

Tuberculosis (TB)

Why Is This Important?

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB spread through the air, usually by coughing. It affects mainly the lungs but can infect any part of the body.

In Canada, most reported cases are among foreign-born individuals, while in Saskatchewan the majority of cases are among First Nations and Métis individuals (see [Additional Data](#)).¹

People may be infected with TB but not be sick (called latent TB infection (LTBI)). Most exposed and infected individuals will not develop TB.² The risk is higher in immune-compromised individuals, for example if HIV positive.

TB and LTBI are treatable and curable. Drug resistant TB is of concern worldwide because it limits the drugs that can be used to treat TB ([About the Data](#)). The prevention of active TB relies on treatment and prevention of new cases and LTBI.

The goal of the Saskatchewan Provincial Tuberculosis Strategy, released in 2013, is to reduce the active TB rate (new and relapsed cases) in Saskatchewan to 25% by 2017/18 and 50% by 2022/23.

What Is Being Done?

[Saskatchewan TB Strategy](#)

To Learn More:

[Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7th Edition](#)

[Canadian Tuberculosis Reporting System](#)

Highlights

Over the past ten years TB rates have been lower in the Region than the province.

- Since 2006 the rate of TB in the Region has varied from 2.2 to 6.1 per 100,000 population (*Figure 1*).
- The rate in 2015 was 4.3 per 100,000, which is similar to the national rate.
- In 2015 there were fifteen cases of TB reported in the Region and 69 in total in the province (*Figure 2*).
- In the past five years in the Region, one case (1.2%) had previously been treated for TB and was retreated, compared to 35 cases (8.4%) for the province. Retreatment indicates a relapsed or re-infected case.
- Between 2011 and 2015, one case (1.2%) in the Region was drug resistance. Nine drug-resistant cases (2.1%) were reported in the province during this period. All cases were primary-mon-resistant (see [About the Data](#)).
- Of the 82 cases reported in the Region in the past five years, 51 (62%) completed contact tracing investigations. These investigations generated 2,666 contact names, an average of 52 contacts per case.
- HIV infection increases the risk of developing TB if infected. The HIV prevalence among TB cases in the Region in the past 5 years was 16%. This figure is more than double that of the province (7.2%).

Figure 1: TB Rates per 100,000 Population, Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatchewan, and Canada, 2006 to 2015

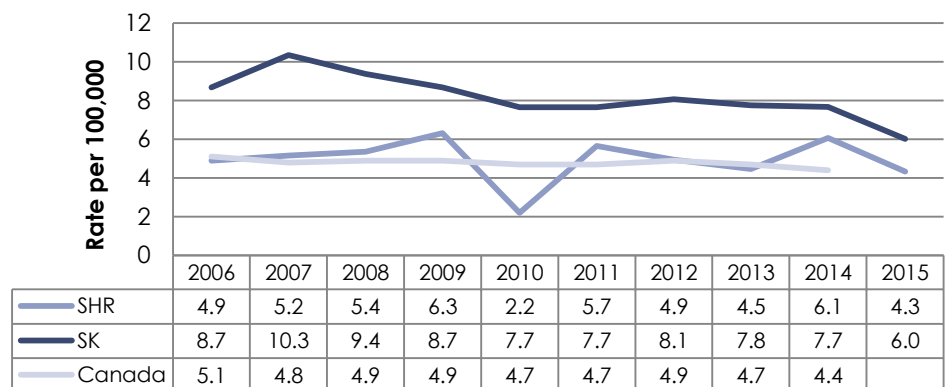
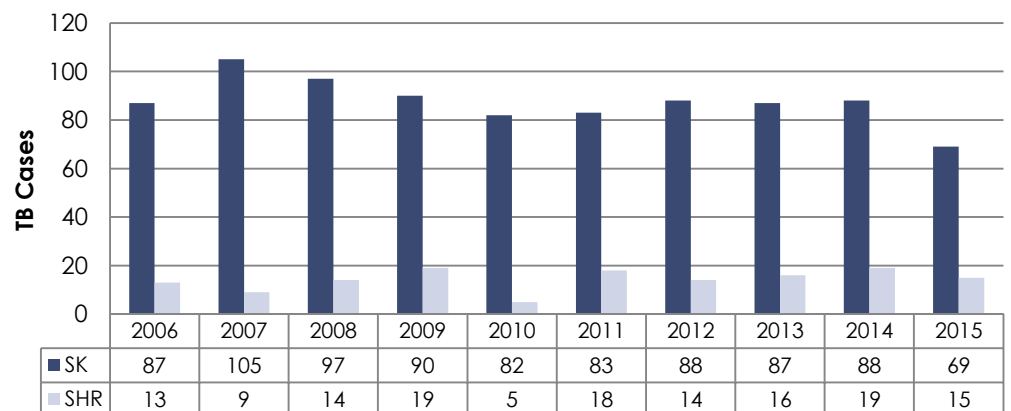


Figure 2: Tuberculosis Cases, Saskatoon Health Region and Saskatchewan, 2006 to 2015



Source: TBIS