



TUBERCULOSIS PROFILE



Tuberculosis is a major public health problem in South Africa. In 2006, the World Health Organization ranked South Africa fifth among the world's 22 high-burden TB countries. According to the *WHO Global TB Report 2006*, South Africa had nearly 340,000 new TB cases in 2004, with an incidence rate of 718 cases per 100,000 people – a major increase from 338 per 100,000 in 1998. Since South Africa adopted Directly Observed Treatment, Short-Course (DOTS) in 1996, all districts have implemented the core DOTS components, although coverage varies widely within and among districts. Despite South Africa's investments in TB control, progress toward reaching program objectives has been slow. Treatment success remains low compared with other African countries with high HIV/AIDS prevalence and considerably fewer resources.

The TB epidemic in South Africa is likely to be further exacerbated over the next few years due to HIV/AIDS. TB-HIV co-infection rates are high, with as many as 60 percent of adult TB patients being HIV-positive. Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), largely caused by non-adherence to drug regimens or inappropriate drug regimens, is further exacerbating the epidemic. National studies of MDR-TB conducted by the Medical Research Council of South Africa in 2002 found that 1.6 percent of new TB cases and 6.7 percent of re-treatment cases had MDR-TB.

Country population	47,207,653
Global rank out of 22 high-burden TB countries	5
Estimated number of new TB cases	339,078
Estimated TB incidence (all cases per 100,000 pop.)	718
DOTS population coverage (%)	93
Rate of new sputum smear-positive (SS+) cases (per 100,000 pop.)	250
DOTS case detection rate (new SS+) (%)	83
DOTS treatment success rate in 2003 (new SS+) (%)	67
Estimated adult TB cases HIV+ (%)	60
New multidrug-resistant TB cases (%)	1.8

Note: All data are for 2004 except where noted otherwise.
Source: Global Tuberculosis Control: WHO Report 2006.

USAID Approach and Key Activities

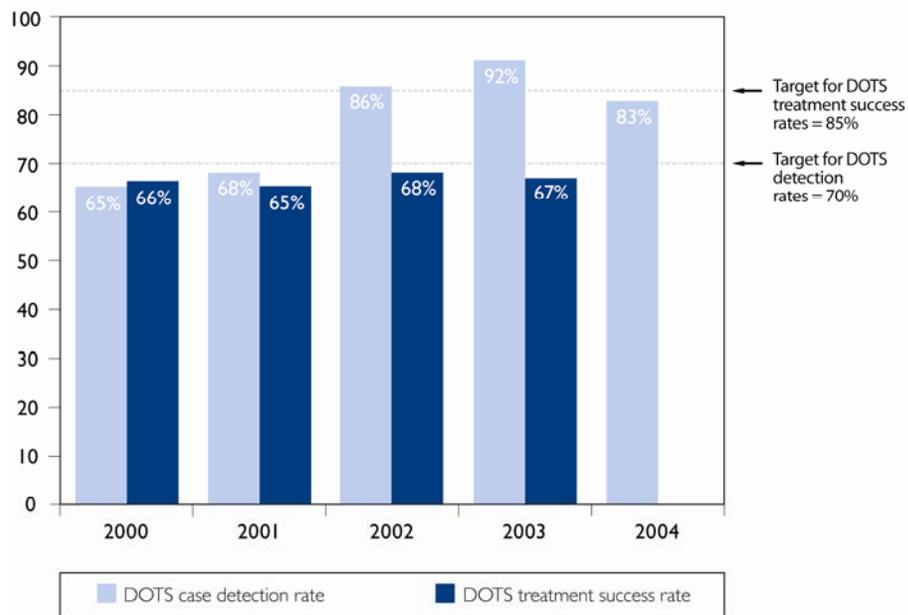
USAID support for South Africa's National TB Control Program (NTP) began in 1998 through the EQUITY Project in Eastern Cape Province and expanded to nationwide coverage in 1999. USAID-supported activities are being implemented in 10 districts, 18 subdistricts, and 258 facilities in five provinces. While USAID assistance focuses primarily on the community, municipal, district, and provincial levels, it also helps the national health system confront the pressures exerted by HIV/AIDS by strengthening critical health systems (such as information, supervision, and TB management systems). USAID's assistance emphasizes capacity building, sustainability, quality of care, integration, and coordination. Between 2000 and 2005, USAID funds for TB programming in South Africa averaged \$1.6 million per year.

USAID Program Achievements

USAID's assistance and support have helped address TB prevention and control in South Africa. USAID's program achievements include the following:

- Completed baseline assessments of TB services in four provinces in FY 2005 that indicated that 93 percent offered comprehensive TB-HIV/AIDS services
- Developed guidelines on TB-HIV/AIDS collaboration at the district and provincial levels and oversaw the dissemination of these guidelines and principles in TB and TB-HIV/AIDS management to health care providers
- Conducted baseline assessments of TB laboratory services in two provinces.
- Supported a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in providing DOTS for 7,131 patients from a large and highly mobile population, 73 percent of whom completed treatment
- Supported the above NGO in reaching 12,500 people with TB messages to increase early case detection, improve treatment outcomes, and address stigma
- Developed a national TB social mobilization strategy that for the medium term included advocacy and information, education, and communication
- Continued to strengthen the recording and reporting system through the use of an electronic registry in five of South Africa's nine provinces
- Continued to implement an ongoing assessment of the value of a sputum register in an urban area with high TB incidence
- Provided input to the Medical Research Council of South Africa on a national survey of TB drug resistance

Case Detection and Treatment Success Rates Under DOTS



Note: DOTS treatment success rate for 2004 will be reported in the 2007 global report.
Source: Global Tuberculosis Control: WHO Report 2006.

Partnerships

Partnerships are one of the most important elements in combating TB in South Africa. The Tuberculosis Coalition for Technical Assistance (TBCTA Project), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, the KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, and WHO are providing technical support to the government.

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