

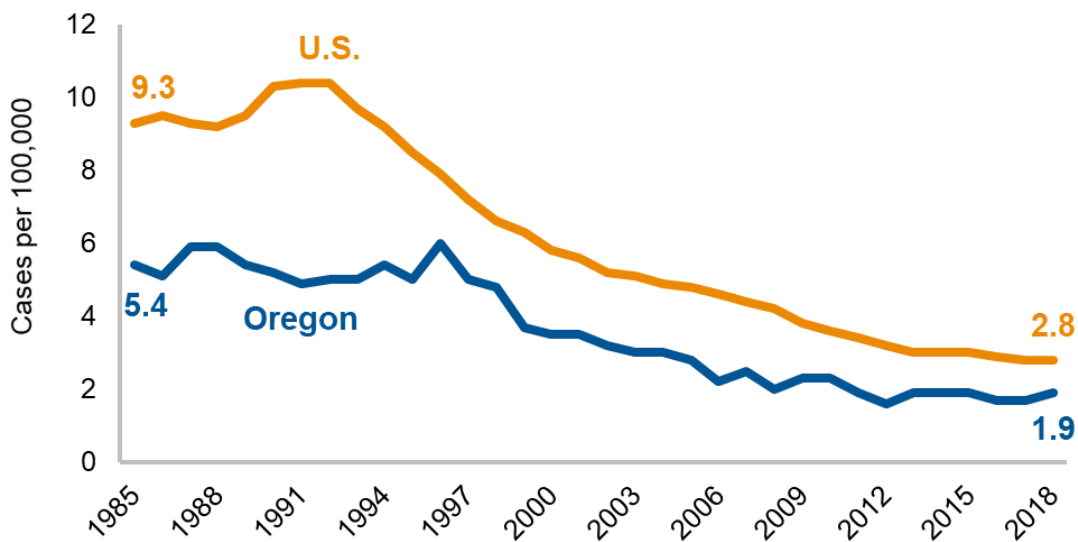
## Communicable Disease Control

# Tuberculosis incidence

*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (TB) infects an estimated 1.8 billion people, or roughly 25% of the world’s population. TB is also the world’s most deadly infectious disease with an annual death toll of 1.6 million people. Although widespread globally, TB disease is uncommon in Oregon. The rate of TB disease in Oregon has declined steadily since 1997 (Figure 1). Since 2008, an average of 2 people per 100,000 Oregon residents developed TB disease annually. During 2018, 81 cases were reported in Oregon, an increase of 15% over the previous year. Despite this modest increase, Oregon’s TB disease rate of 1.9 cases per 100,000 residents is still well below the US rate of 2.8 cases per 100,000 population.

