

TB Cases Notified in Ireland in 2011,

Provisional Data (as of 25th October 2012)

A Report by the
Health Protection Surveillance Centre

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There were 424 cases of TB provisionally notified in 2011. It is important to note that these data are provisional and **may change significantly following validation**. A summary of the data is shown in table A1.

TABLE 1: PROVISIONAL SUMMARY OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF TB IN IRELAND, 2011

Parameter	2011 (% of total)
Total number of cases	424
Crude notification rate per 100,000	9.2
Cases in indigenous population ¹	188 (44.3%)
Cases in foreign-born persons	180 (42.5%)
Culture positive cases	287 (67.7%)
Pulmonary cases ²	292 (68.9%)
Of which sputum smear positive	122 (41.8%)
Resistant cases	24 (5.7%)
Multidrug-resistant cases	3 (0.7%)
TB meningitis cases	3 (0.7%)

Crude incidence rates by HSE area

The total number of TB cases in each HSE area is shown in table 2 with crude incidence rates and 95% confidence intervals included.

Table 2: Provisional TB cases in each HSE area, 2011

HSE Area	Number of cases	Crude rate per 100,000	95% CI for rate
HSE E	193	12.9	11.1 - 14.7
HSE M	20	7.9	4.5 - 11.4
HSE MW	24	6.6	4.0 - 9.3
HSE NE	25	6.3	3.9 - 8.8
HSE NW	14	5.9	2.8 - 9.0
HSE SE	30	6.5	4.2 - 8.8
HSE S	87	14.0	11.1 - 16.9
HSE W	31	7.5	4.8 - 10.1
Ireland	424	10.0	9.0 - 11.0

¹ Country of birth unknown for 56 cases (13.2%)

² Includes the cases categorised as pulmonary +extrapulmonary (P+E)

Age and Gender

There were 181 cases (42.7%) of TB notified in females and 243 cases (57.3%) in males, giving a male to female ratio of 1.3:1. The mean age of cases notified was 42.7 years (range 1 to 91 years).

Geographic origin

Of the 424 cases provisionally notified in 2011, 188 (44.3%) were born in Ireland and 180 (42.5%) were foreign-born. Information on country of birth was not reported for 56 cases (13.2%).

Site of disease

Pulmonary TB was diagnosed in 262 cases (61.8%), extrapulmonary TB in 121 cases (28.5%) and pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB in 30 cases (7.1%). The site of disease was unknown for eleven cases (2.6%).

Of the 292 cases with a pulmonary disease component, 220 (75.3%) were culture positive and 122 (41.8%) were smear positive.

TB meningitis

There were three cases of TB meningitis provisionally notified in 2011 giving an incidence rate of 0.07 per 100,000 population (0.65 per million population). One was in the 35-44 year age group, one was in the 55-64 year age group and one was aged 65 years and over. BCG vaccination status was unknown for all three meningitis cases.

One case was culture positive, one case was culture negative and culture status was unknown for the remaining TB meningitis case.

Culture

Of the 424 cases provisionally notified in 2011, 287 (67.7%) were culture confirmed.

Species

Among the 287 culture positive cases, 269 (93.7%) were *M. tuberculosis* and six (2.1%) were *M. bovis*. The remaining 12 cases (4.2%) were reported as *M. tuberculosis* complex without further speciation.

Antibiotic resistance

Resistance was reported in 24 of the 287 culture positive cases (8.4%), including three cases (0.7% of total cases, 1.0% of culture positive cases) of MDR-TB. Mono-resistance to isoniazid was reported in 10 cases, to pyrazinamide in one case, and to streptomycin in five cases. Four cases were resistant to isoniazid and streptomycin and one case was resistant to isoniazid plus ethambutol.