

# Tuberculosis (TB) in Durham Region

## 2020-2024

Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection that most commonly affects the lungs but can also involve other organs

Quick Facts

Infection with TB bacteria does not always lead to active TB disease



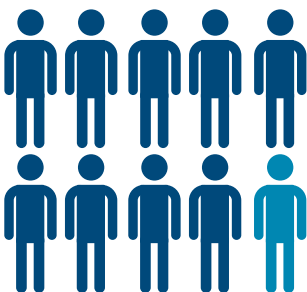
An inactive TB infection is called Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI)



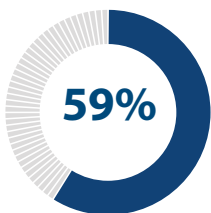
People with LTBI do not have symptoms and are not contagious



Without treatment, some people with LTBI will go on to develop active TB disease



90% of active TB cases were born outside Canada



of cases were male

On average,

24

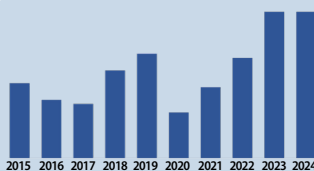
cases of active TB disease were reported in Durham Region each year between 2020 and 2024



Tuberculosis of the lung accounted for 60% of all active TB cases



The average age at time of illness was 49 years



Both 2023 and 2024 had the highest number of cases (35 each year) reported in a single year, higher than pre-pandemic levels. Interpret 2020 and 2021 data with caution due to changes in the availability of health care and health seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Symptoms

50% of cases reported



cough

32% of cases reported



fever or chills

28% of cases reported



weight loss

18% of cases reported



shortness of breath

16% of cases reported



night sweats

Risk Factors

89% of cases reported



having lived in a country where TB is endemic

40% of cases reported



chronic illness or underlying medical condition

19% of cases reported



having travelled to a country where TB is endemic

13% of cases reported



known contact with a confirmed TB case

Treatment

Treatment for LTBI can prevent the development of active TB disease. Active TB disease can be treated and cured with appropriate antibiotics.

100% of active TB cases started treatment



93% of active TB cases who started treatment completed treatment successfully (or treatment ongoing)



**Did You Know?** All positive tuberculin skin tests (TSTs) and interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) results must be reported to the Health Department.

For more details on treatment, see: [Canadian Tuberculosis Standards](#) - 8th Edition, Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS) and the Public Health Agency of Canada

- Data Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, 2020-2024.
- To see Durham compared to Ontario and other public health units go to [Infectious Disease Trends in Ontario](#).