17.4	12.9	19.4	21.0	24.7	21.5	25.3	16.4	14.9
	Dublin Nth Central	18.8	27.8	18.8	21.2	26.9	23.7	26.1	23.7	24.5	22.2	22.9	14.0
	Dublin North	10.8	11.8	5.4	4.9	11.7	9.9	11.7	8.6	9.5	11.5	9.0	8.6
	Kildare/W Wicklow	5.0	5.0	7.8	8.4	5.4	7.9	6.9	7.4	14.3	6.1	4.8	4.8
	Wicklow	5.0	8.0	1.0	5.0	2.7	5.5	7.3	2.7	5.5	9.3	3.4	8.4
HSE-M	**Total**	**7.1**	**3.1**	**8.4**	**5.3**	**3.6**	**6.4**	**6.0**	**6.4**	**9.5**	**8.9**	**8.5**	**6.4**
	LD/WH	8.7	6.8	7.8	7.8	4.4	8.8	5.3	6.2	14.1	8.8	15.2	5.6
	LS/OY	5.7	0.0	9.0	3.3	2.9	4.4	6.5	6.5	5.8	8.9	3.2	7.0
HSE-MW	**Total**	**13.8**	**7.1**	**9.7**	**12.1**	**12.2**	**14.7**	**10.2**	**8.3**	**6.9**	**7.1**	**7.6**	**6.3**
	Clare	11.6	5.8	9.7	6.8	10.8	19.8	8.1	7.2	3.6	6.8	8.5	6.8
	Limerick	na	na	na	na	11.9	13.2	14.5	9.3	11.2	8.3	7.8	6.8
	Tipp Nth/E	na	na	na	na	14.2	11.1	6.1	8.1	4.0	4.3	5.7	4.3
HSE-NE	**Total**	**6.1**	**11.0**	**7.0**	**7.5**	**5.8**	**3.3**	**8.4**	**6.1**	**4.6**	**6.1**	**6.8**	**5.7**
	Cavan/Monaghan	2.8	14.8	5.6	9.3	5.1	6.7	8.4	5.1	6.7	6.0	6.7	3.7
	Louth/Sth	12.8	9.8	11.8	10.8	8.1	1.8	7.2	8.1	5.4	5.7	7.3	9.0
	Meath	3.7	9.0	4.5	3.7	4.9	1.8	9.2	5.5	2.5	6.5	6.5	4.9
HSE-NW	**Total**	**4.1**	**5.9**	**5.4**	**4.1**	**6.7**	**6.3**	**3.8**	**7.2**	**5.9**	**9.7**	**7.4**	**5.0**
	Donegal	2.9	3.6	4.4	2.9	6.8	4.1	2.7	6.8	4.8	8.1	5.6	7.4
	Sligo/Leitrim	5.9	9.4	7.0	5.9	6.6	9.9	5.5	7.7	7.7	12.3	10.3	1.0
HSE-SE	**Total**	**9.7**	**4.7**	**11.6**	**8.3**	**7.4**	**8.0**	**11.1**	**6.3**	**6.5**	**7.4**	**5.4**	**6.0**
	Carlow/Kilkenny	13.5	8.1	10.8	9.0	7.5	6.6	7.5	5.8	5.0	3.8	5.4	5.4
	Tipperary South	10.7	2.4	4.7	9.5	7.9	13.6	20.4	9.0	6.8	9.6	7.4	5.3
	Waterford	12.6	7.2	23.3	11.7	13.3	9.2	13.3	8.3	9.2	14.9	7.8	8.6
	Wexford	2.6	0.9	6.0	3.4	1.5	4.6	6.1	3.0	5.3	2.8	2.1	4.8
HSE-S	**Total**	**13.8**	**12.4**	**13.3**	**16.0**	**12.6**	**12.2**	**15.3**	**16.4**	**14.0**	**12.3**	**13.5**	**12.6**
	Kerry	8.3	6.8	10.6	12.1	10.0	6.4	6.4	6.4	7.2	5.5	4.8	7.6
	North Cork	21.8	9.5	15.0	10.9	12.4	6.2	8.7	7.4	8.7	13.4	19.0	14.5
	North Lee	16.7	21.8	18.6	22.4	14.9	21.5	28.0	19.7	22.1	13.8	16.5	16.0
	South Lee	10.7	10.7	12.5	19.7	11.2	11.7	16.2	30.1	15.6	16.2	18.8	15.2
	West Cork	13.8	7.9	3.9	2.0	7.5	9.3	5.6	0.0	9.3	10.6	0.0	3.5
HSE-W	**Total**	**10.0**	**8.9**	**8.7**	**6.0**	**10.4**	**10.9**	**7.7**	**10.6**	**7.5**	**4.7**	**4.7**	**7.0**
	Galway	10.5	10.0	5.7	5.3	9.5	11.2	8.2	13.4	7.8	6.4	6.0	7.6
	Mayo	8.5	4.3	9.4	8.5	7.3	9.7	7.3	4.8	6.5	2.3	3.1	4.6
	Roscommon	11.2	14.9	18.6	3.7	20.4	11.9	6.8	11.9	8.5	3.1	3.1	9.4
Ireland		**10.1**	**9.7**	**10.5**	**10.4**	**10.2**	**10.6**	**10.9**	**11.3**	**11.0**	**10.4**	**9.2**	**9.0**

[‡‡] In some areas, LHO does not always correspond to county

Table 10: TB 3 year moving average rates (per 100,000 population) by local health office[§§], 2001-2010

HSE area	LHO	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
HSE-E	**Total**	**11.6**	**11.9**	**12.0**	**12.6**	**12.8**	**13.2**	**14.5**	**15.2**	**14.0**	**12.1**
	Dublin South	3.7	4.1	5.9	6.9	5.7	5.9	6.9	6.3	5.8	5.6
	Dublin South East	8.3	7.6	8.4	8.7	7.5	7.0	10.2	12.3	9.9	7.8
	Dublin South City	20.3	23.0	22.6	22.3	20.7	22.1	27.2	27.3	21.8	17.8
	Dublin South West	7.7	8.4	9.1	9.7	9.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	13.5	12.8
	Dublin West	12.7	16.5	19.2	19.5	18.8	17.7	19.8	22.7	19.6	18.6
	Dublin Nth West	19.3	20.6	17.7	15.7	18.2	21.5	23.0	23.3	22.1	18.2
	Dublin Nth Central	23.3	21.6	22.0	24.7	25.1	24.9	24.5	23.7	22.9	20.5
	Dublin Nth	9.9	6.9	6.7	9.6	10.8	10.5	9.6	9.7	10.3	9.5
	Kildare/W Wicklow	5.7	7.3	7.5	6.8	7.0	7.3	9.0	10.5	7.8	5.1
	Wicklow	5.5	3.8	3.4	4.0	5.3	5.7	4.6	5.8	6.9	6.1
HSE-M	**Total**	**5.4**	**6.3**	**5.7**	**4.7**	**5.6**	**6.2**	**7.1**	**8.6**	**8.9**	**8.1**
	LD/WH	7.5	7.5	6.9	6.3	6.8	6.4	7.9	10.8	11.7	11.2
	LS/OY	3.7	5.3	4.6	3.4	4.5	6.0	6.3	6.8	6.7	5.6
HSE-MW	**Total**	**9.4**	**9.6**	**11.5**	**12.8**	**12.9**	**10.9**	**8.4**	**7.3**	**7.2**	**7.2**
	Clare	8.2	8.0	8.5	12.1	14.6	10.8	6.5	5.3	6.4	7.7
	Limerick	na	na	na	12.8	13.2	12.9	11.1	10.0	8.9	7.7
	Tipp Nth/E Limerick	na	na	na	13.5	10.6	7.8	6.6	5.1	4.6	5.0
HSE-NE	**Total**	**8.8**	**8.1**	**7.0**	**5.6**	**5.2**	**6.5**	**6.3**	**5.3**	**5.9**	**6.4**
	Cavan/Monaghan	9.5	8.8	7.3	6.5	6.7	7.2	6.3	6.1	6.4	5.8
	Louth/Sth Monaghan	11.0	11.0	10.4	7.2	4.7	6.1	7.2	6.1	6.0	7.3
	Meath	6.5	5.4	4.2	3.8	4.5	6.4	5.7	4.2	5.5	6.1
HSE-NW	**Total**	**5.3**	**5.2**	**5.1**	**6.0**	**5.8**	**5.3**	**6.0**	**7.2**	**8.2**	**7.4**
	Donegal	3.6	3.8	4.2	5.1	4.4	4.1	5.3	6.1	6.6	6.7
	Sligo/Leitrim	7.9	7.3	6.3	7.2	8.0	7.1	7.1	8.9	10.7	8.5
HSE-SE	**Total**	**7.7**	**9.0**	**8.9**	**7.8**	**8.6**	**9.1**	**7.5**	**6.7**	**6.7**	**6.1**
	Carlow/Kilkenny	10.1	9.7	9.1	7.6	7.0	6.8	6.0	4.9	4.5	5.0
	Tipperary South	5.0	5.3	7.9	9.7	13.9	15.8	11.3	8.0	8.3	7.4
	Waterford	12.6	16.4	15.0	11.9	11.2	11.0	9.8	10.4	11.7	9.8
	Wexford	2.6	4.1	3.6	2.8	4.2	4.9	4.4	4.1	3.2	2.9
HSE-S	**Total**	**13.0**	**13.7**	**14.5**	**13.4**	**13.1**	**14.8**	**15.5**	**14.2**	**13.1**	**13.0**
	Kerry	8.1	10.0	11.2	9.6	7.3	6.4	6.6	6.6	5.7	5.7
	North Cork	13.9	12.6	12.3	10.5	8.4	7.7	8.0	9.5	13.6	16.5
	North Lee	19.7	20.3	19.6	18.4	21.5	24.3	22.4	19.4	16.5	15.7
	South Lee	11.2	13.9	15.8	13.4	12.7	18.5	23.0	19.4	16.7	17.3
	West Cork	8.4	4.4	3.8	6.6	7.9	5.1	3.7	7.3	7.6	3.5
HSE-W	**Total**	**9.1**	**8.1**	**7.8**	**9.4**	**10.0**	**9.2**	**9.1**	**7.6**	**5.4**	**5.3**
	Galway	6.7	6.4	8.9	10.0	10.3	10.7	8.8	6.6	6.5	7.4
	Mayo	7.9	8.4	8.2	8.5	7.3	5.9	5.0	3.5	3.3	5.0
	Roscommon	13.9	11.6	14.1	12.8	9.4	9.8	8.0	4.5	4.7	5.9
Ireland		**10.0**	**10.3**	**10.4**	**10.3**	**10.6**	**10.9**	**11.2**	**11.0**	**10.3**	**9.4**

[§§] In some areas, LHO does not always correspond to county

Geographic origin

Of the 413 patients diagnosed with TB in 2011, 214 (51.8%) were born in Ireland, 193 (46.7%) were born outside Ireland and for the remaining six cases (1.5%), the country of birth was unknown. The crude TB rate in the indigenous population was 5.7 per 100,000 population while the crude rate in the foreign-born population was 25.2 per 100,000 population.

Figure 7 shows TB cases and rate per 100,000 population by geographic origin, compared to the national rate from 1998 to 2011.

Table 11 shows the breakdown of TB cases by HSE area and geographic origin for 2011.

Cases born outside Ireland originated from at least 42 countries. Table 12 shows the breakdown of these cases by country of birth and corresponding continent. Of the 193 cases born outside Ireland, 47.7% were born in Asia, 30.6% in Africa, 20.2% in Europe and 1.6% in America.

Figure 8 shows age-specific rates by geographic origin during 2011. The majority (77.7%) of cases born outside Ireland were aged between 15 and 44 years compared to 34.6% of Irish cases in this age range. The median age among foreign-born cases was 32 years (range: 9-87 years) compared to a median age of 48 years (range: 1-91 years) among Irish born cases.

