Tuberculosis in Wales
Annual Report 2018
Data to the end of 2017

Key Points

Author: Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre
Date: 25/09/2018
Version: 1
Status: Final
Intended Audience: Health Professionals

Purpose and Summary of Document:
This annual report summarises trends in the epidemiology of tuberculosis in Wales.

Publication/Distribution:
- Director of Integrated Health Protection, Public Health Wales
- Public Health Wales TB Programme Group
- Public Health Wales Intranet and Internet
- Public Health England TB Section
Key Points

1. In 2017, 106 cases of tuberculosis were reported in Wales (3.4 per 100,000 population). This is one case fewer but the same rate as the previous year (105 cases, 3.4 per 100,000 population).

2. Wales continues to have the lowest rate of tuberculosis per 100,000 population compared to the other regions of the UK, although Wales was the only region not to see a decrease compared to 2016. England continues to have the highest rate of tuberculosis in the UK, with a rate of 9.2 per 100,000 population, followed by Scotland (5.3 per 100,000 population) and Northern Ireland (3.9 per 100,000 population) [1]. Public Health England reports the UK rate of tuberculosis as 8.4 per 100,000 population in 2017.

3. Notification rates vary geographically, with Newport and Cardiff Local Authority areas continuing to have the highest rates, 10.6 and 7.2 per 100,000 population respectively.

4. Of the 106 cases reported in 2017, 57% were male and 43% female (rates of 3.9 and 2.9 per 100,000). The notification rate was highest in those aged 25-34 years (5.6 per 100,000 population). There were seven cases notified in children aged under 15 years.

5. The rate of tuberculosis in those who reside in areas in the most deprived fifth of Wales was 7.5 (95% CI 5.5–10.1) per 100,000 population, compared to 1.6 (95% CI 0.8–3.0) per 100,000 population in the least deprived fifth.

6. In 2017, 49% of tuberculosis cases were reported in the white ethnic group, 47% were in the non-white population and 4% were of an unknown ethnic group. Forty-five percent of tuberculosis cases reported in Wales were born in the UK, 51% of cases were born abroad and 4% of cases had unknown place of birth. In 2017 the majority of cases known to be born outside the UK originated from South Asia, Central Europe, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

7. Of those with information available, 20% reported at least one social risk factor:
   - 7% of cases reported a history of, or current drug abuse
   - 9% reported a history of, or current alcohol misuse or abuse
   - 6% reported they had been, or are currently, homeless
   - 7% reported they had been, or are currently, in prison

8. About three in five of cases in 2017 (58%) had pulmonary tuberculosis (with or without extra-pulmonary disease); of these 13% also had extra pulmonary disease.

9. Of those where information was available, 16% were assigned DOT treatment. In 2017, 59% of cases reporting at least one social risk factor were known to be assigned DOT.
10. Of the 60 cases with known BCG vaccination status, 82% were vaccinated.

11. Seventy-one percent of all cases in 2017 were culture confirmed, and 82% of pulmonary cases (with or without extra pulmonary disease) were culture confirmed. This remains above the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) target of 80% for culture confirmation of pulmonary tuberculosis [2].

12. Among 75 culture-confirmed cases reported through the Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance scheme in 2017, 97% of cases were due to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and 3% (2 cases) *Mycobacterium bovis*.

13. There was an increase isoniazid resistance in culture confirmed cases of tuberculosis in 2017 compared to 2016, from 5% to 12%. Rifampicin resistance also increased from 2% to 4%. Resistance to one or more first line drug increased from 5% to 13%. Proportions should be interpreted with caution as numbers are small.

14. Outcome data are available for cases newly diagnosed in 2016. The proportion of drug sensitive cases with expected treatment duration of less than 12 months (94) who had completed treatment by 12 months decreased to 82% from 84% in the previous year.

15. The proportion of cases that were reported to have died at the last reported outcome among all drug sensitive TB cases has increased from 4% in 2015 to 7% in 2016. Four of the eight cases reported to have died were over 65 years of age.
References


Report prepared by Public Health Wales Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre

Acknowledgements

Public Health Wales Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre would like to thank the microbiologists, clinicians, respiratory nurses and Health Protection Teams for their contributions to the running of the Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance Scheme in Wales. Public Health Wales greatly appreciates the support received from Public Health England in conducting tuberculosis surveillance and for coordinating the Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Suggested Citation


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