

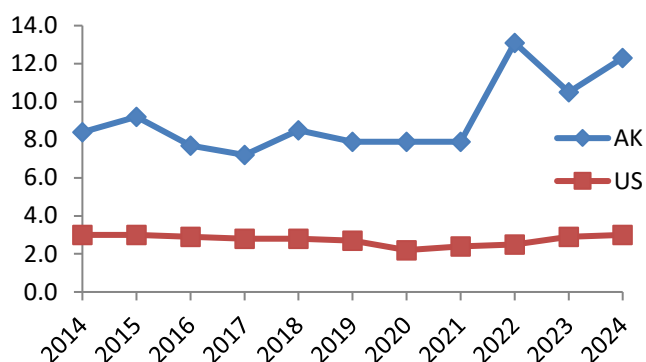


TUBERCULOSIS IN ALASKA- SUMMARY BRIEF 2024

Reported Tuberculosis (TB) Cases

In 2024, 91 cases of TB disease were reported in Alaska, reflecting an incidence rate of 12.3 cases per 100,000 population. This represents an 18% increase in cases from the previous year. The U.S. TB incidence rate for 2024 was 3.0 cases per 100,000, with an 8% increase in cases from 2023.

Tuberculosis Incidence Rates, Alaska & U.S., 2014-2024



In the early- to mid-20th century, Alaska had some of the highest rates of TB morbidity and mortality ever recorded. Much of the TB activity in Alaska today is a legacy of this historic epidemic and a result of the ongoing challenges of TB control and healthcare delivery, particularly in rural regions of the state. Alaska continued to have the highest TB incidence rate in the nation in 2024.

US States with Highest TB Incidence, 2024¹

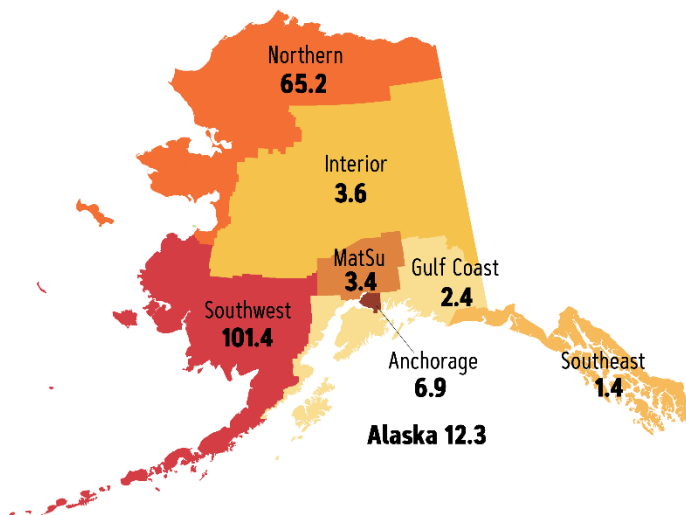
Jurisdiction	Number of Cases	TB Incidence
Alaska*	91	12.3
Hawaii	117	8.1
New York	1083	5.5
California	2100	5.3
Texas	1238	4.0

*Alaska case count and incidence are updated as of the date of this report; other states' data are based on preliminary CDC data published on March 12, 2025.

Trends and populations

The Southwest and Northern regions of Alaska consistently have the highest rates of TB in the state, and the Alaska Native population bears a disproportionate burden of cases. While 76% of all U.S. TB cases were in foreign-born individuals, only 16% of Alaska cases were in foreign-born individuals. The median age of Alaska TB cases in 2024 was 41 years (range 0-87 years).

