

## Fairfax County Health Department Tuberculosis Program Annual Report – 2021

In 2021, the Fairfax Health District (FHD) reported 50 tuberculosis (TB) cases for a case rate of 4.2 per 100,000. Overall, in Virginia during 2021, 161 TB cases were reported, a case rate of 1.9 per 100,000. Fairfax’s higher TB rate reflects the diversity of our population, which includes individuals from countries with high TB burdens. FHD accounts for 31.1% of Virginia’s TB cases. Fairfax statistics are included in the Northern Health Region, which in 2021 collectively accounted for 64.6% of the state’s TB cases.

TB disease is a reportable condition in Virginia. Clinicians, hospitals, and laboratories are all required to report TB cases (laboratory-confirmed and clinical) and presumptive cases to the local Health Department. To report TB cases, suspect TB cases, or patients who are started on four-drug TB therapy, please contact the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) at **(703) 246-2433**. The Health Department offers evaluation and treatment of active TB disease and latent TB infection.

CHARACTERISTIC	2020		2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent <sup>a</sup> (% Change)
Number of cases	51	--	50	(-2.0) <sup>a</sup>
Case rate (per 100,000 population)	4.3 <sup>b</sup>	--	4.2 <sup>b</sup>	(-2.3) <sup>a</sup>
<b>AGE</b>				
• ≤ 14 years	1	2.0	0	0.0
• 15 to 24 years	6	11.8	1	2.0
• 25 to 44 years	15	29.4	15	30.0
• 45 to 64 years	19	37.3	17	34.0
• ≥ 65 years	10	19.6	17	34.0
<b>SEX</b>				
• Female	18	35.3	18	36.0
• Male	33	64.7	32	64.0
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>				
• American Indian/Alaska Native, not Hispanic/Latino	0	0.0	0	0.0
• Asian, not Hispanic/Latino	29	56.9	32	64.0
• Black, not Hispanic/Latino	10	19.6	7	14.0
• White, not Hispanic/Latino	1	2.0	2	4.0
• Multi-race, not Hispanic/Latino	1	2.0	2	4.0
• Hispanic/Latino	10	19.6	7	14.0
<b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b>				
• US Born	4	7.8	4	8.0
○ US-Born case rate (per 100,000 population)	0.5 <sup>b</sup>	--	0.5 <sup>b</sup>	--
• Non-US Born	47	92.2	46	92.0
○ Non-US-Born case rate (per 100,000 population)	12.8 <sup>b</sup>	--	12.6 <sup>b</sup>	--
<sup>b</sup> Source (population denominator): US Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates				
<b>YEARS OF U.S. RESIDENCY</b>				
• < 1 year	4	8.5	3	6.7
• 1 to 3 years	8	17.0	7	15.6
• 4 to 5 years	7	14.9	4	8.9
• > 5 years	28	59.6	31	68.9

CHARACTERISTIC	2020		2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</b> (for those countries with ≥ 5 cases reported in 2021)				
• Vietnam	8	15.7	5	10.0
• India	5	9.8	10	20.0
• Others	31 (14 countries)	60.8	35 (17 countries)	70.0
<b>DRUG RESISTANCE</b>				
• INH (INH only or INH + other drugs)	2	5.1	4	9.8 <sup>c</sup>
• Multi-drug resistant (INH + Rifampin with or without resistance to other drugs)	1	2.6	0	0.0 <sup>c</sup>
<sup>c</sup> The denominator for 2021 is 41 <i>M. tuberculosis</i> culture-positive cases with initial drug susceptibility testing done.				
<b>HIV CO-INFECTION</b>				
HIV Co-infection	2	3.9	0	0.0

### Mandated Reporting of Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI)

On November 14, 2018, TB infection, in persons of any age, was added to the [Virginia Reportable Disease List](#). Under the updated [Virginia Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control](#) (12 VAC 5-90-80), healthcare providers are required to reportsuspected or confirmed cases of TB infection to the local health department serving the jurisdiction where they practice.

For the Fairfax Health District (FHD), the preferred reporting method is online via the Fairfax County Health Department TB webpage (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/tuberculosis/providers>) where a direct link is provided to the Virginia Department of Health reporting portal. Through this portal, healthcare providers can complete and submit an electronic Confidential Morbidity Report (or Epi-1). TST/IGRA results should be entered in the laboratory section of the electronic report form. Document chest X-ray results and symptom screening information, as well as treatment information, in the comments section.

In 2021, FHD reported 2,626 cases of TB infection, representing 24.8% of Virginia's LTBI morbidity. Of these FHD LTBI cases, 51 (1.9%) and 2,572 (97.9%) were categorized as confirmed (TB disease ruled out) and suspect (only TST or IGRA results reported), respectively.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>d</sup>LTBI data are preliminary and subject to change.

### Clinician Notes: Key Take-Aways

- Fairfax Health District is a high-incidence area for TB. Most patients with active disease have reactivation of latent TB infection acquired during residence in a TB endemic country.
- Non-US-born persons, from countries with high TB incidence, are a priority group for screening regardless of length of residence in the US. Treatment for those diagnosed with latent TB infection should be considered to prevent active disease. Within this group, highest priority for TST or IGRA testing are persons who have underlying conditions that may affect their immune status (e.g., HIV, diabetes mellitus).

A Fairfax County, Va., publication. To request this information in an alternate format, please call the Fairfax County Health Dept at 703-246-2411, TTY 711.