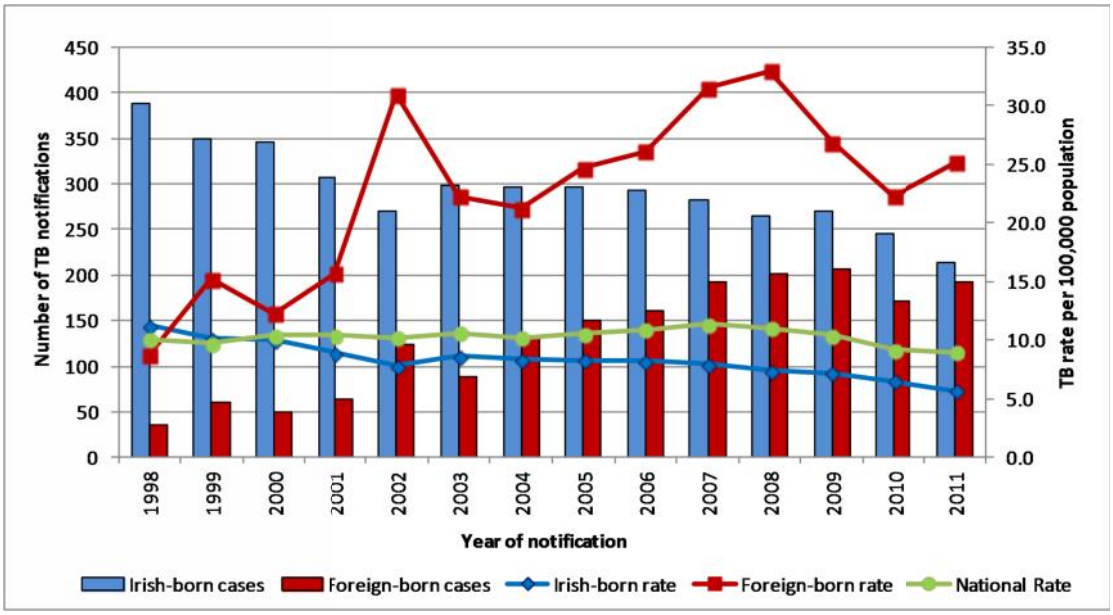

Figure 7: TB cases and rate per 100,000 by geographic origin, 1998-2011

Table 11: TB cases and rates per 100,000 population by HSE area and geographic origin, 2011

HSE Area	Irish-born			Foreign-born			Unknown	Total
	Cases	%	Rate	Cases	%	Rate		
HSE-E	90	*47.9*	***7.0***	94	*50.0*	***31.1***	4	**188**
HSE-M	6	*33.3*	***2.5***	12	*66.7*	***28.9***	0	**18**
HSE-MW	16	*66.7*	***5.0***	7	*29.2*	***13.2***	1	**24**
HSE-NE	13	*52.0*	***3.6***	12	*48.0*	***15.9***	0	**25**
HSE-NW	5	*38.5*	***2.5***	7	*53.8*	***13.7***	1	**13**
HSE-SE	15	*50.0*	***3.5***	15	*50.0*	***22.3***	0	**30**
HSE-S	58	*69.0*	***10.5***	26	*31.0*	***25.9***	0	**84**
HSE-W	11	*35.5*	***3.1***	20	*64.5*	***26.3***	0	**31**
Ireland	**214**	***51.8***	***5.7***	**193**	***46.7***	***25.2***	**6**	**413**

Table 12: Countries of origin of foreign-born patients with TB, 2011

Continent	Total	Country	Number of cases
Africa	**59**	Angola	1
		Congo	3
		Congo, the Democratic Republic of the	4
		Eritrea	1
		Ethiopia	2
		Kenya	2
		Liberia	1
		Mauritius	1
		Mozambique	1
		Nigeria	11
		Rwanda	3
		Somalia	7
		South Africa	11
		Sudan	3
		Tanzania, United Republic of	1
		Zimbabwe	7
America	**3**	Brazil	2
		United States	1
Asia	**92**	Afghanistan	1
		Bangladesh	2
		China	4
		Hong Kong	1
		India	32
		Indonesia	1
		Korea, Republic of	1
		Malaysia	1
		Myanmar	1
		Nepal	3
		Pakistan	24
		Philippines	14
		Thailand	1
		Viet Nam	6
Europe	**39**	Latvia	6
		Lithuania	4
		Malta	1
		Moldova, Republic of	1
		Poland	5
		Portugal	1
		Romania	6
		Spain	2
		Ukraine	1
		United Kingdom	12
Total			**193**

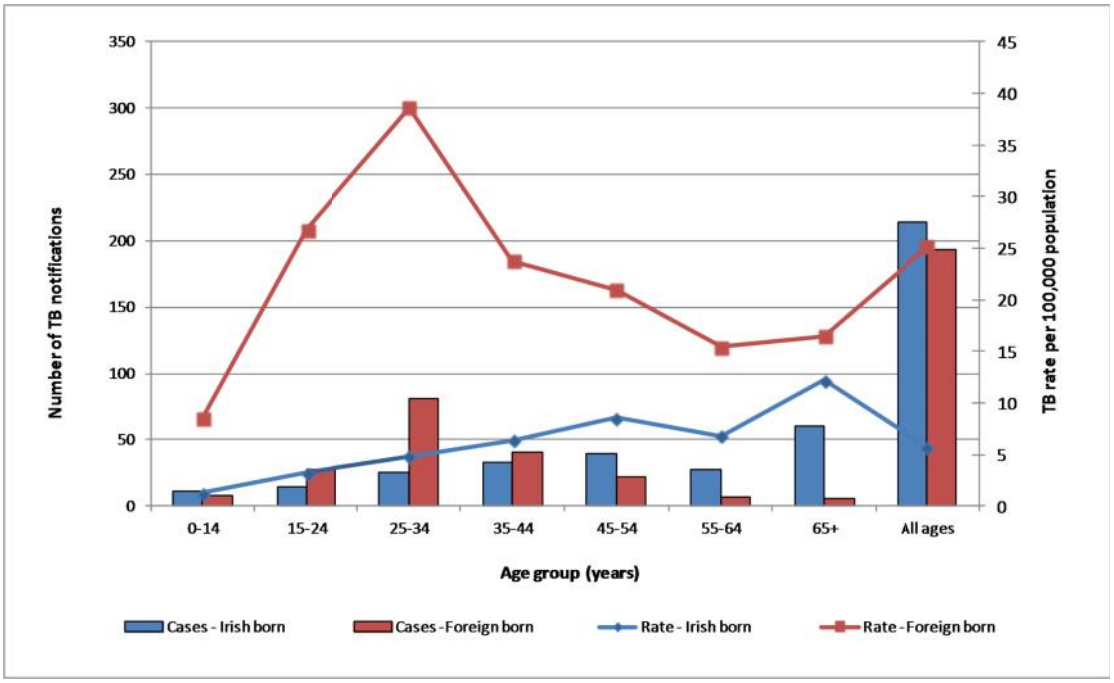

Figure 8: TB cases by age group (years) and age-specific rates by geographic origin, 2011

Site of disease

Of the 413 cases notified in 2011, 257 (62.5%) were pulmonary, 122 (29.7%) were extrapulmonary and 32 (7.8%) were pulmonary and extrapulmonary. Site of infection was not specified for the remaining two cases. TB cases by site of disease and HSE area are shown in table 13.

Table 13: TB cases by site of disease and HSE area, 2011

HSE area	Pulmonary only		Extrapulmonary only		Pulmonary + Extrapulmonary		Site unknown	Total
	Cases	% of total	Cases	% of total	Cases	% of total		
HSE-E	125	*66.8*	51	*27.3*	11	*5.9*	1	**188**
HSE-M	10	*55.6*	8	*44.4*	0	*0.0*	0	**18**
HSE-MW	17	*70.8*	6	*25.0*	1	*4.2*	0	**24**
HSE-NE	14	*56.0*	11	*44.0*	0	*0.0*	0	**25**
HSE-NW	9	*69.2*	3	*23.1*	1	*7.7*	0	**13**
HSE-SE	19	*63.3*	6	*20.0*	5	*16.7*	0	**30**
HSE-S	48	*57.1*	25	*29.8*	11	*13.1*	0	**84**
HSE-W	15	*50.0*	12	*40.0*	3	*10.0*	1	**31**
Total	**257**	***62.5***	**122**	***29.7***	**32**	***7.8***	**2**	**413**

Pulmonary TB cases

The WHO defines pulmonary TB, for the purpose of analysis, as any case that has a pulmonary disease component. There were 289 cases reported in 2011 with a pulmonary disease component (70.0% of all cases reported). Sputum smear and culture results for these cases are shown in table 14. Sputum microscopy results were available for 188 (65.1%) of the 289 cases. This remains stable compared to 2010 (64.4%) but remains low compared to previous years (range 71.3-83.7%).

Of the 289 pulmonary cases, 120 (41.5%) were sputum positive for AFB by microscopy and 214 (74.0%) were culture positive. This compares to 41.1% positive for AFB by microscopy and 76.3% culture positive in 2010. The proportion of pulmonary cases (with or without an extrapulmonary site) was higher in persons born in Ireland (77.6%) compared to those born abroad (61.1%).

Table 14: Sputum smear and culture status for pulmonary TB cases, 2011

Culture result	Sputum smear positive	Sputum smear negative	Sputum smear not done	Sputum smear unknown	Total
Culture positive	109	51	39	15	**214**
Culture negative	1	8	15	1	**25**
Culture not done	0	0	5	0	**5**
Culture not known	10	9	8	18	**45**
Total	**120**	**68**	**67**	**34**	**289**

Extra-pulmonary TB cases

One hundred and twenty-two cases (29.5%) had exclusively extrapulmonary TB of whom 59 (48.4%) were culture confirmed and 34 (27.9%) were histology positive.

One hundred and fifty-four (37.3%) of all cases reported in 2011 had an extrapulmonary disease component. The extrapulmonary sites reported are shown in table 15. The most frequent sites of extrapulmonary disease reported were extra-thoracic lymph nodes (27.9%) and pleura (24.7%). There were two cases (1.3% of extrapulmonary cases) of TB meningitis in 2011.

Table 15: Extrapulmonary disease sites in notified cases, 2011[***]

Site of disease	Number of cases	Percentage
Lymphatic extrathoracic	43	*27.9*
Pleural	38	*24.7*
Other	25	*16.2*
Lymphatic intrathoracic	13	*8.4*
Spine	7	*4.5*
Peritoneal/digestive	6	*3.9*
Unknown	6	*3.9*
Bone/joint other than spine	5	*3.2*
Disseminated	4	*2.6*
Genito-urinary	4	*2.6*
Meningeal	2	*1.3*
Extrapulmonary site not specified	1	*0.6*
Total	**154**	*100.0*

TB meningitis

There were two cases of TB meningitis reported in 2011 giving an incidence rate of 0.04 per 100,000 population (0.4 per million population). A profile of these cases is provided in table 16. Both TB meningitis cases were exclusively extrapulmonary and one was reported as culture confirmed. Both cases were in adults for whom BCG status was not reported.

[***] Includes extrapulmonary (E) and pulmonary plus extrapulmonary cases (P + E)

Table 16: TB meningitis cases in Ireland, 2011

HSE area	Age group (years)	History of BCG	Culture status
NEHB	65+	Not specified	Positive
SEHB	35-44	Not specified	Negative

Between 1998 and 2011, a total of 88 cases of TB meningitis have been reported (figure 9). The cumulative incidence rates of TB meningitis in each HSE area and in Ireland for 1998-2011 are shown in table 17. The highest cumulative rate of TB meningitis between 1998 and 2011 is in HSE South (3.7 per 100,000).

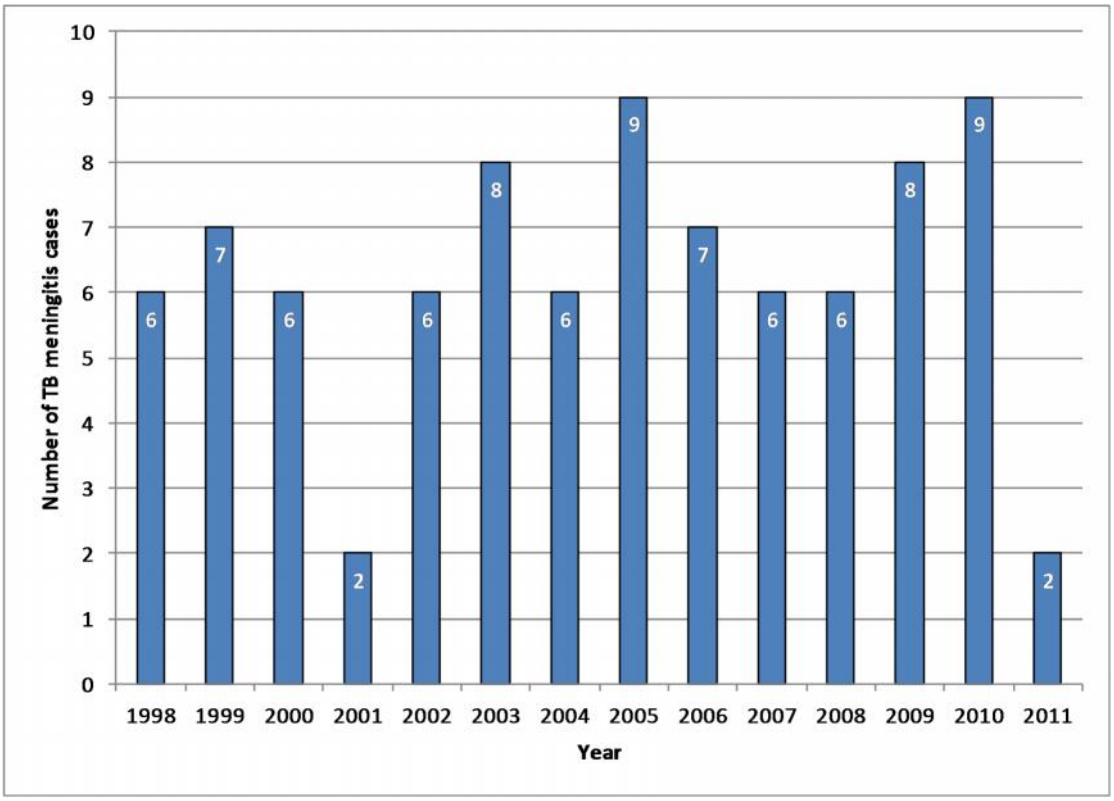

Figure 9: Number of TB meningitis cases, 1998-2011

Table 17: Cumulative incidence rate of TB meningitis in Ireland, 1998-2011

HSE area	Cases 1998 to 2011	Cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)[†††]	95% CI
HSE-E	30	2.0	1.3 - 2.7
HSE-M	0	0.0	0 - 0
HSE-MW	8	2.2	0.7 - 3.8
HSE-NE	11	2.8	1.1 - 4.4
HSE-NW	4	1.7	0 - 3.3
HSE-SE	7	1.5	0.4 - 2.6
HSE-S	23	3.7	2.2 - 5.2
HSE-W	5	1.2	0.1 - 2.3
Ireland	**88**	**2.1**	**1.6 - 2.5**

The highest cumulative age specific rates of TB meningitis between 1998 and 2011 were reported in the 25-34 year age group (3.3/100,000) followed by those aged 65 years and older (2.8/100,000) while the lowest rates were reported in the 45-54 year age group (0.6/100,000) and the 5-9 year age group (1.0/100,000). Figure 10 shows the number of TB meningitis cases by age group and cumulative age specific rate between 1998 and 2011.