Regional Incidence per 100,000 population



Case demographics and social risk factors

	2024 Count (%)	2024 Incidence
Male	52 (57%)	13.5
Female	39 (43%)	10.9
Pediatric (0-14 years)	13 (14%)	8.9
Foreign-born	15 (16%)	27.3
Am. Indian/Alaska Native	70 (77%)	61.0
Asian	11 (12%)	21.2
White	3 (3%)	0.6
Pacific Islander	0 (0%)	0.0
Black	3 (3%)	10.9
Hispanic	2 (2%)	3.5
Multi-Race	2 (2%)	
Homeless	5 (5%)	186.2
History of incarceration	6 (7%)	
Drug Use (IV & non-IV)	20 (22%)	
Excessive alcohol use	11 (12%)	
Known epi-link to another active case	36 (40%)	

Alaska TB cases by country of birth, 2024

Country	Count (%)
United States	76 (84%)
Philippines	11 (12%)
Congo	1 (1%)
Kenya	1 (1%)
Mexico	1 (1%)
Peru	1 (1%)

Clinical Features

Clinical feature	Count (%)
Sputum AFB smear positive	28 (33% of pulmonary cases)
Sputum culture positive	59 (69% of pulmonary cases)
Isoniazid resistant	7 (8% of all cases)
Multi-drug resistant	1 (1% of all cases)
Previous TB disease	5 (5% of all cases)
Chest x-ray or CT consistent with TB	77 (85% of all cases)
Died during treatment	6 (7% of all cases)

Site of disease

Site	Count (%)*
Pulmonary	85 (93%)
Pleural	4 (4%)
Lymphatic	1 (1%)
Eye/Ear	1 (1%)
CNS	1 (1%)
Disseminated	1 (1%)

*Two cases with both pulmonary and other sites of disease (1 pleural and 1 lymphatic) were included in both categories.

Transmission Trends

In 2024, 36 cases (40%) had a known epidemiologic link to another active case, demonstrating the significance of recent and ongoing transmission. Children aged 14 years and younger comprised 14% of cases; this represents another marker of recent transmission. Estimates of recent transmission in Alaska are higher than in any other jurisdiction in the U.S.²

Program Challenges/Areas for Improvement

- Geographic and healthcare access barriers as well as adherence issues and stigma continue to challenge timely evaluation, laboratory testing, completion of directly observed therapy and contact investigation. Public health staffing and resource limitations also continue to be problematic.
- 67% of contacts to TB patients with AFB smear-positive sputum were examined (national target 94%).
- 82% of active TB patients with positive AFB sputum smear results had treatment initiation within 7 days of sputum collection (national target 96%).
- 65% of active TB patients had sputum culture conversion documented within 60 days of treatment initiation (national target 83%).

Program Successes

- 99% of TB cases had a known HIV status.
- 100% of TB cases had a sputum culture result reported.
- 97% of cases with a positive sputum culture had drug susceptibility testing performed.
- 100% of infectious cases had a contact investigation.
- 93% of contacts diagnosed with TB infection started treatment and 70% of those who started treatment completed it.

In 2024 the TB control team partnered with colleagues in the Alaska Section of Public Health Nursing; Alaska State Public Health Laboratories; Anchorage Health Department; and Alaska's medical and social services providers and institutions, pharmacists, and DOT and community health aides in the management and prevention of TB disease. Some of the work of the TB control program and partners in 2024 included:

- Evaluation of 149 identified contacts to infectious cases
- Treatment of 227 people with TB infection
- Coordination of screening and follow-up for 94 immigrant/refugee B-notifications
- Community-wide outreach and screening in 14 remote communities with significant current or recent TB activity

References and Resources

1. Provisional 2024 Tuberculosis Data, United States: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb-data/2024-provisional/index.html>
2. Estimates of recent transmission: <https://archive.cdc.gov/#/details?url=https://www.cdc.gov/tb/statistics/reports/2020/table57.htm>

State of Alaska

TB Program Website:

<https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/tb.aspx>

Alaska Epidemiology *Bulletin*. "Alaska's Ongoing Journey with Tuberculosis." Vol 19, Number 1, April 11, 2017.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Main TB Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/>

National TB Indicators Project:

https://www.cdc.gov/tb-programs/php/ntip/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/statistics/ntip.htm