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# Tuberculosis in Wales Annual Report 2017

## Data to the end of 2016

### Key Points

**Author:** Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre

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**Intended Audience:** Health Professionals

**Purpose and Summary of Document:**

This annual report summarises trends in the epidemiology of tuberculosis in Wales.

**Publication/Distribution:**

- Director of Integrated Health Protection, Public Health Wales
- Public Health Wales TB Programme Group
- Public Health Wales Intranet and Internet
- Public Health England TB Section

## Key Points

1. The rate of tuberculosis in Wales has continued to decline steadily since 2009.
2. In 2016, 106 cases of tuberculosis were reported in Wales (3.4 per 100,000 population), a decrease compared to last year (116 cases, 3.7 per 100,000 population).
3. Wales had the lowest rate of tuberculosis per 100,000 population compared to the other regions of the UK. England continues to have the highest rate of tuberculosis in the UK, with a rate of 10.2 per 100,000 population, followed by Scotland (5.9 per 100,000 population) and Northern Ireland (4.6 per 100,000 population) [1]. Public Health England, reports the UK rate of tuberculosis as 9.4 per 100,000 population in 2016.
4. Notification rates vary geographically, with Newport and Cardiff Local Authority areas continuing to have the highest rates, 15.4 and 6.6 per 100,000 population respectively.
5. Of the 106 cases reported in 2016, 57% were male and 43% female (rates of 3.9 and 2.9 per 100,000). The notification rate was highest in those aged 35-44 years (6.7 per 100,000 population). There were two cases notified in children aged under 15 years.
6. The rate of tuberculosis in those who reside in areas in the most deprived fifth of Wales was 7.0 (95% CI 5.1–9.5) per 100,000 population compared to 1.1 (95% CI 0.5–2.4) per 100,000 population in the least deprived fifth.
7. In 2016, 42% of tuberculosis cases were reported in the white ethnic group, 55% were in the non-white population and 4% were of an unknown ethnic group. Forty-four percent of tuberculosis cases reported in Wales were born in the UK, 50% of cases were born abroad and 6% of cases had unknown place of birth. As in previous years, in 2016 the majority of cases known to be born outside the UK originated from South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
8. Of those with information available, 14% reported at least one -social risk factor:
  - 7% of cases reported a history of, or current drug abuse
  - 4% reported a history of, or current alcohol misuse or abuse
  - 7% reported they had been, or are currently, homeless
  - 9% reported they had been, or are currently, in prison
9. Over two thirds of cases in 2016 (69%) had pulmonary tuberculosis (with or without extra-pulmonary disease); of these, 23% also had extra pulmonary disease.
10. Of those where information was available, 18% were assigned DOT treatment. In 2016, 62% of cases reporting at least one social risk factor were known to be assigned DOT.

Author: CDSC	Date: 14/11/2017	Status: Final
Version: 1	Page: 2 of 4	Intended Audience: Health Professionals

Public Health Wales	Tuberculosis in Wales Annual Report 2017: Data to the end of 2016
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11. Of the 61 cases with known BCG vaccination status, 77% were vaccinated (ranging from 0% in 5-14 year olds to 100% in those aged 15-24 and 45-54 years). This was a similar proportion to that in 2015.
12. Seventy-six percent of all cases in 2016 were culture confirmed, and 84% of pulmonary cases (with or without extra pulmonary disease) were culture confirmed. This remains above the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) target of 80% for culture confirmation of pulmonary tuberculosis [2].
13. Among 80 culture-confirmed cases reported through the Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance scheme in 2016, 96% of cases were due to infection by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, 1% (1 case) *Mycobacterium bovis* and 1% (1 case) *Mycobacterium africanum*.
14. In 2016 there were two cases of MDR-TB reported in culture confirmed tuberculosis in Wales. There was a decrease in isoniazid resistance in culture confirmed cases of tuberculosis in 2016 compared to 2015, from 8% to 5% and an increase in rifampicin resistance 1% to 3%. Proportions should be interpreted with caution as numbers are small.
15. Outcome data are available for 113 cases newly diagnosed in 2015. The proportion of drug sensitive cases with expected treatment duration of less than 12 months (101) who had completed treatment by 12 months remains stable at 84%.
16. The proportion of cases that were reported to have died at the last reported outcome among all drug sensitive TB cases has decreased from 10% in 2014 to 6% in 2015, a similar proportion to 2013. Five of the seven cases reported to have died were over 65 years of age.

Author: CDSC	Date: 14/11/2017	Status: Final
Version: 1	Page: 3 of 4	Intended Audience: Health Professionals

Public Health Wales	Tuberculosis in Wales Annual Report 2017: Data to the end of 2016
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## References

[1] Reports of cases of tuberculosis to enhanced tuberculosis surveillance systems: United Kingdom, 2000 to 2016. Public Health England 2017.  
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[2] European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC), Progress towards TB elimination, 2010.  
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**Report prepared by Public Health Wales Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre**

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Author: CDSC	Date: 14/11/2017	Status: Final
Version: 1	Page: 4 of 4	Intended Audience: Health Professionals