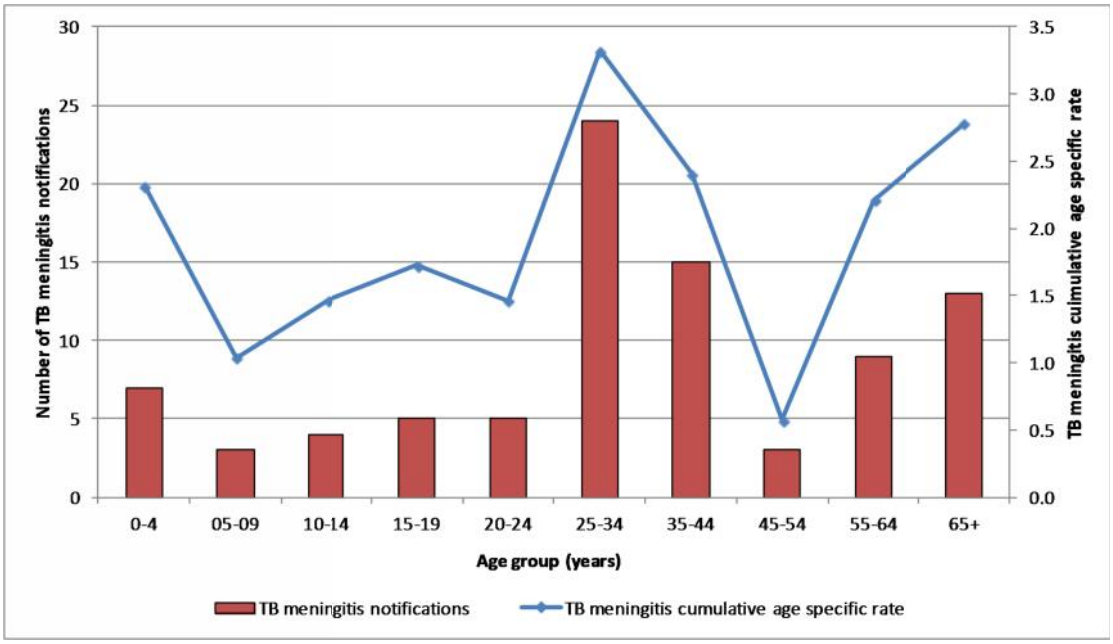

Figure 10: Cumulative number of TB meningitis notifications by age group and cumulative age specific rate, 1998-2011

[†††] *Note: Calculations based on 2006 census figures*

Bacteriological results

Of the 413 cases notified in 2011, 314 (76.0%) were laboratory confirmed by culture, microscopy or histology.

Of the 289 cases with a pulmonary component, 236 (81.7%) were laboratory confirmed (by culture, microscopy or histology) and of the 122 cases with exclusively extrapulmonary disease, 78 (63.9%) were laboratory confirmed (by culture, microscopy or histology).

Culture

In 2011, 274 (66.3%) of all TB cases notified were culture positive. This remains stable in comparison to the percentage reported in 2010 (66.9%). Table 18 shows a breakdown by culture status and HSE area of TB cases notified in 2011 while figure 11 shows the number of TB notifications and percentage culture positive by year, 2002 to 2011.

Of the 289 cases with a pulmonary component, 214 (74.0%) were culture confirmed, a slight decrease from 76.3 % reported in 2010. For new[‡‡‡] cases with a pulmonary component, 154 (78.2%) were culture confirmed, which remains stable in comparison to 77.4% reported in 2010.

Of the 122 cases with exclusive extrapulmonary disease, 59 (48.4%) were culture confirmed, which remains stable in comparison to 50.0% reported in 2010.

Table 18: Culture status of TB cases by HSE area, 2011

HSE area	Positive	Negative	Not done	Unknown	Total
HSE-E	126	6	3	53	**188**
HSE-M	13	4	1	0	**18**
HSE-MW	15	9	0	0	**24**
HSE-NE	18	3	0	4	**25**
HSE-NW	12	0	1	0	**13**
HSE-SE	24	2	4	0	**30**
HSE-S	48	17	0	19	**84**
HSE-W	18	6	2	5	**31**
Ireland	**274**	**47**	**11**	**81**	**413**

[‡‡‡] "New" cases are defined as cases where previous history of TB was reported as "No"

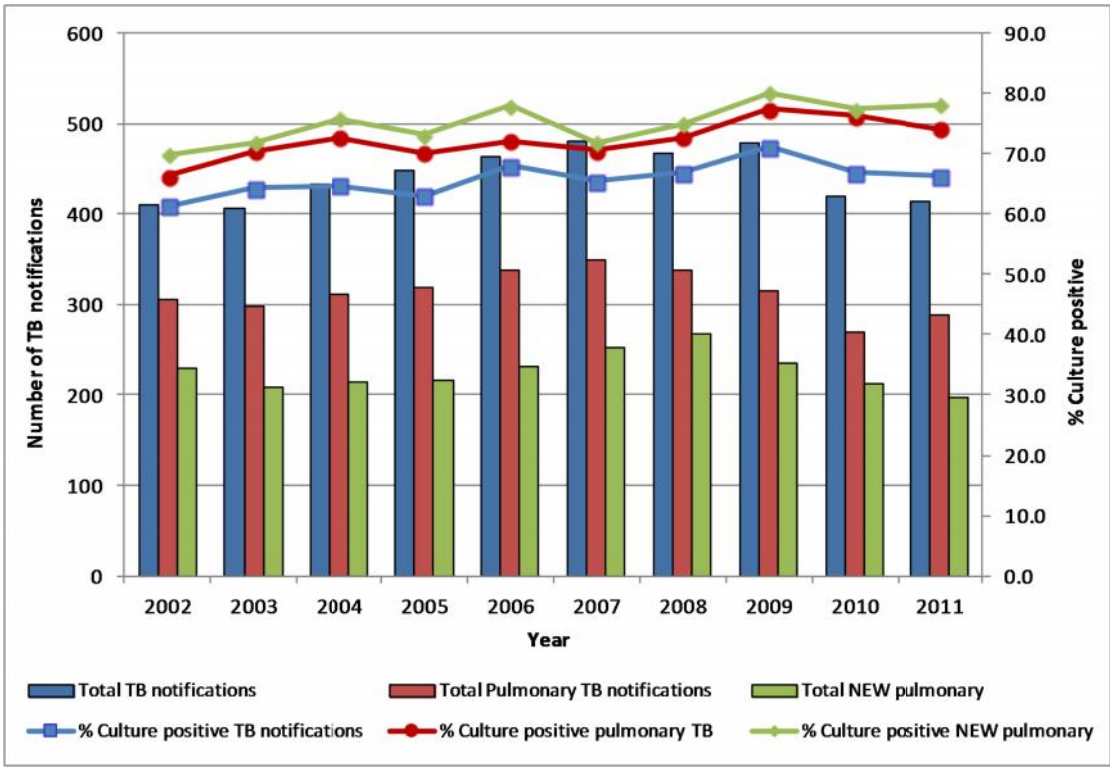

Figure 11: Number of TB notifications and percentage culture positive by year, 2002-2011

Species

Information on species was reported for 260 (94.9%) of the 274 culture confirmed cases. Of the cases where species was reported, 254 (92.7%) were *M. tuberculosis* and six (2.3%) were *M. bovis.* The remaining 14 culture positive isolates (5.1%) were reported as *M. tuberculosis* complex.

Of the six *M. bovis* cases notified during 2011, none had a previous history of TB reported and four were born in Ireland. Three cases reported having one or more risk factors for TB, including contact with a case of TB, high endemicity country of birth and previous residence in a high endemicity country. One case reported occupation as a possible risk factor. Four cases reported receiving BCG vaccination. Cases were aged between 30-63 years. One case had mono-resistance to isoniazid.

Table 19 shows the number and percentage of culture positive TB cases by species and year.

Table 19: Number and percentage of culture positive TB notifications by species 2002-2011

Year	*M. africanum*		*M. bovis*		*M. tuberculosis*		*M. tuberculosis* complex		Species unknown	
	N	%	N	%	N	%			N	%
2002	0	*0.0*	7	*2.8*	234	*93.2*			10	*4.0*
2003	1	*0.4*	3	*1.1*	250	*95.8*			7	*2.7*
2004	0	*0.0*	5	*1.8*	269	*96.1*			6	*2.1*
2005	1	*0.4*	4	*1.4*	274	*97.2*			3	*1.1*
2006	1	*0.3*	5	*1.6*	307	*97.5*			2	*0.6*
2007	2	*0.6*	6	*1.9*	305	*96.8*			2	*0.6*
2008	0	*0.0*	12	*3.8*	295	*94.6*			5	*1.6*
2009	1	*0.3*	8	*2.3*	328	*96.2*			4	*1.2*
2010	3	*1.1*	12	*4.3*	265	*94.3*			1	*0.4*
2011	0	*0.0*	6	*2.2*	254	*92.7*	14	5.1	0	*0.0*
Total	**9**	***0.3***	**68**	***2.3***	**2781**	***95.5***	**14**	**0.5**	**40**	***1.4***

Anti-TB drug resistance[§§§]

Information on the results of drug sensitivity testing (DST) was reported for 250 (91.2%) of the 274 culture confirmed cases, a decrease compared to the proportion reported in 2010 (97.9%). The proportion of culture confirmed cases with DST results reported was 92.5% for new pulmonary cases and 93.5% for cases with a previous history of TB. Table 20 shows the percentage of culture positive TB notifications with DST results available by previous history of TB and year.

Table 20: Percentage of culture positive TB notifications with DST results available by previous history of TB and year 2002-2011

Year	% Culture pos with DST results – Total notifications	% Culture pos with DST results - New pulmonary	% Culture pos with DST results - Previous history of TB reported	% Culture pos with DST results - Previous TB treatment reported
2002	93.6	95.6	89.5	90.9
2003	96.6	97.3	96.2	100.0
2004	93.9	96.3	83.3	90.0
2005	96.5	97.5	100.0	100.0
2006	93.7	96.7	85.7	92.3
2007	93.7	92.8	100.0	100.0
2008	95.2	97.0	95.5	83.3
2009	94.7	94.7	90.9	91.3
2010	97.9	98.8	100.0	100.0
2011	91.2	94.2	93.3	87.5
Mean	**94.7**	**96.1**	**93.4**	**93.5**

[§§§] Resistance to pyrazinamide has not been reported in *M. bovis* cases as *M. bovis* is innately resistant to pyrazinamide.

Of the 250 cases where sensitivity results were reported, resistance was documented in 25 cases (10.0%; 5.8% of total cases), including three cases of MDR-TB (1.2%; 0.7% of total cases). Mono-resistance to isoniazid was recorded in nine cases, pyrazinamide in one case, and to streptomycin in six cases. Five cases were resistant to isoniazid and streptomycin and one was resistant to isoniazid and ethambutol. Details of resistant cases are summarised in table 21.

Of the 25 drug resistant cases 19 (76.0%), including all three MDR-TB cases, were foreign born (figure 12). Sixteen of the 25 drug resistant cases had no previously recorded history of TB, three had a previously documented history of TB while previous TB history was unknown for the remaining six drug resistant cases (figure 13). There were no XDR-TB cases reported in Ireland during 2011.

A summary of drug resistance in 2011 is shown in table 21 and the drug sensitivity results of the MDR-TB cases are shown in table 22 while figure 14 shows the number of MDR-TB notifications, rate per 100,000 population and 3 year moving average by year.

Table 21: Summary of drug resistant TB cases in Ireland, 2011

DST results	Number of cases	% of culture confirmed cases
Cases with DST results	250	91.2
Resistant cases	25	9.1
MDR-TB	3	1.1
Mono-resistance to Isoniazid	9	3.3
Mono-resistance to Rifampicin	0	0.0
Mono-resistance to Pyrazinamide	1	0.4
Mono-resistance to Ethambutol	0	0.0
Mono-resistance to Streptomycin	6	2.2
Cases resistant to isoniazid and streptomycin	5	1.8
Cases resistant to isoniazid and ethambutol	1	0.4

Table 22: Sensitivity results of MDR-TB cases, 2011

Diagnosis	Isolate	Isoniazid	Rifampicin	Pyrazinamide	Ethambutol	Streptomycin
Pulmonary	M.TB	R	R	S	R	R
Pulmonary	M.TB	R	R	R	R	R
Pulmonary	M.TB	R	R	S	R	R

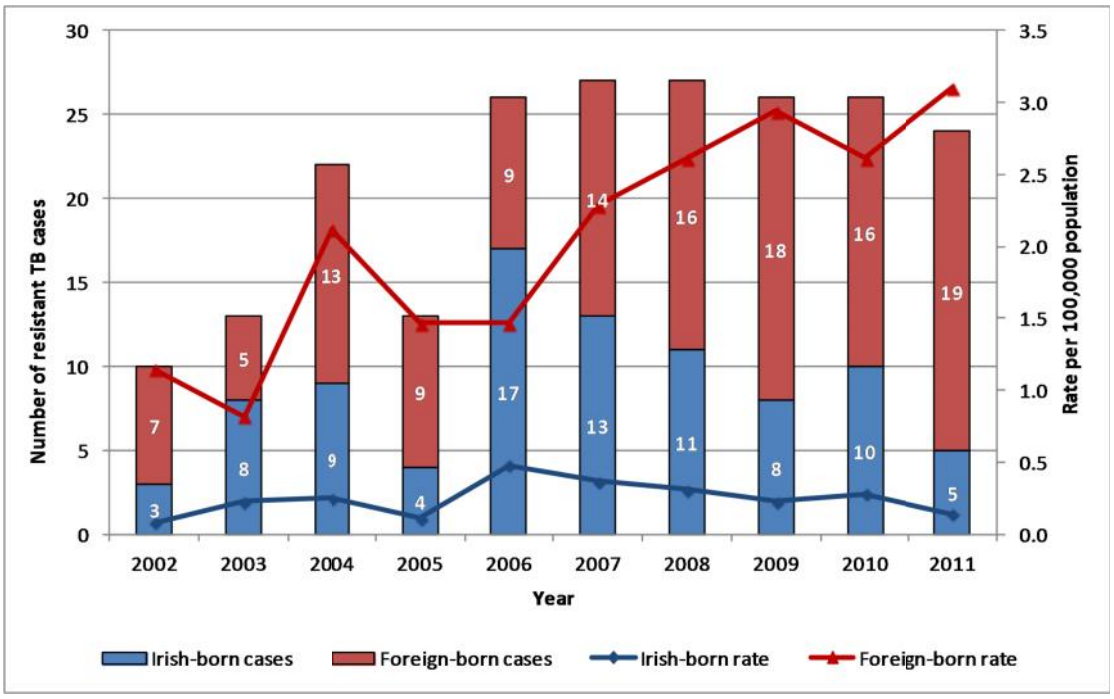

Figure 12: Number and rate of TB notifications with resistance to any first line anti-TB drug by geographic origin and year 2002-2011[****]

