

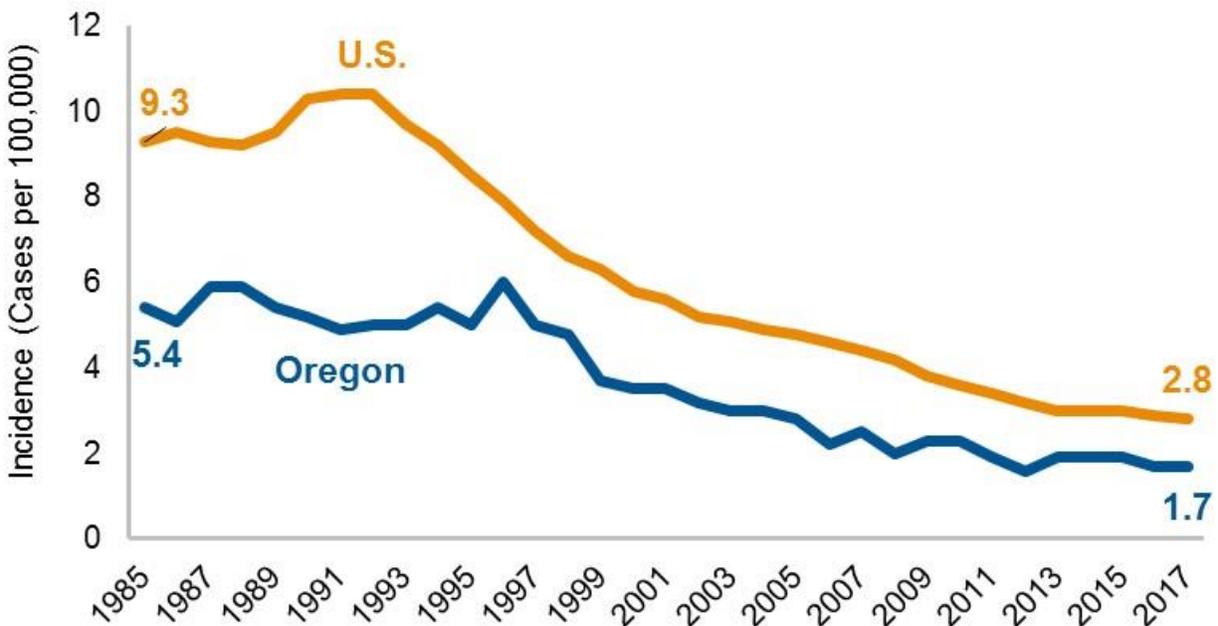
Communicable Disease Control

Tuberculosis incidence

Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB) infects an estimated 30% of the world’s population and TB disease is the most common infectious cause of death worldwide. Fortunately, TB disease is uncommon in Oregon. The rate of TB disease in Oregon declined steadily from 1985 to 2005 (Figure 1). Since 2008, an average of 2 people per 100,000 Oregon residents developed TB disease annually. During 2017, 69 cases were reported in Oregon, not a significant change from 2015 (76) or 2016 (70).

FIGURE 1

Tuberculosis disease case rates by year, Oregon and U.S.

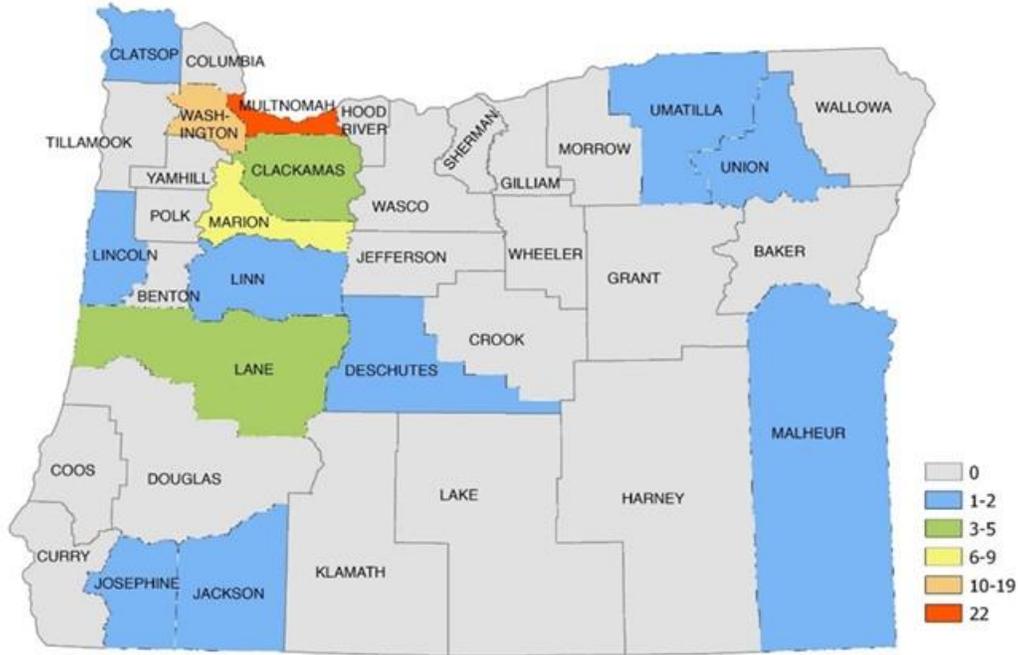


Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database, CDC Division of TB Elimination (U.S. data) and the National Tuberculosis Indicators Project (U.S. data)

Oregon’s reported TB cases are generally concentrated in the metropolitan areas in the western portion of the state (Figure 2). In 2017 most cases were reported in Multnomah County (n=22), Washington County (n=19) and Marion County (n=8). Fourteen counties reported at least one case.

