

## UPDATE ON THE TUBERCULOSIS SITUATION IN SINGAPORE

MOH was notified of 1,370 new cases of TB among Singapore residents<sup>1</sup> in 2020, which is lower than the 1,398 cases in 2019. Correspondingly, the incidence rate was 33.9 cases per 100,000 population in 2020, compared to 34.7 cases per 100,000 in 2019.

Most of the cases (79.5%) among Singapore residents were Singapore-born. Older age groups and males continue to make up a significant proportion of the new cases. Of the 1,370 new cases notified in 2020, 985 (71.9%) were 50 years old and above, and 888 (64.8%) were males.

There were 105 relapsed cases among Singapore residents, of whom 82 (78.1%) were Singapore-born.

MDRTB remains a serious public health challenge. In 2020, Singapore had 2 new cases of MDRTB (one Singapore-born and one foreign-born resident).

**Table 1**  
**Number of cases and distribution of tuberculosis infection by site,**  
**Singapore residents<sup>1</sup> 2011 – 2020**

Year	New Cases		
	Lung	Other Sites	Total
2011	1,309	224	1,533
2012	1,359	201	1,560
2013	1,249	171	1,420
2014	1,220	234	1,454
2015	1,271	227	1,498
2016	1,353	264	1,617
2017	1,302	234	1,536
2018	1,309	238	1,547
2019	1,184	214	1,398
2020	1,124	246	1,370

<sup>1</sup> Residents refer to Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents.

**Table 2**  
**Distribution of TB cases by age group and country of birth,**  
**Singapore residents, 2020**

Age (Years)	2020 new cases			2020 relapsed cases		
	S'pore-born	Foreign born	Total	S'pore-born	Foreign born	Total
0 – 9	6	0	6	0	0	0
10 – 19	20	10	30	0	0	0
20 – 29	59	15	74	0	1	1
30 – 39	72	47	119	1	5	6
40 – 49	105	51	156	2	2	4
50 – 59	195	30	225	18	4	22
60 – 69	307	48	355	25	2	27
70 +	325	80	405	36	9	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>105</b>

**Table 3**  
**Ethnic-gender distribution of reported tuberculosis (new case)**  
**Singapore residents, 2020**

Ethnic group	Male	Female	Total (%)
Chinese	653	287	940 (68.6%)
Malay	148	122	270 (19.7%)
Indian	61	45	106 (7.7%)
Others	26	28	54 (3.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>1,370 (100%)</b>