[****] Country of birth not reported for one resistant case in 2011

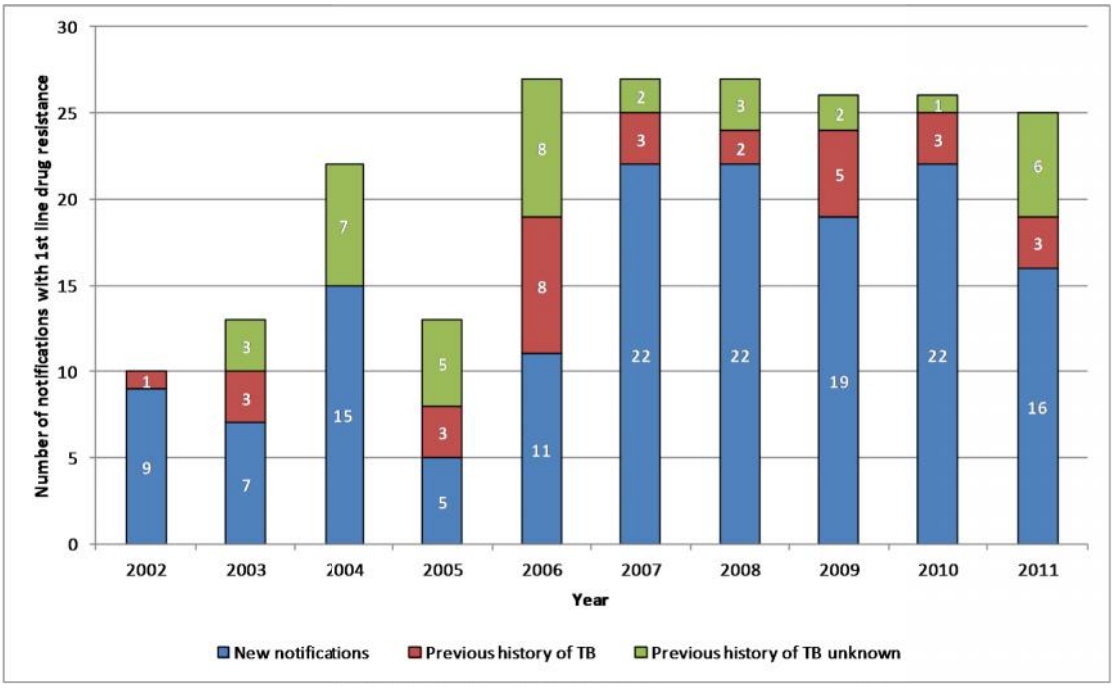

Figure 13: Number of TB notifications with resistance to any first line anti-TB drug by previous history of TB and year 2002-2011

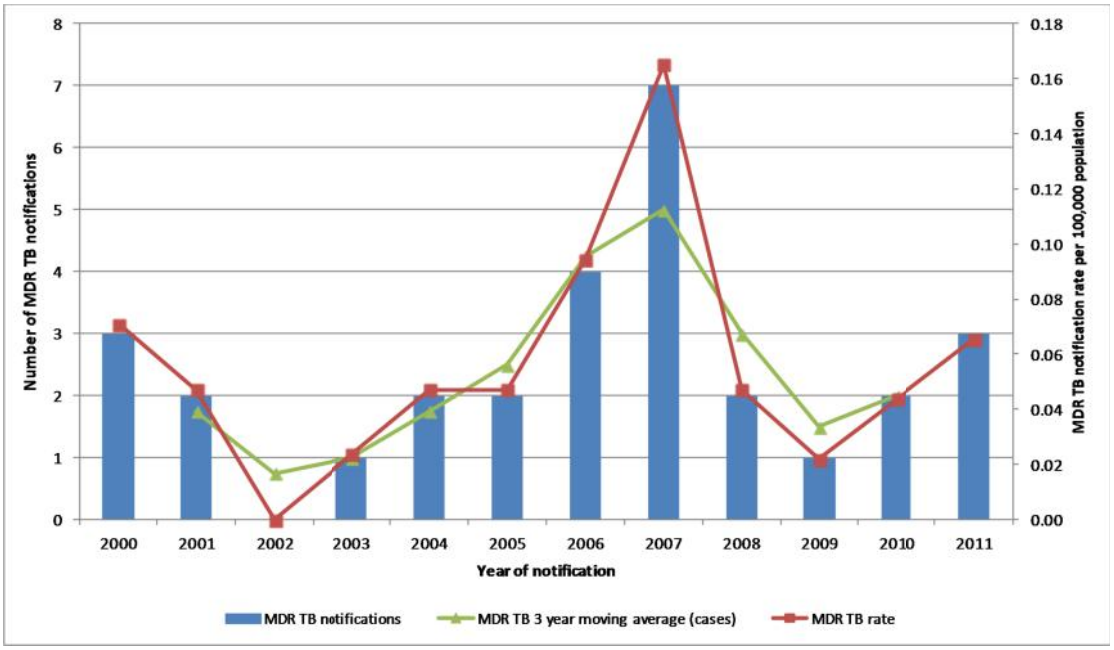

Figure 14: Number of MDR notifications, rate per 100,000 population and 3 year moving average by year 2000-2011

Case classification

Using the case definitions (described in the Methods section), TB cases notified in 2011 can be classified into confirmed, probable and possible cases as outlined in Table 23. Of the 413 cases notified, 275 (66.6%) were confirmed, 39 (9.4%) were probable and 99 (24.0%) were possible cases.

Table 23: Case classification of TB cases by site of disease, 2011

Site of disease	Confirmed		Probable		Possible		Total
	Cases	%	Cases	%	Cases	%	
Pulmonary	193	75.1	18	7.0	46	17.9	**257**
Pulmonary + Extrapulmonary	22	68.8	2	6.3	8	25.0	**32**
Extrapulmonary	59	48.4	19	15.6	44	36.1	**122**
Site unknown	1	50.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	**2**
Total	**275**	**66.6**	**39**	**9.4**	**99**	**24.0**	**413**

Treatment outcome

Outcome was recorded for 309 (74.8%) of the 413 cases notified in 2011, a decrease compared to 88.1% in 2010 (figure 15). Of the 309 cases, 244 completed treatment, 28 died, 22 were recorded as being lost to follow up, two cases were transferred, treatment was interrupted in seven cases and six cases were still on treatment at the time of reporting. Of the 28 deaths reported, nine (2.2% of total cases) were attributed to TB.

Outcome was reported for 90 (75.0%) of the 120 smear positive cases. Of the 90, 67 completed treatment, nine died, seven were lost to follow up, two cases were transferred and treatment was interrupted in two cases while three cases were still on treatment at the time of reporting. Of the nine deaths among smear positive cases, five were attributed to TB.

Details on treatment outcome for all cases and for smear positive cases only are shown in table 24 while treatment outcome by HSE area is shown in table 25.

Of the 24 drug-resistant cases, 9 (37.5%) completed treatment, three were recorded as being lost to follow up, two cases died, treatment was interrupted in one case and three cases were still on treatment at the time of reporting. Treatment outcome was not reported for the remaining six resistant cases

Both MDR-TB cases reported in 2010 completed treatment giving a 100% completion rate. Treatment outcomes for the MDR-TB cases reported during 2011 are not yet available.

Figure 16 shows TB notifications by treatment success and year while figure 17 shows the number of MDR-TB notifications by treatment outcome and percentage treatment success by year.

Table 24: Treatment outcome for all cases and smear positive cases, 2011

Treatment outcome	Total		Smear Positive	
	Number	%	Number	%
Completed - cured	216	52.3	64	53.3
Completed - failed	1	0.2	0	0.0
Completed - status unknown	27	6.5	3	2.5
Died (attributed to TB)	9	2.2	5	4.2
Died (cause unknown)	9	2.2	0	0.0
Died (not attributed to TB)	10	2.4	4	3.3
Lost to follow up	22	5.3	7	5.8
Still on treatment	6	1.5	3	2.5
Transferred	2	0.5	2	1.7
Treatment interrupted	7	1.7	2	1.7
Unknown	104	25.2	30	25.0
Total	**413**	**100.0**	**120**	**100.0**

Table 25: Treatment outcome by HSE area, 2011

		Outcome known	Outcome unknown	Lost to follow up	Total
HSE E	**Number**	124	52	12	**188**
	%	*66.0*	*27.7*	*6.4*	*100.0*
HSE M	**Number**	17	1	0	**18**
	%	*94.4*	*5.6*	*0.0*	*100.0*
HSE MW	**Number**	21	0	3	**24**
	%	*87.5*	*0.0*	*12.5*	*100.0*
HSE NE	**Number**	0	24	1	**25**
	%	*0.0*	*96.0*	*4.0*	*100.0*
HSE NW	**Number**	11	0	2	**13**
	%	*84.6*	*0.0*	*15.4*	*100.0*
HSE SE	**Number**	30	0	0	**30**
	%	*100.0*	*0.0*	*0.0*	*100.0*
HSE S	**Number**	72	9	3	**84**
	%	*85.7*	*10.7*	*3.6*	*100.0*
HSE W	**Number**	12	18	1	**31**
	%	*38.7*	*58.1*	*3.2*	*100.0*
National	**Number**	**287**	**104**	**22**	**413**
	%	***69.5***	***25.2***	***5.3***	***100.0***