FIGURE 2

Tuberculosis disease cases by county, Oregon, 2017

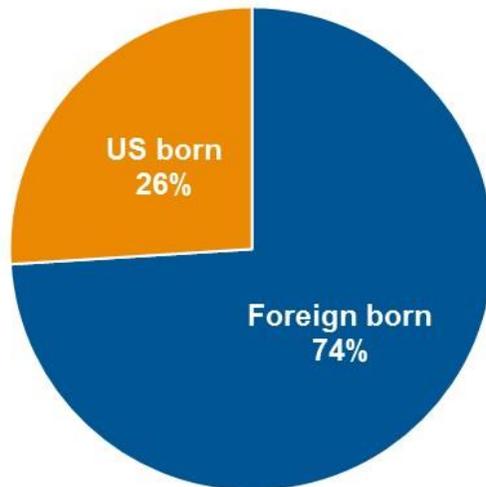


Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database

From 2013 through 2017 approximately 74% of reported cases of TB disease were foreign born, making country of birth the single most important predictor of TB risk in Oregon (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3

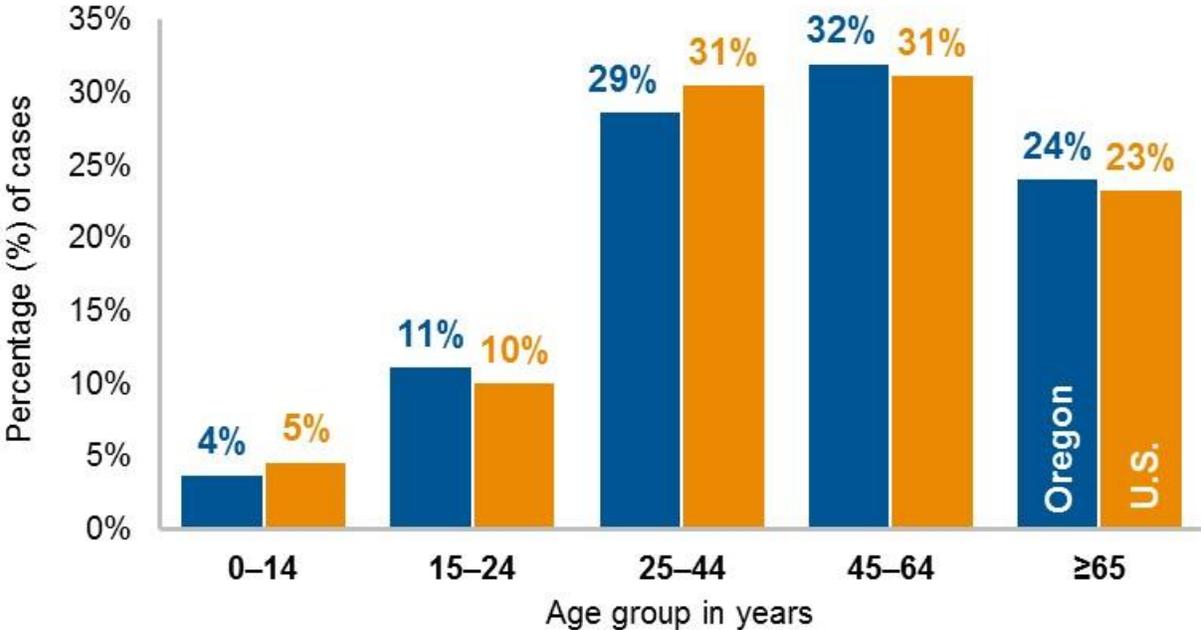
Tuberculosis disease by country of birth, Oregon, 2013–2017



Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database

Most cases of TB disease occurred among people aged 25–64 years. Many of these people were actually infected with TB years earlier, followed by a long latent period without illness or disease (called latent TB infection, or LTBI) that later became active disease. People with LTBI cannot transmit TB infection to others. Relatively few cases of tuberculosis disease occur in people <25 years of age. The age distribution of cases in Oregon closely resembles those numbers seen nationally (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4
Tuberculosis disease by age group, Oregon and U.S., 2013–2017



Notes: The U.S. age distribution was for 2012–2016
 Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database and CDC TB Surveillance Report, 2017

A major component of the public health response for prevention and control of TB disease comes from contact investigations. From 2013–2017, 365 cases of TB disease were reported in Oregon; 3,274 contacts to these cases were identified; and 2,427 (74%) were fully evaluated (Figure 5). Evaluation usually consists of TB skin tests or blood tests for LTBI, and sometimes chest X-rays or sputum tests. Of those evaluated, 22 were found to be sick with TB disease and 373 (11%) were found to have LTBI. Of the 373 contacts with LTBI, 300 (80%) started preventive treatment and 232 (77%) completed it.

FIGURE 5

Tuberculosis case contacts identified and evaluated, Oregon 2013–2017



Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database

Additional Resources: [Oregon Public Health Division Tuberculosis Program](#)

About the Data: All cases of laboratory confirmed or suspected TB disease in Oregon residents are subject to mandatory reporting by licensed health care providers and clinical laboratories. National data are from the [CDC Division of TB Elimination](#) and [The National Tuberculosis Indicators Project \(NTIP\), MMWR](#). Oregon data are from the state's Reportable Diseases Database. Population estimates used in calculating rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

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[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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