FIGURE 1

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

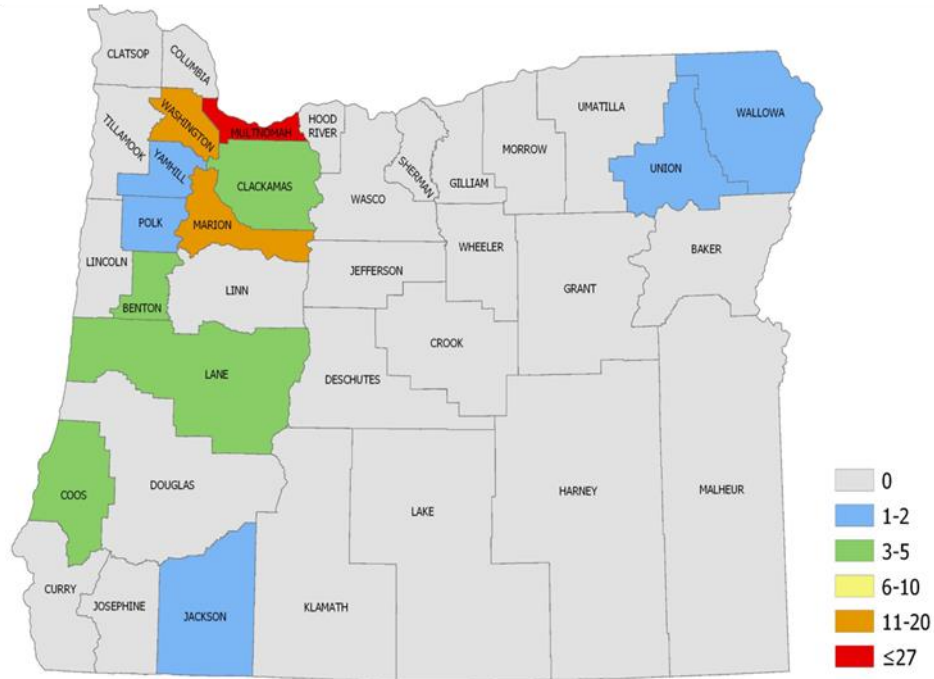


Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database, CDC Division of TB Elimination (U.S. data) and the National Tuberculosis Indicators Project (U.S. data)

Oregon’s reported TB cases are generally concentrated in the metropolitan areas in the western portion of the state (Figure 2). In 2018 most cases were reported in Multnomah County (n=27), Marion County (n=20), and Washington County (n=18). Twelve counties reported at least one case.

FIGURE

### Tuberculosis disease cases by county, Oregon, 2018

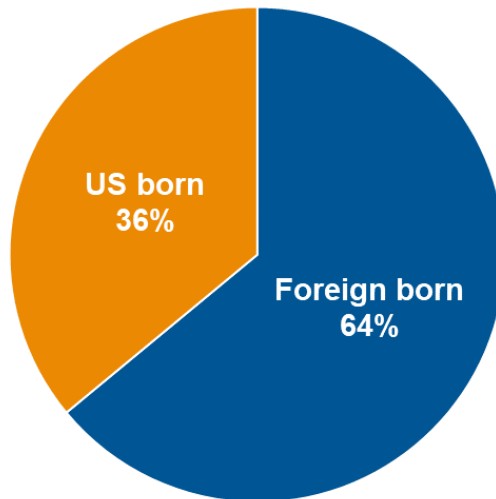


Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database

From 2014 through 2018 approximately 64% 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

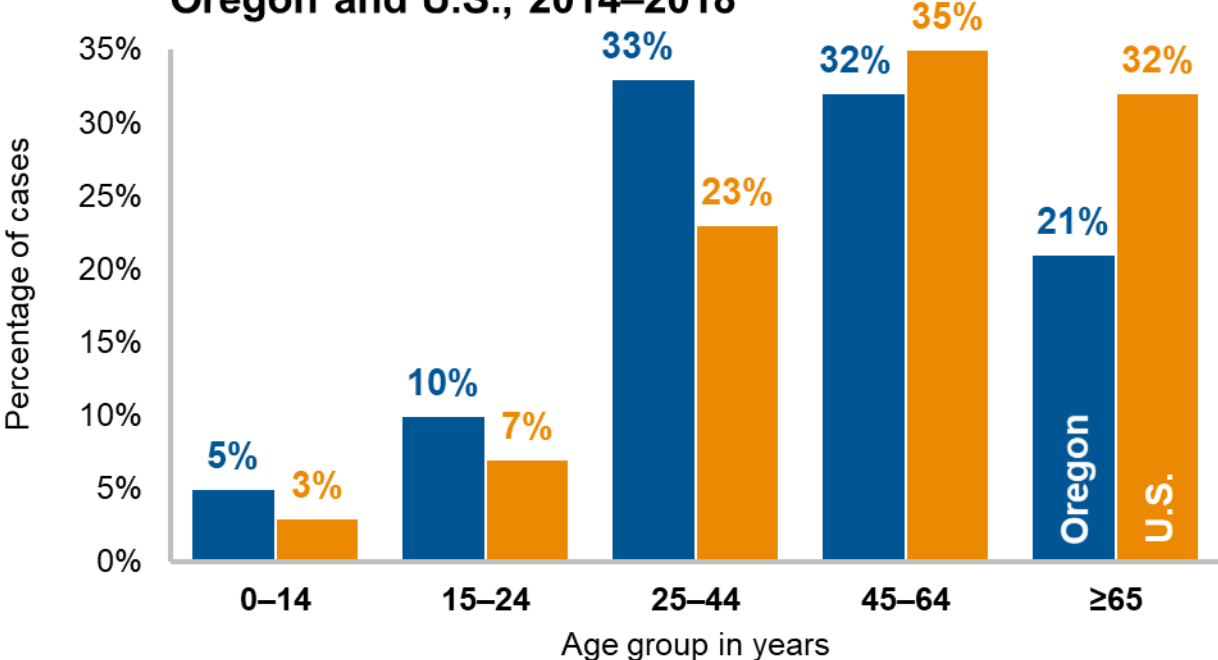
### Tuberculosis disease by country of birth, Oregon, 2014–2018



Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database

Most cases of TB disease occurred among people aged 25–64 years. Many of these people were likely infected with TB years prior to onset of active disease followed by a long latent period without illness or disease (called latent TB infection, or LTBI). 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 generally resembles the numbers seen nationally (Figure 4).

**FIGURE 4**  
**Tuberculosis disease by age group, Oregon and U.S., 2014–2018**

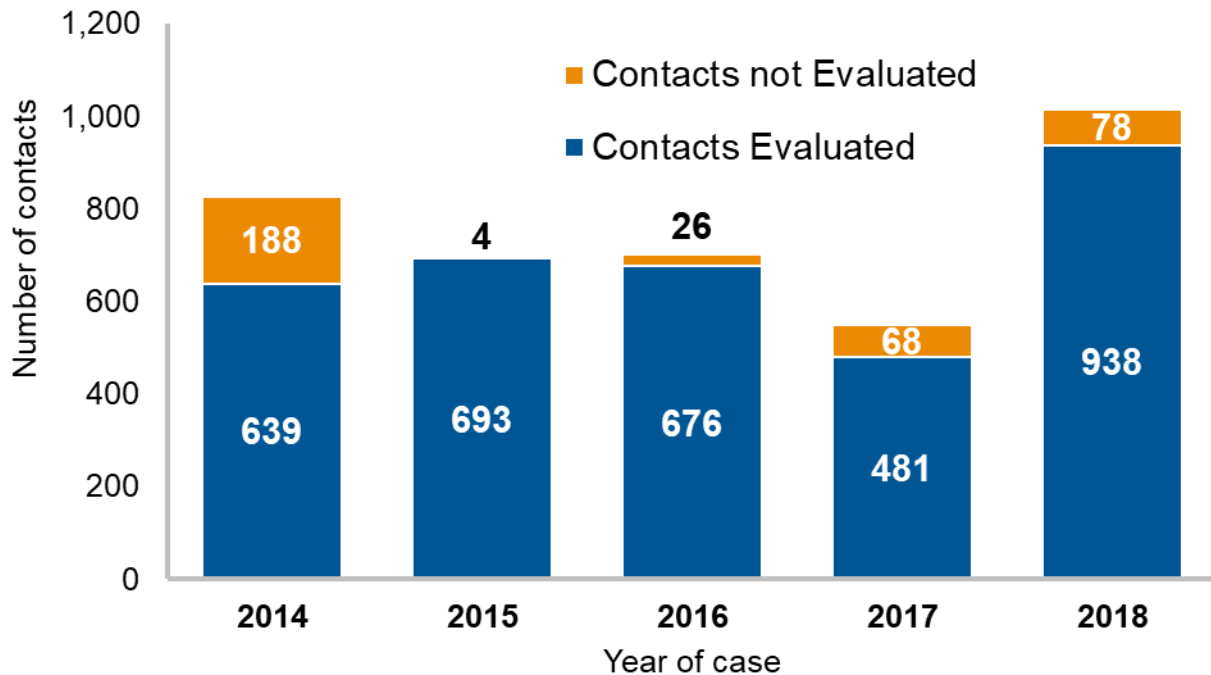


*Notes: The U.S. age distribution was for 2013–2017*  
*Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database*

Contact investigations are a major component of the public health response for prevention and control of TB disease. From 2014–2018, 373 cases of TB disease were reported in Oregon; 3,791 contacts to these cases were identified; and 3,427 (90%) 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, 39 were found to be sick with TB disease and 430 (13%) were found to have LTBI. Of the 430 contacts with LTBI, 355 (83%) started preventive treatment and 297 (84%) completed it.

FIGURE 5

## Tuberculosis case contacts identified and evaluated, Oregon 2014–2018



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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