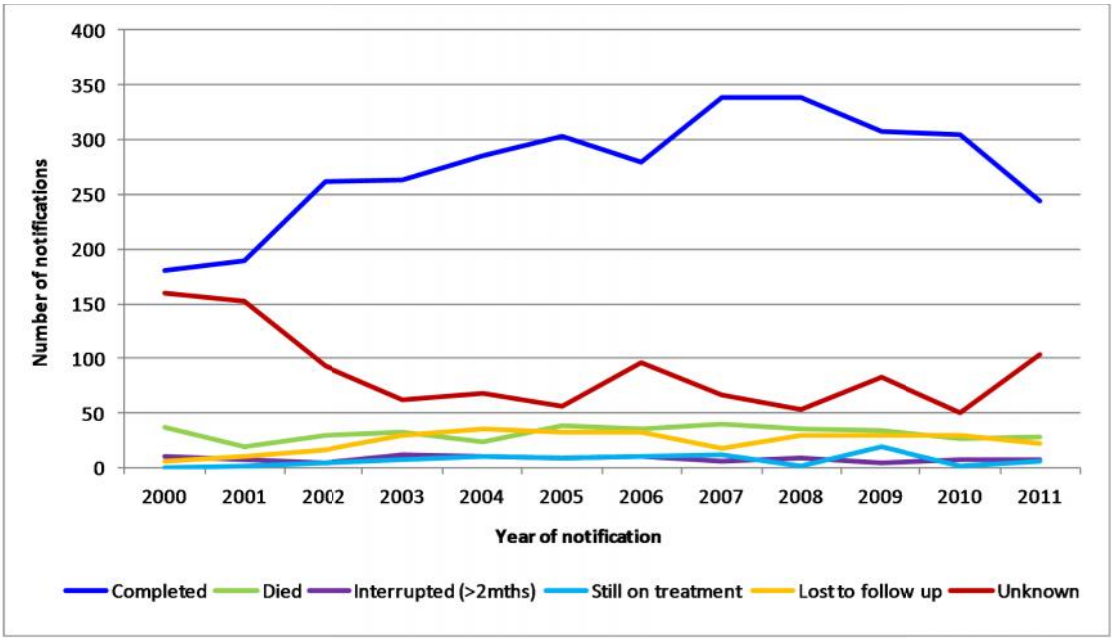

Figure 15: TB notifications by treatment outcome and year 2000-2011

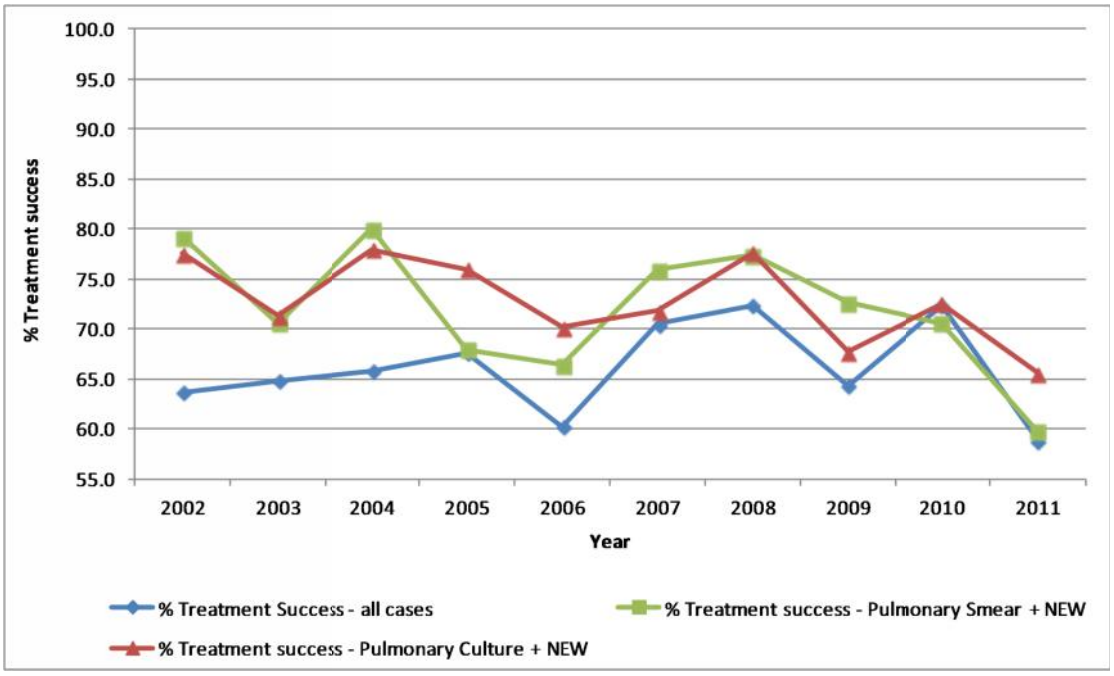

Figure 16: TB notifications by treatment success and year 2002-2011

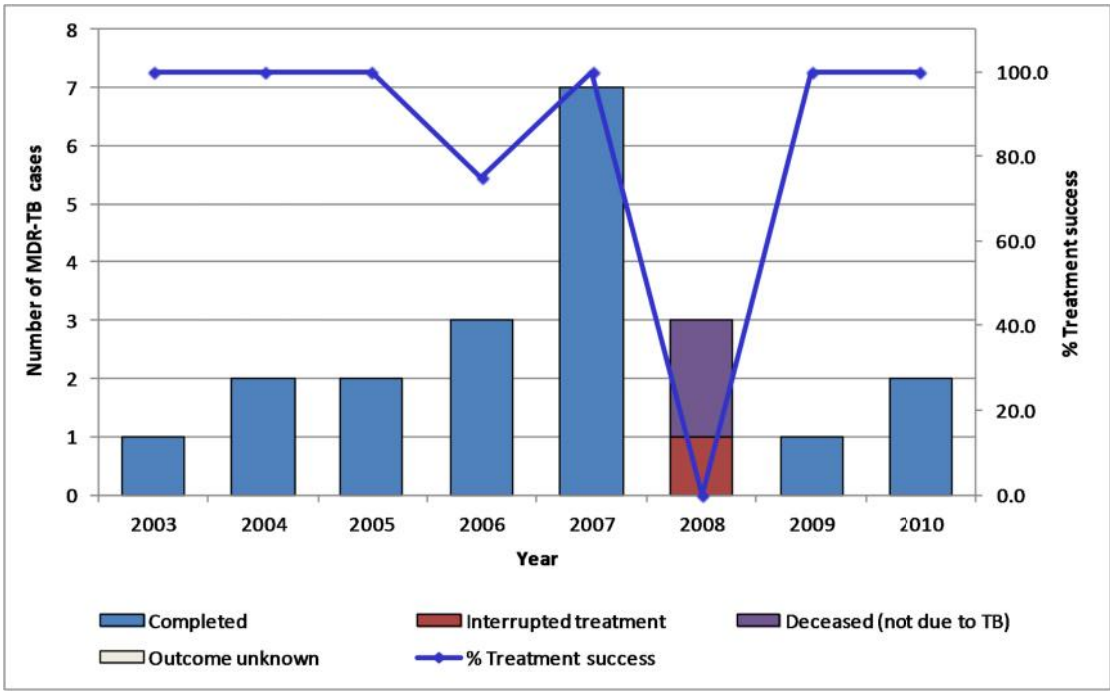

Figure 17: Number of MDR-TB notifications by treatment outcome and percentage treatment success by year, 2003-2010

Case ascertainment

Table 26 summarises the method by which cases notified in 2011 were found. The majority (79.7%) presented as a case with a further 10.2% found by contact tracing.

Table 26: Method of case finding, 2011

Case found by	Number of cases	Percentage
Presenting as case	329	79.7
Contact tracing	42	10.2
Post-mortem diagnosis	3	0.7
Immigrant screening	2	0.5
Other	12	2.9
Unknown	25	6.1
Total	**413**	**100.0**

Previous history of TB

Twenty-five (6.1%) of the 413 cases were reported to have a previous history of TB. The previous year of diagnosis was provided for 20 cases and ranged from 1936 to 2010 with 14 of the 25 cases (56.0%) reported to have had TB in the previous ten years.

Of the 25 cases with a previous history of TB, 12 reported having been treated for TB and four cases reported not being treated for TB (including two cases where previous year of diagnosis was prior to the introduction of TB medication) and previous treatment was unknown for the remaining nine cases.

Of the 12 cases who were previously treated for TB, six cases (50.0%) were reported as having completed treatment, one (8.3%) did not complete treatment and previous treatment outcome was not reported for the remaining five cases (41.7%).

Figure 18 shows the number of TB notifications by previous history of TB disease and year.

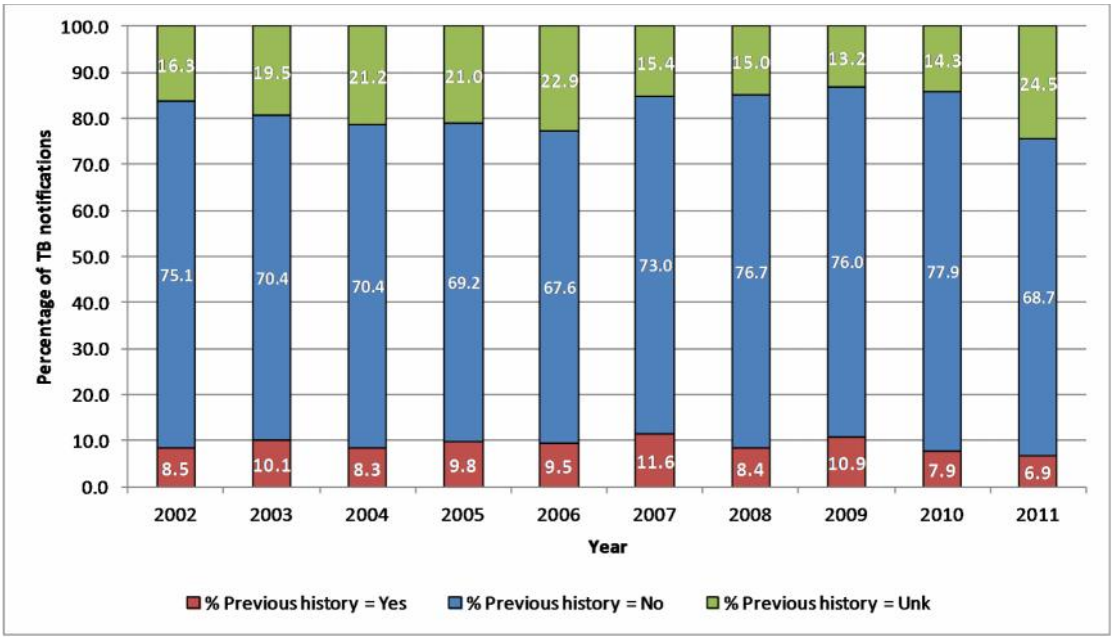

Figure 18: TB notifications by previous history of TB disease and year 2002-2011

TB Risk groups

During 2011, information on TB risk factors was reported for 359 (86.9%) cases which remains stable in comparison to the proportion reported in 2010 (86.0%). Of the 359 cases, 63 (17.5.3%) were reported as not having a risk factor for TB while 296 (82.5%) were reported as having one or more risk factor for TB.

The most commonly reported risk factors were being from a country of high TB endemicity (n=174, 58.8%), followed by contact with a case of TB (n=77, 26.0%), residence in an area of high endemicity (n=77, 26.0%) and co-morbidity with an immunosuppressive illness (n=31, 10.5%). Other risk factors reported included substance misuse (n=20, 6.8%), treatment with immunosuppressive medication (n=16, 5.4%), co-morbidity with diabetes (n=6, 2.0%) and treatment with anti-TNF medications (n=6, 2.0%). A further 57 (19.3%) cases reported other or unspecified TB risk factors. Other TB risk factors specified (n=37) included malignancies (n=7), previous history of TB (n=7), occupation (n=5), family history of TB (n=4), auto-immune diseases (n=3),history of latent TB (n=2), long term care facility residency (n=2), pregnancy (n=2), tobacco use (n=2), respiratory illness (n=1), traveller ethnicity (n=1) and refugee status (n=1).

Figure 19 shows the breakdown of TB cases with a reported risk factor by type of risk factor and year.

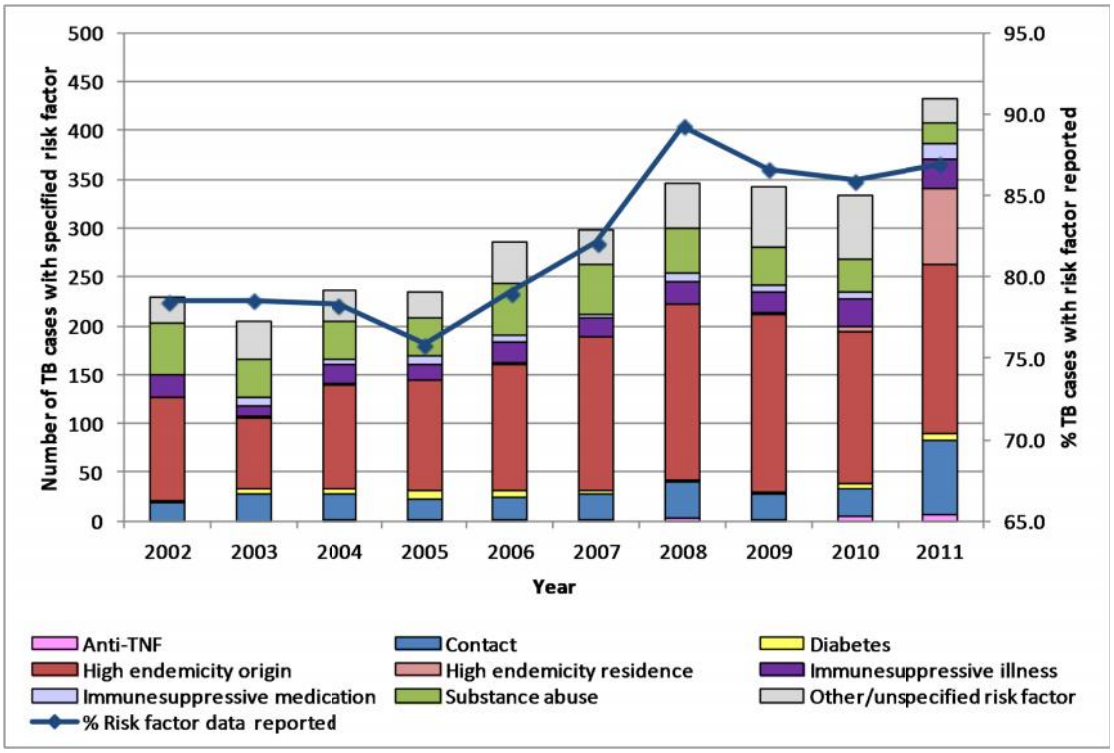

Figure 19: Number of TB notifications with a TB risk factor reported and percentage of TB cases with risk factor data reported, 2002-2011

HIV status

Twenty-one of the 413 cases (5.1%) notified in 2011 were reported as HIV positive while 116 (28.1%) were reported as HIV negative. Information on HIV status was not reported or was unknown for 276 (66.8%) of cases during 2011, a decrease from 76.7% of cases with HIV status unknown in 2010 (Figure 20).

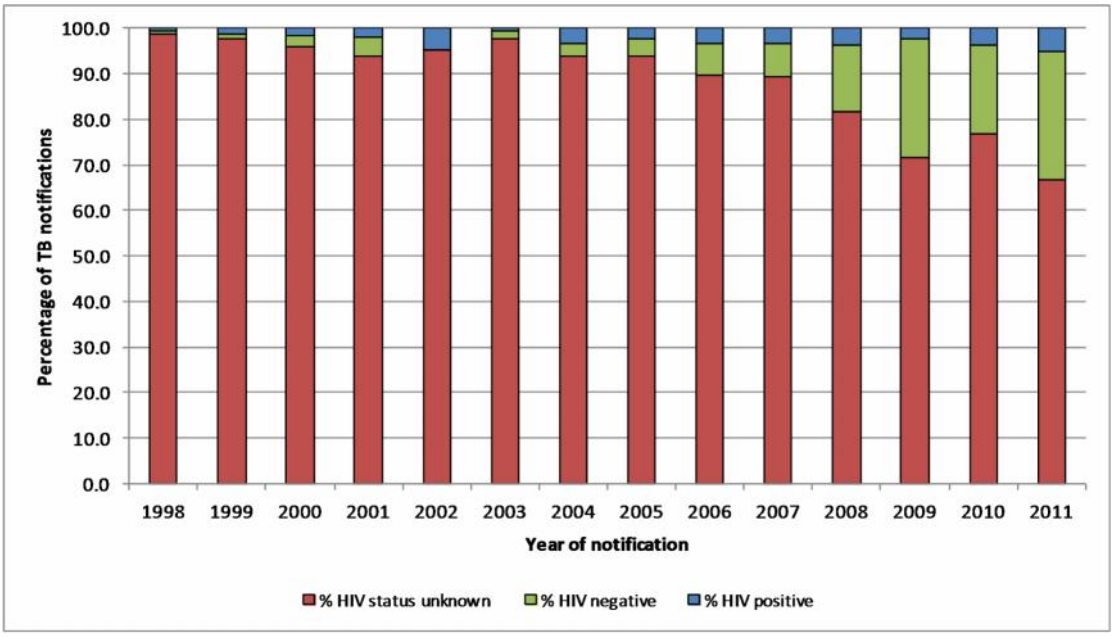

Figure 20: Percentage of TB notifications by HIV status and year, 1998-2011

Outbreaks:

The introduction of the amendment to the Infectious Disease Regulations 1981 on January 1st 2004, made outbreaks, unusual clusters or changing patterns of illness statutorily notifiable by medical practitioners and clinical directors of laboratories to the medical officer of health. Standard reporting procedures for surveillance of TB outbreaks were formally agreed in 2007.

