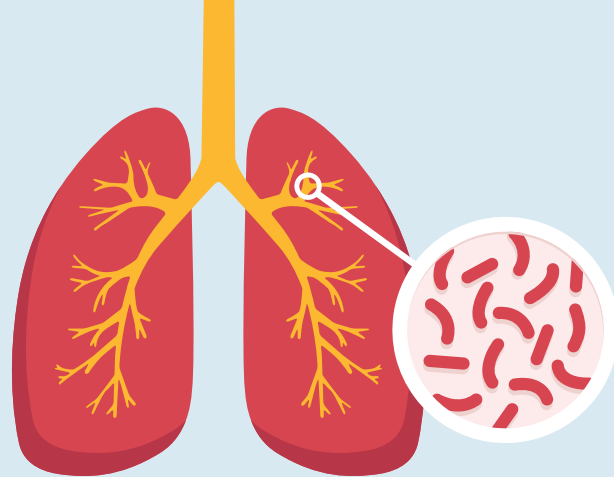


# Inequalities in Tuberculosis in Canada, 2010–2014



**4.6**

active TB cases are reported per 100 000 people in Canada.

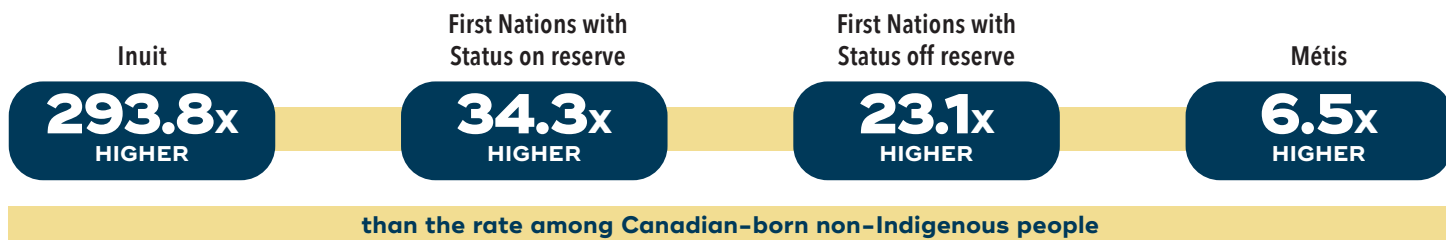
Tuberculosis (TB) usually attacks the lungs, but can also affect other parts of the body, such as lymph nodes, kidneys, the urinary tract, and bones. Those affected by TB may also face additional indirect economic and social costs such as being too sick to work, and discrimination by co-workers, family, or friends. Such discrimination can result in depression, anxiety and reduced quality of life.<sup>1</sup>

Social and economic conditions can increase the risk of TB infection. These factors include:



Although the incidence of active TB disease in the overall Canadian population is among the lowest in the world, high rates persist among Indigenous peoples and people born abroad. Males experience higher TB rates than females.

For Indigenous peoples, the rate of active TB is:



Inequities experienced by First Nations, Inuit and Métis populations are a direct result of colonial policies and practices that included massive forced relocation, loss of lands, creation of the reserve system, banning of Indigenous languages and cultural practices, and creation of the residential school system. Unaddressed intergenerational trauma adds to the ongoing challenges faced by Indigenous peoples.

The rate of active TB is:

**20.6x**  
HIGHER

among foreign-born Canadians than among Canadian-born non-Indigenous people

The rate of active TB is:

**1.3x**  
HIGHER

higher among males than among females

**TB is preventable and curable. Addressing risk factors associated with TB infection requires improvements to general living conditions, health and social services, and public health action. Consider:**

- treatment adherence (e.g. closely following treatment instructions) in acute and public health systems
- addressing poverty and social stigma
- improving access and diagnosis
- improving poor and crowded housing

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<sup>1</sup> Dennis A. Ahlburg. The economic impacts of tuberculosis. Paper presented at the Ministerial Conference: Stop TB Initiative 2000 Series, Amsterdam. 2000 March 22–24; Switzerland: World Health Organization).

Source: Canadian Tuberculosis Reporting System (2010–2014)

For more data on health inequalities in Canada, visit: [www.health-infobase.canada.ca/health-inequalities](http://www.health-infobase.canada.ca/health-inequalities)

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