

## UPDATE ON THE TUBERCULOSIS SITUATION IN SINGAPORE

MOH was notified of 1,306 new cases of TB among Singapore residents<sup>1</sup> in 2021, which is lower than the 1,360 cases in 2020. Correspondingly, the incidence rate was 32.8 cases per 100,000 population in 2021, compared to 33.6 cases per 100,000 in 2020.

Most of the cases (78.6%) among Singapore residents were Singapore-born. Older age groups and males continue to make up a significant proportion of the new cases. Of the 1,306 new cases notified in 2021, 955 (73.1%) were 50 years old and above, and 851 (65.2%) were males.

There were 117 relapsed cases among Singapore residents, of whom 95 (81.2%) were Singapore-born.

MDRTB remains a serious public health challenge. In 2021, Singapore had 8 new cases of MDRTB (4 Singapore-born and 4 foreign-born residents).

**Table 1**  
**Number of cases and distribution of tuberculosis infection by site, Singapore residents<sup>1</sup> 2012 – 2021**

Year	New Cases		
	Lung	Other Sites	Total
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	1,117	243	1,360
2021	1,056	250	1,306

<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, 2021**

Age (Years)	2021 new cases			2021 relapsed cases		
	S'pore-born	Foreign born	Total	S'pore-born	Foreign born	Total
0 – 9	8	0	8	0	0	0
10 – 19	20	3	23	0	0	0
20 – 29	56	15	71	1	0	1
30 – 39	55	51	106	3	3	6
40 – 49	90	53	143	4	3	7
50 – 59	182	46	228	24	3	27
60 – 69	310	35	345	26	5	31
70 +	305	77	382	37	8	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>117</b>

**Table 3**  
**Ethnic-gender distribution of reported tuberculosis (new case)**  
**Singapore residents, 2021**

Ethnic group	Male	Female	Total (%)
Chinese	641	259	900 (68.9)
Malay	127	109	236 (18.1)
Indian	64	56	120 (9.2)
Others	19	31	50 (3.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>1,306 (100.0)</b>