During 2011, five outbreaks of TB were reported to HPSC, with 42 associated active cases of TB, 15 cases of latent TB infection (LTBI) and 13 hospitalisations (figure 21). Three outbreaks were reported by HSE-E, one by HSE-NE and one by HSE-S (figure 22).

There were three general outbreaks during 2011, one of which occurred in a school, one in a public house and one in a prison. There were also two family outbreaks, both of which occurred across extended families (figure 23).

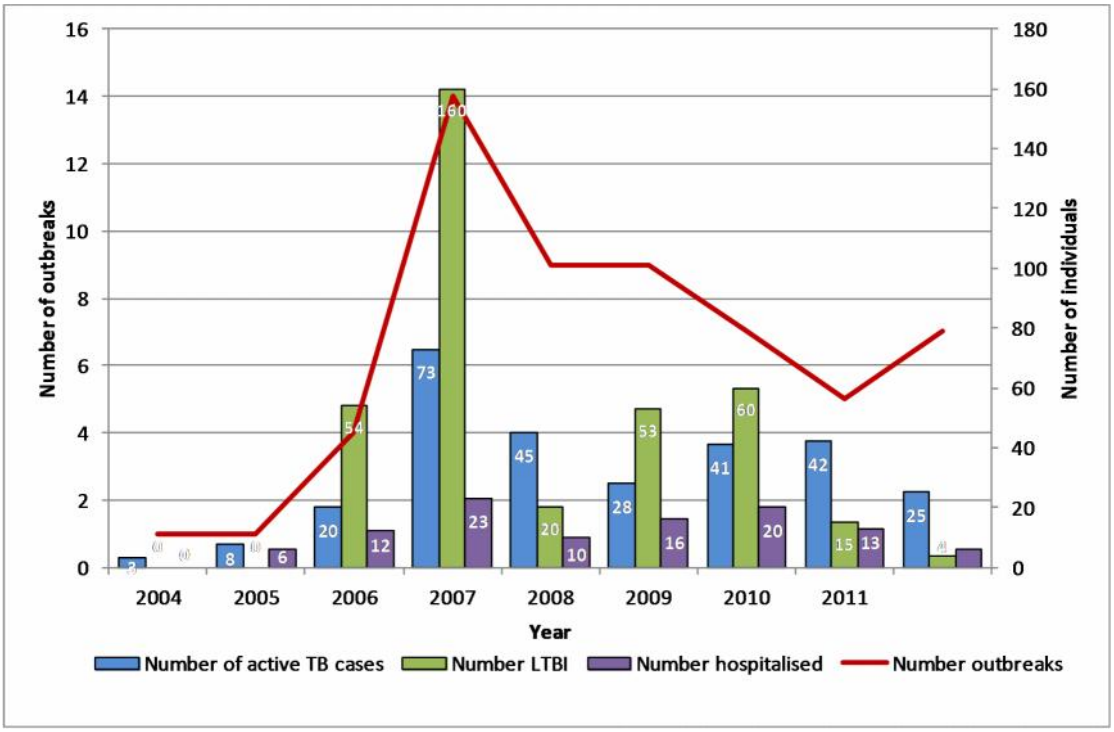

Figure 21: TB outbreak summary by year, 2004-2012

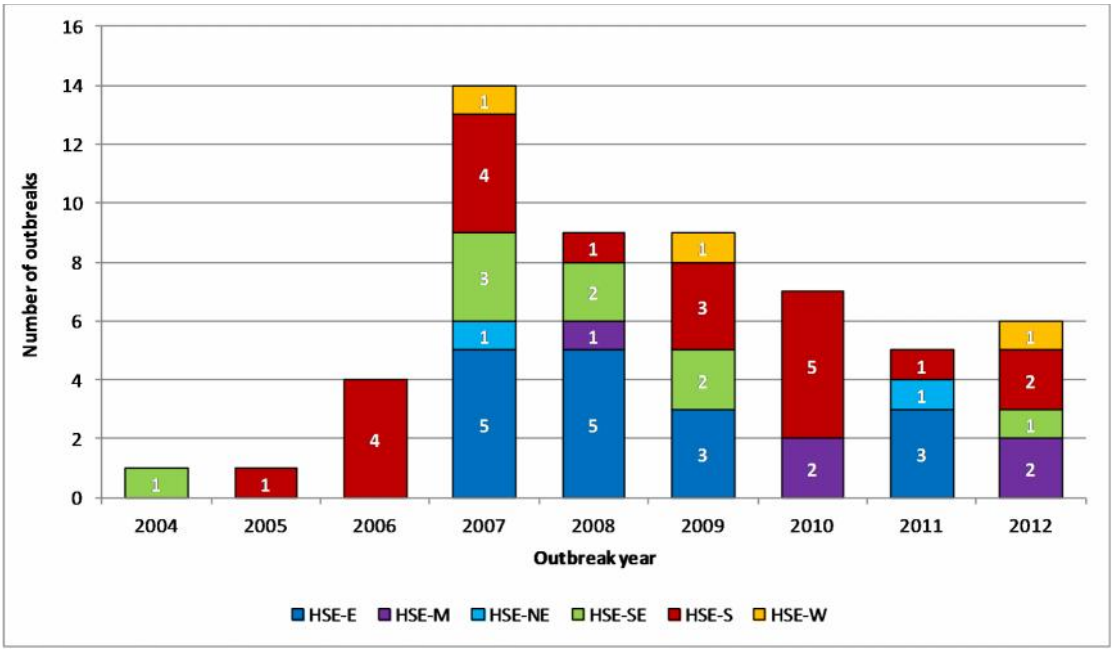

Figure 22: Number of TB outbreaks by HSE area and year, 2004-2012

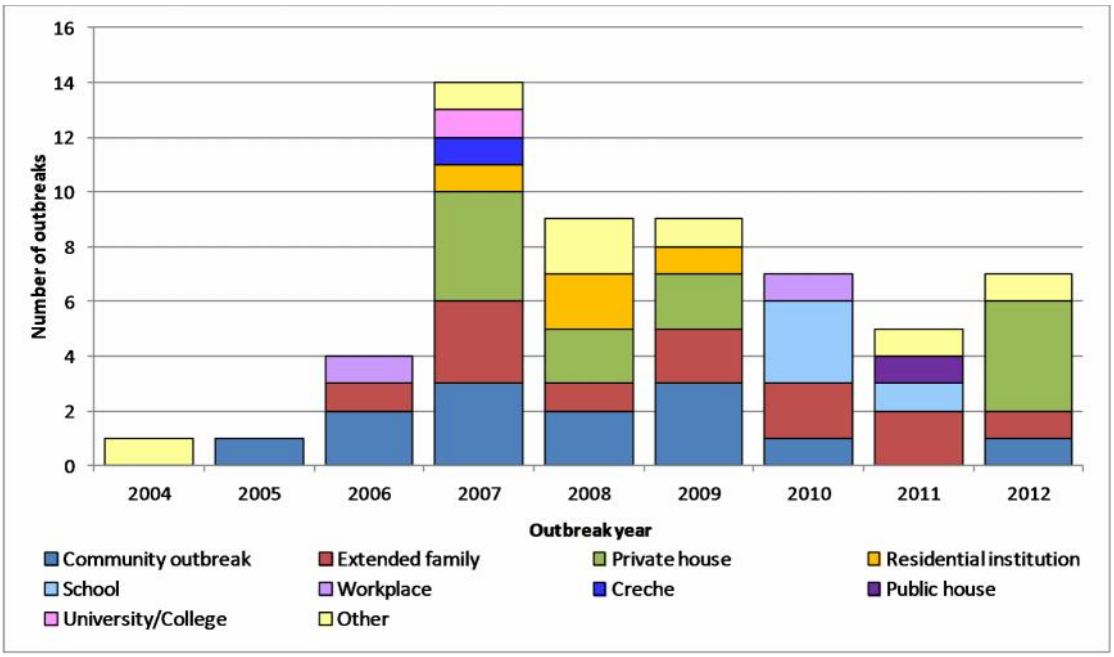

Figure 23: Number of TB outbreaks by location and year, 2004-2012

WHO and ECDC TB elimination target indicators

World Health Organization - Stop TB

The Stop TB partnership was established in 2000 as a global movement to work towards TB elimination. The Stop TB partnership aims to reduce the global incidence of TB to less than one case per million population by 2050, which will eliminate the disease as a global health problem.

In 2010 the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global Plan to Stop TB 2011-2015 with updated targets for TB control programmes.[9] Table 27 compares the surveillance related Stop TB targets for 2015 with the case based enhanced surveillance data reported on the Irish TB notifications in 2011.

Table 27: WHO Stop TB target summary

WHO Stop TB target summary	2011 Irish notifications (%)	2015 WHO Target (%)
Percentage of patients with DST results – new cases††††	65.8	100.0
Percentage of patients with DST results – previously treated cases‡‡‡‡	58.3	100.0
Treatment success rate – total notifications	59.1	90.0
Percentage of cases with a HIV test result	33.2	100.0

ECDC - Framework Action Plan to Fight TB in the EU

In November 2010, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) published a special report entitled *Progressing towards TB elimination a Follow-up to the Framework Action Plan to Fight TB in the EU*.[11] This report contains key operational and epidemiological monitoring targets to help EU member states work towards the goal of TB elimination.

Table 28 compares the surveillance related ECDC framework monitoring core operational indicator targets with the case based enhanced surveillance data reported on the Irish 2011 cohort.

†††† *Roadmap to prevent and combat drug resistant tuberculosis,*[10] Annex 2, Indicator 2.1.7. Denominator = all new cases, including culture negative, not done and unknown.

‡‡‡‡ *Roadmap to prevent and combat drug resistant tuberculosis,*[10] Annex 2, Indicator 2.1.8. Denominator = all previously treated cases, including culture negative, not done and unknown.

Table 28: ECDC Monitoring Framework Action Plan Target Operational Indicator summary

ECDC Monitoring Framework Action Plan target summary	2011 Irish notifications (%)	ECDC Target (%)
Percentage of new pulmonary cases culture confirmed	78.2	80.0
Percentage of new pulmonary culture confirmed cases with DST results	94.2	100.0
Treatment success rate – new pulmonary culture confirmed cases	65.6	85.0
Percentage of cases with a HIV test result	33.2	100.0

The ECDC document *Progressing towards TB elimination - a Follow-up to the Framework Action Plan to Fight TB in the EU* also contains four epidemiological monitoring indicators which are outlined below and compared to the current Irish TB data. These indicators assist in monitoring the levels of TB transmission taking place in a country and help to assess progress towards TB elimination.

1. Percentage annual change in TB crude notification rate

ECDC Target: A mean declining trend in the case notification rate over the previous five years allowing for annual random variation in a context where case finding remained constant or increased.

Current Irish status: Between 2008 and 2012, the mean annual percentage change in the TB crude notification rate in Ireland was -0.7%. Further analysis showed that the decline in the crude incidence rate between 2008 and 2012 is statistically significant.

2. Mean age of TB cases

ECDC Target: An increasing trend in the mean age of TB cases over the previous 10 years

Current Irish status: Between 2003 and 2012, the Irish mean annual percentage change in the mean age of total TB notifications was -0.2 (figure 24). Further analysis showed that the mean age in all cases remained relatively stable in this time period. However an increase in the mean age of foreign-born case was significant. Mean age in Irish-born cases remained relatively stable in this time period.

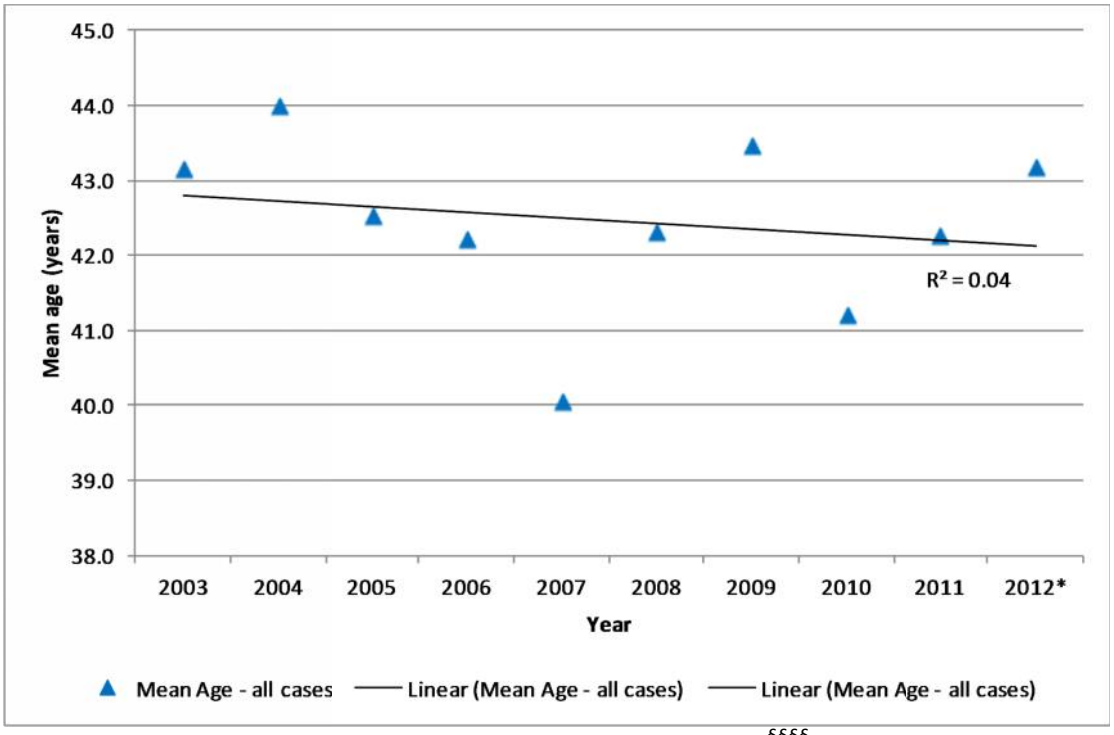

Figure 24: Mean age of TB notifications by year, 2003-2012[§§§§]

3. Trend in paediatric to adult TB notification rate ratio

ECDC Target: A mean declining trend in the ratio of the notification rate in children to adults over the previous ten years allowing for random variation.

Current Irish status: The mean annual percentage change in the paediatric to adult rate ratio for Irish TB cases between 2003 and 2012 was 15.7%. However, further analysis showed that this was not statistically significant (figure 25).

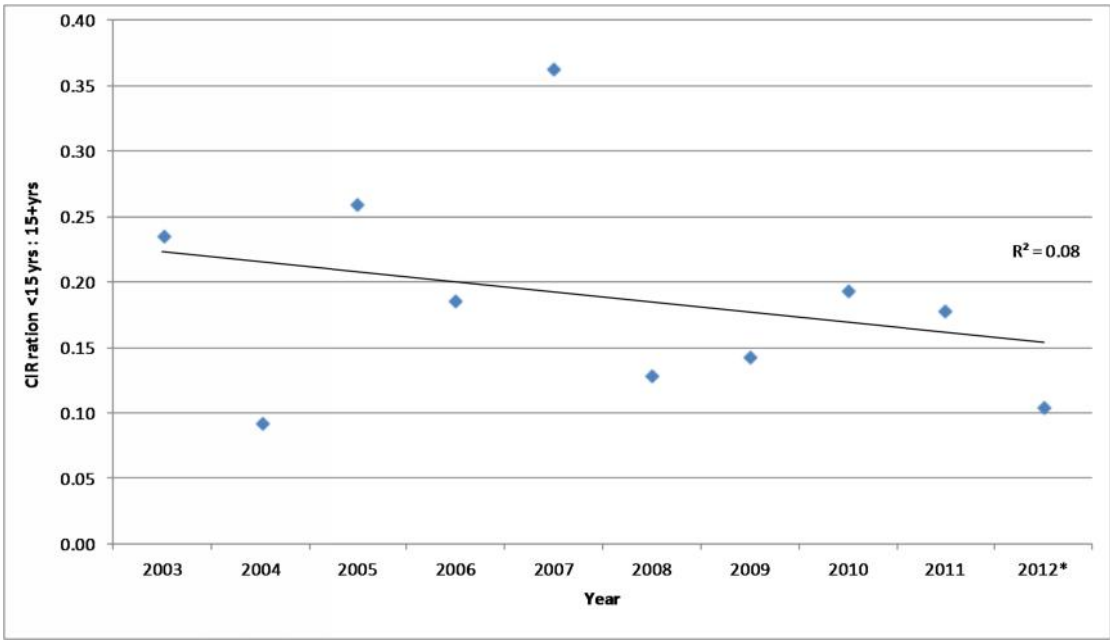

Figure 25: Ratio of paediatric to adult TB notification rates by year, 2003-2012[§§§§]

[§§§§] 2012 data are provisional

4. MDR-TB notification rate

ECDC Target: A mean declining trend in MDR TB case notification rate over the previous five years allowing for annual random variation in the context where MDR case-finding efforts remained constant or increased.

Current Irish status: Between 2008 and 2012, the mean annual percentage change in the Irish MDR-TB notification rate was 18.3% (figure 26). However, further analysis showed that this was not statistically significant. Provisional data for 2012 and 2013 indicate that numbers of MDR-TB cases have stabilised since 2008 to a low level with an average of 2.6 cases per annum. Due to the very small numbers involved, these data should be interpreted with caution.

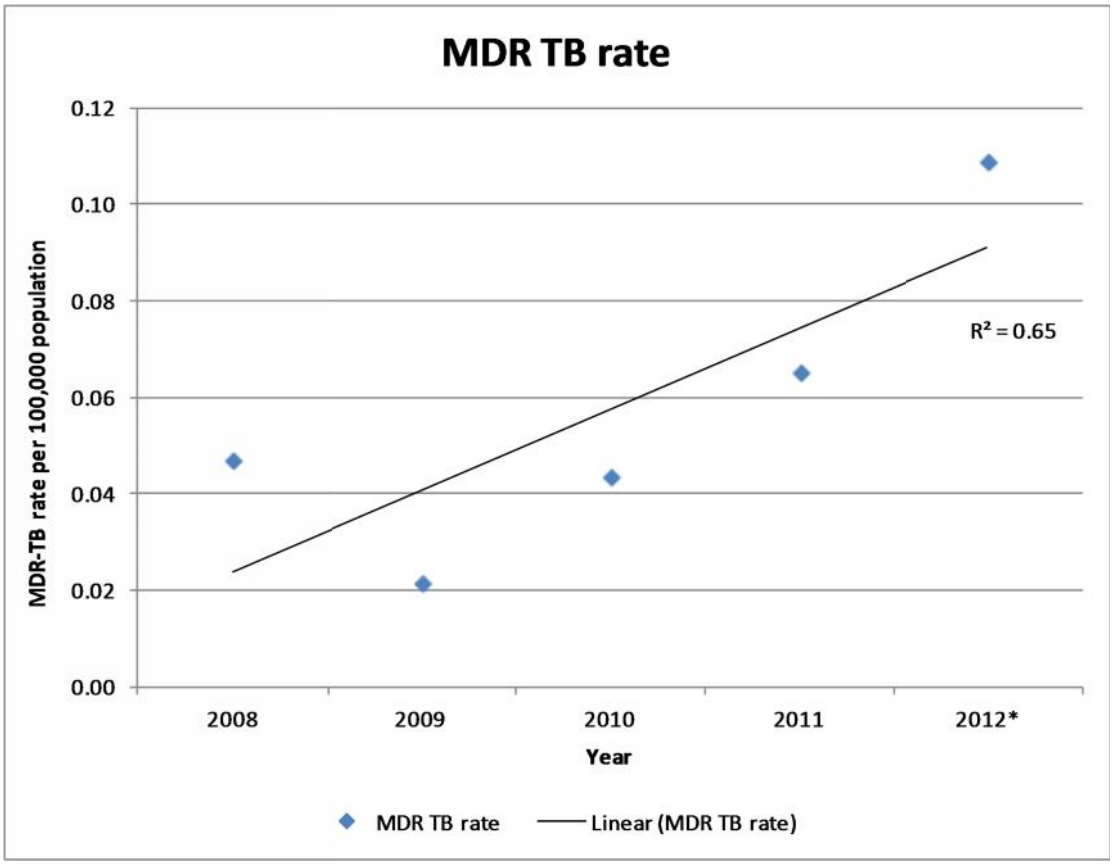

Figure 26: MDR-TB notification rates by year, 2008-2012[§§§§]

Conclusion:

Application of the above epidemiological monitoring indicators to the Irish TB data demonstrates that Ireland has not as yet achieved the ECDC targets. This highlights the need to adopt a focused approach to reduce TB transmission in order to reach the TB elimination goal of less than one case per million population by 2050. However, due to the fluctuating trends and/or small numbers involved, these data should be interpreted with caution.

Discussion

In 2011, 413 cases of TB were notified to HPSC, a national crude incidence rate of 9.0 per 100,000 population. This remains stable compared to 2010 (9.2 per 100,000) and is the lowest crude incidence rate recorded since TB surveillance began in 1998. The overall notification rate in countries of the EU and Western Europe who report to ECDC was 13.5 per 100,000 population in 2012, ranging from 3.4 per 100,000 population in Iceland to 85.2 per 100,000 in Romania.[2]

Differences in age-standardised TB incidence rates persist between HSE areas. In 2011, HSE South and HSE East reported the highest rates. HSE North West and HSE North East had the lowest rates. Certain local health offices (LHOs) were found to have particularly high rates of TB incidence including Dublin West and Dublin South City in HSE East, and North Lee and South Lee in HSE South. According to the 2011 Census, between 23-27% of the population in Dublin city and Cork city belong to social class 6 and 7 (see Appendix 3 for descriptions of social class).[7] This shows that the main burden of TB disease remains concentrated in large urban areas which is reflected elsewhere e.g. in the UK, in 2012 the highest rate of TB disease was reported in London at 41.8 per 100,000 accounting for 39% of reported cases in the UK that year followed by the West Midlands at 19.3 per 100,000.[12]

During 2011, 46.7% of TB cases notified were foreign born. This proportion is the highest recorded since surveillance began in 2002, and has steadily increased since 2003 (21.9%). In 2012, among countries in the EU and Western Europe who reported data to ECDC, 26.8% of notifications were in foreign-born patients. In Austria, Cyprus, France and Norway, where crude incidence rates are similar to those reported in Ireland, the percentage of cases of foreign origin in 2012 ranged from 48.8-85.4%.[2]

The crude rate of TB notifications in the indigenous population was 5.7 per 100,000 population which is a decrease compared to the rates reported in 2010 (6.5) and in 2009 (7.2). The crude rate in foreign-born cases was 25.2 which was a slight increase compared to the rate reported in 2010 (22.3). However, the rate in the foreign-born has shown a generally decreasing trend since peaking in 2008 at 33.0.

The highest age-specific rates (per 100,000) in 2011 occurred among those aged 25-34 years (14.4) followed by those aged 65 years and older (12.7). This is the third consecutive year where a decrease has been observed in those aged 65 years and older.

Rates among males were higher than females for all age groups except for those aged 0-14 years. In 2011, the highest rate in females was in those aged 25-34 years (12.7) and the highest rate among males was in those aged 65 years and over (18.5). The male to female ratio (1.4:1) reported in 2011 was consistent with the rate reported in 2010 (1.6:1). Males are predominant among TB cases in nearly all European countries with an overall M:F ratio of 1.8:1 in 2012.[2]

There was a notable difference in age between Irish and foreign-born cases of TB. For Irish born cases, there was a peak among those aged 65 years and older with a median age of 49 years. In foreign-born cases, the peak occurred in those aged 15-34 years with a median age of 32 years. The majority of foreign-born cases were from Asia (47.7%) and Africa (30.6%).

There were two cases of TB meningitis both of whom were adults reported in 2011 corresponding to a crude rate of 0.44 per million population,. Between 1998 and 2011, seven cases of TB meningitis were reported among 0-4 year olds.

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre *Guidelines on the prevention and control of tuberculosis in Ireland 2010*[3] recommends that the cessation of neonatal BCG vaccination should be considered if certain criteria are met. One of these criteria is that the average annual notification rate of TB meningitis in children under five years of age should be less than one case per 10 million general population over the previous five years. Between 2007 and 2011, there were two cases of TB meningitis reported in children aged less than five years, giving an average notification rate of 0.9 per 10 million population. The criteria for discontinuation of BCG vaccination and how they apply to Ireland are outlined in Appendix 4.[13]

Pulmonary TB was reported in over two thirds of cases (70.0%) and 29.7% had exclusively extrapulmonary TB. Of the pulmonary cases, 41.5% were sputum smear positive and the sputum smear-positive rate for 2011 was 2.6 per 100,000 population. Sputum microscopy results were available for 188 (65.1%) of the 289 cases. This is a slight increase compared to 2010 (64.4%) but remains below the mean proportion of 76.3% of pulmonary cases with sputum microscopy available between 2002 and 2010 (range 64.4-83.7%).

Culture confirmation of specimens and identification of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTC) is the most accurate method of confirming active tuberculosis. Trends in the proportion of culture confirmed pulmonary TB cases are an indicator of the performance of a TB control programme. Of the 289 cases with a pulmonary component 74.0% were culture confirmed which was a decrease in comparison to 76.3% in 2010. The proportion of new pulmonary cases that were culture confirmed was 78.2% a slight increase from 77.4% in 2010. This just falls short of the EU monitoring framework target of ≥ 80% culture confirmation among new pulmonary TB cases.[11] Among countries in the EU and Western Europe who reported data to ECDC, the culture confirmed proportion ranged from 34.5% (Malta) to 92.8% (Slovenia).[2]

During 2011, 22.3% (92 cases) of all TB cases reported to HPSC were either culture unknown (81 cases) or culture not done (11 cases). This is the highest proportion of TB cases without a culture result reported since enhanced surveillance began in 2002. It is crucial that we endeavour to improve the quality of data relating to the culture status of TB cases in the coming years as this assists in measuring the performance of the TB control programme.

The number of *M. bovis* detections among culture confirmed cases decreased in 2011, with six cases (2.2% of culture confirmed cases) notified. This compares to 12 cases (4.3%) notified during 2010 and eight (2.3%) during 2009. Between 2002 and 2011, *M. bovis* detections accounted for 2.2% of all culture confirmed cases, with a mean of seven *M. bovis* cases notified annually. During 2012, 127 *M. bovis* cases were reported to ECDC by EU countries, corresponding to a notification rate of 0.03 per 100, 000 population, which was lower than the Irish notification rate of 0.1 per 100, 000 population.

The proportion of new culture confirmed pulmonary cases with reported drug sensitivity testing (DST) results decreased from 98.8% in 2010 to 94.2% in 2011. This is below the EU monitoring framework action plan target of 100% of new culture confirmed pulmonary cases with DST results.[11] ECDC has adopted the culture and DST monitoring targets as a measurement to assess both diagnostic laboratories' and physicians' capabilities to correctly diagnose TB. They recommend that Member States also use these to monitor progress towards TB elimination. The WHO Stop TB strategy also includes a target of 100% DST results for all previously treated cases irrespective of culture status.[9] Ireland fell short of this target in 2011, with 87.5% of culture positive cases that were previously treated for TB had DST results. It is important that we aim to improve the quality of data relating to DST results in order to accurately assess the performance of the TB control programme.

Of the 24 resistant cases reported during 2011, three cases had MDR-TB which remains stable in comparison with recent years with two reported in 2010 and one in 2009. MDR-TB cases and cases resistant to isoniazid represented 0.7% and 3.6% of total cases respectively. This compares to 0.5% and 3.3% respectively in 2010. In 2012 the proportion of cases with MDR-TB was 4.6%, ranging from 0.0-19.8% in the EU and Western Europe.[2] MDR-TB or XDR-TB is more likely to be reported in patients previously treated for TB or in immigrants from countries with a high burden of MDR-TB. No case of XDR-TB was reported in Ireland in 2011.

The rate of resistance was higher in foreign-born than in Irish-born cases. The rate of resistance in foreign-born cases has steadily increased between 2006 and 2011, while the rate of resistance in Irish-born cases has remained stable during the same period. The majority of resistant cases in Ireland had no previous history of TB disease reported.

In October 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO) expressed concern over the emergence of XDR-TB and called on countries to strengthen and implement measures to prevent the global spread of these drug resistant strains of TB.[6] In light of recent developments outlined above, focus on the surveillance, prevention and treatment of drug resistance needs to be strengthened in all countries.

In recent years, the quality of the data, and in particular, data on treatment outcome, had improved greatly. However, in 2011reatment outcome was provided for only 74.8% of total cases notified, which is sharp decline compared to the proportion reported in 2010 (88.8%) and is the lowest reported since enhanced

surveillance was initiated in 2002. This may be explained by the fact that information on treatment outcome was unavailable for all cases within one region and for 61.3% of cases within another region. It is extremely important to sustain and improve on the provision of treatment outcome data. This should be prioritised by all partners involved in TB treatment and control.

As part of the WHO Stop TB strategy and the ECDC Framework Action Plan to Fight TB in the EU, three TB treatment outcome monitoring targets are currently in place. WHO have set a target of 90% treatment success rate in all TB cases and a treatment success rate of 75% for MDR-TB cases while ECDC have set a target of 85% treatment success for new pulmonary culture confirmed cases. [9,11]

The proportion of total cases where outcome was reported as completed (59.1%) decreased during 2011 compared to 2010 (72.4%) and is the lowest proportion reported since enhanced surveillance was initiated in 2002 (range 63.7-72.4%). This also falls short of the WHO Stop TB target of above 90% reported treatment success for all TB cases.[9]

The proportion of new culture confirmed pulmonary TB cases where outcome was reported as treatment completed was 65.5%, which was a decrease compared to 2010 (72.6%). This is also below the ECDC EU target of successfully treating 85% or more of all new culture confirmed pulmonary TB cases.[11] The scope of this indicator is to measure the ability of a TB control programme's ability to retain patients through a complete course of chemotherapy with a favourable clinical result.

The treatment success rate for the MDR-TB case treated in the 2010 cohort was 100%. During 2003 to 2010, 81% of MDR-TB cases successfully completed treatment, meeting the WHO Stop TB target of 75% treatment success for MDR-TB cases.[9]

It is important that every endeavour is made to improve the completeness and timeliness of submission of reports of treatment success rate which are essential for efficient TB programme management.

Reported information on TB risk factors has steadily increased from 75.9% in 2005 to 86.9% of all cases during 2011. The proportion of cases with one or more reported TB risk factor(s) has also increased during this time period, from 46.2% in 2005 to 71.7% in 2011. The four most commonly reported risk factors were being from a country of high TB endemicity, followed by contact with a TB case and residence in a country of high TB endemicity. These data are important as they provide information to guide policy for targeting prevention and control interventions in relation to TB disease and latent TB infection in the relevant groups.

The proportion of TB cases where HIV status was reported remains notably low at 33.2% of cases during 2011, however, it is an increase on the proportion reported in 2010 (23.3%). This percentage has steadily increased since 2003 when HIV status was reported for only 2.5% of total cases. Both the WHO Stop TB strategy and the ECDC Framework Action Plan to Fight TB in the EU have set targets of 100% of all TB

cases having HIV status reported.[9,11] The objective of this indicator is to reduce the burden of TB/HIV co-infection by strengthening the collaboration between TB and HIV/AIDS programmes within a health service. The scope of this indicator is to measure the extent to which HIV-positive TB patients are identified and to demonstrate the extent to which HIV testing has been incorporated into the national TB control programme. We must strive to improve the completeness of TB-HIV data in the coming years, particularly as HIV became notifiable in 2012. Work is ongoing in this regard.

Outbreak reporting assists in the assessment of the burden of TB disease and latent TB infection and also will assists in guiding the appropriate use of resources for the TB control programme.

Application of the ECDC epidemiological monitoring indicators to the Irish TB data demonstrates that Ireland has not yet achieved the ECDC targets. This highlights the need to adopt a focused approach to reduce TB transmission in order to reach the "***The Stop TB Partnership"*** TB elimination goal of less than one case per million population by 2050. However, regarding the MDR-TB indicator, provisional data for 2011 and 2012 indicate that the numbers of MDR-TB cases have stabilised since 2008 to a low level with approximately two to three cases per annum. Due to the very small numbers involved, these data should be interpreted with caution.

The importance of good surveillance data cannot be underestimated. Such data will help guide where resources should be directed e.g. identification of risk groups, areas with high TB notification rates in order to implement effective TB prevention and control strategies in Ireland and in order to reach the global elimination target by 2050.

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Appendix 1: TB Cases Notified in Ireland in 2012, Provisional Data (as of 15th August 2013)

There were 364 cases of TB provisionally notified in 2012. It is important to note that these data are provisional and **may change significantly following validation**. A summary of the data is shown in table A1.

TABLE A1: PROVISIONAL SUMMARY OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF TB IN IRELAND, 2012

Parameter	2012 (% of total)
Total number of cases	364
Crude notification rate per 100,000	7.9
Cases in indigenous population*****	201 (55.2%)
Cases in foreign-born persons	158 (43.4%)
Culture positive cases	281 (77.2%)
Pulmonary cases†††††	253 (69.5%)
Of which sputum smear positive	116 (45.8%)
Resistant cases	22 (6.0%)
Multidrug-resistant cases	5 (1.4%)
TB meningitis cases	3 (0.8%)

Crude incidence rates by HSE area

The total number of TB cases in each HSE area is shown in table A2 with crude incidence rates and 95% confidence intervals included.

Table A2: Provisional TB cases in each HSE area, 2012

HSE Area	Number of cases	Crude rate per 100,000	95% CI for rate
HSE E	149	9.2	7.7 - 10.7
HSE M	27	9.6	6 - 13.2
HSE MW	21	5.5	3.2 - 7.9
HSE NE	24	5.4	3.3 - 7.6
HSE NW	14	5.4	2.6 - 8.3
HSE SE	25	5.0	3.1 - 7
HSE S	72	10.8	8.3 - 13.3
HSE W	32	7.2	4.7 - 9.7
Ireland	**364**	**7.9**	**7.1 - 8.7**

***** Country of birth unknown for 5 cases (1.4%)

††††† Includes the cases categorised as pulmonary +extrapulmonary (P+E)

Age and sex
There were 145 cases (39.8%) of TB notified in females and 218 cases (59.9%) in males, giving a male to female ratio of 1.5:1. Sex was not reported in remaining case. The mean age of cases notified was 43.2 years (range 0 to 90 years).

Geographic origin
Of the 364 cases provisionally notified in 2012, 201 (55.2%) were born in Ireland and 158 (43.4%) were foreign-born. Information on country of birth was not reported for 5 cases (1.4%).

Site of disease
Pulmonary TB was diagnosed in 222 cases (61.0%), extrapulmonary TB in 105 cases (28.8%) and pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB in 31 cases (8.5%). The site of disease was unknown for six cases (1.6%).

Of the 253 cases with a pulmonary disease component, 211 (83.4%) were culture positive and 116 (45.8%) were smear positive.

TB meningitis
There were three cases of TB meningitis provisionally notified in 2012 giving an incidence rate of 0.07 per 100,000 population (0.7 per million population). One was in the 35-44 year age group, one was in the 45-54 year age group and one was aged 65 years and over. BCG vaccination status was unknown for two meningitis cases while the remaining case was unvaccinated.

One case was culture positive, one case was culture negative and culture status was unknown for the remaining TB meningitis case.

Culture
Of the 364 cases provisionally notified in 2012, 281 (77.2%) were culture confirmed.

Species
Among the 281 culture positive cases, 270 (96.4%) were *M. tuberculosis,* four (1.4%) were *M. africanum,* three (1.1%) were *M. bovis* and one (0.4%) was *M. canetti*. The remaining three cases (1.1%) were reported as *M. tuberculosis* complex without further speciation.

Antibiotic resistance
Resistance was reported in 22 of the 281 culture positive cases (7.8%), including five cases (1.4% of total cases, 1.98% of culture positive cases) of MDR-TB. Mono-resistance to isoniazid was reported in 10 cases and to streptomycin in five cases. Two cases were resistant to both isoniazid and streptomycin.

Appendix 2: Completeness of data, 2011

Completeness of data reported for 2011 notifications ranged from 100.0% (sex and isolate for culture positive cases) to 33.2% (HIV status) depending on the variable analysed. Of the 17 key variables analysed, eight had completeness levels of 90% or more. Table A3 shows the completeness of reporting for 17 key variables during 2011.

Table A3: Completeness of reported data by variable

Variable	% Complete
Age	99.8
Sex	100.0
Diagnostic type	99.5
Country of birth (all notifications)	98.5
Sputum smear result (pulmonary cases)	88.2
Culture result	80.4
Isolate (Culture positive cases)	100.0
Isoniazid sensitivity result (Culture positive cases)	93.1
Rifampicin sensitivity result (Culture positive cases)	92.0
Case finding method	93.9
Treatment outcome	74.8
Risk group	86.9
Previous history of TB (all cases)	74.1
Previous year of TB diagnosis (previously diagnosed cases)	80.0
Previous TB treatment history (previously diagnosed cases)	64.0
Previous TB treatment outcome (previously treated cases)	58.3
HIV status	33.2

Appendix 3: Social Class (Source: CSO 2011)

Social Class

The entire population is classified into one of the following social class groups (introduced in 1996) which are defined on the basis of occupation:

1 Professional workers
2 Managerial and technical
3 Non-manual
4 Skilled manual
5 Semi-skilled
6 Unskilled
7 All others gainfully occupied and unknown

The occupations included in each of these groups have been selected in such a way as to bring together, as far as possible, people with similar levels of occupational skill. In determining social class no account is taken of the differences between individuals on the basis of other characteristics such as education. Accordingly social class ranks occupations by the level of skill required on a social class scale ranging from one (highest) to seven (lowest). This scale combines occupations into six groups by occupation and employment status following procedures similar to those outlined above for the allocation of socio-economic group. A residual category "All others gainfully occupied and unknown" is used where no precise allocation is possible.

Appendix 4: BCG vaccination

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre *Guidelines on the prevention and control of tuberculosis in Ireland 2010*,[3] based on the recommendations of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD),[13] recommends that the cessation of neonatal BCG vaccination should be considered if certain criteria are met.

Criterion 1

There is a well functioning tuberculosis control programme.

Ireland: The tuberculosis control programme is currently being reviewed and it is likely that recommendations will be made for strengthening the programme.

Criterion 2

There has been a reliable reporting system over the previous five or more years, enabling the estimation of the annual incidence of active tuberculosis by age and risk groups, with particular emphasis on tuberculosis meningitis and sputum smear positive pulmonary tuberculosis.

Ireland: Yes. National data enabling a detailed epidemiological analysis for the country as a whole were first presented by the HPSC in the 1998 National TB Report. The 2011 report is the fourteenth national TB report produced by the HPSC.

Criterion 3

Due consideration has been given to the possibility of an increase in the incidence of tuberculosis resulting from the epidemiological situation of AIDS in that country.

Ireland: Yes

Criterion 4

The average annual notification rate of sputum smear positive pulmonary tuberculosis should be 5 per 100,000 population or less during the previous three years.

Ireland: Yes. In 2011, the national rate for sputum smear positive pulmonary TB was 2.6 per 100,000 population while in 2010 and 2009 the rates were 2.4 and 3.0 per 100,000 population respectively.

Criterion 5

The average annual notification rate of TB meningitis in children under five years of age should be less than one case per ten million general population over the previous five years.

Ireland: Over the previous five years (2007-2011), the average annual notification rate of TB meningitis in children aged less than five years was 0.9 per 10 million general population. Between 2007 and 2011, there were two cases of TB meningitis in children under five years of age (both in 2009).

Criterion 6

The average annual risk of tuberculosis infection should be 0.1% or less.

Ireland: Not applicable.

When considering the importance of neonatal BCG vaccination, it is worth considering the practice in other European countries. For example, Sweden discontinued routine neonatal BCG vaccination in 1975 when they had a total notification rate of 20 per 100,000 population and an age-specific incidence rate for children aged 0-14 years of 0.3 per 100,000. While the national crude rate in Ireland is less than 20.0 per 100,000 population, the 2011 age-specific incidence rate for children 0-14 years was 1.9 per 100,000.

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