

This report describes confirmed tuberculosis cases reported to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) in 2024. This report was prepared by the Tuberculosis Program. Contact Ryan Weight at 406-444-0273 or ryan.weight@mt.gov with questions.

TB Surveillance Update (Table)

- Six patients with new, active tuberculosis were reported in Montana in 2024.
- Jurisdictions of residence for the TB cases included **Cascade County (1), Crow (1), Flathead County (1), Ft. Peck (1), Gallatin County (1), and Ravalli County (1).**
- Five patients had pulmonary/pleural disease, and one patient had ocular TB disease.
- One patient was infected with a multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB organism. One patient was unable to produce a specimen for drug susceptibility testing. All other cases were drug susceptible.
- Patient risk factors included: contact to an infectious TB patient within their lifetime, untreated latent TB infection (LTBI), and born in or travel to a TB endemic country. Other risk factors for progression from LTBI to TB disease included: diabetes, injecting drug use within past year, excess alcohol use within past year, and immunosuppression (not HIV/AIDs).
- Five of the patients had typical signs and symptoms of active TB disease. The ocular TB diagnosis was made by a provider and the case improved on therapy.

- There were two contacts to a TB case that tested positive at baseline testing. It was not possible to determine if they were infected by the case or had previous LTBI. All positive contacts identified were treated for LTBI.

TB Trends (Figures 1 and 2)

- Incidence rates of TB in Montana have begun to plateau, and rates in the United States have been decreasing on average year after year, with a slight uptick in the last couple years; the 2024 MT rate (0.6 cases per 100,000 population) was 4.8 times lower than the 2023 U.S. rate (2.9 cases per 100,000 population); the 2024 U.S. rate was not available at the time of writing this report).
- During the most recent five-year period (2020–2024) an average of 5.4 cases per year, or ~0.5 cases per 100,000 population, were reported in Montana.
- TB cases among American Indians have declined from an average of 10 cases per year in the 1990s to 5.7 cases per year in the 2000s to 2.5 cases per year in the 2010s.
- During the last 10 years (2015 – 2024) TB cases among American Indians decreased to an average of 1.4 cases per year in Montana.

FIGURE 1. REPORTED ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS CASES BY RACE — MONTANA, 1990–2024

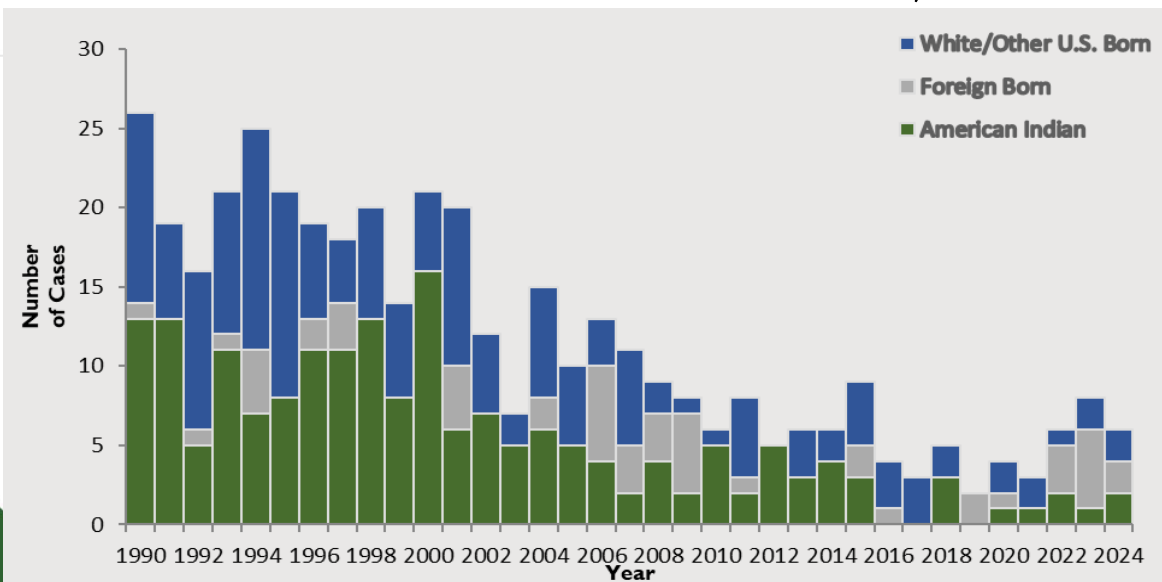


FIGURE 2. TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE RATE — MONTANA AND UNITED STATES, 2005–2024

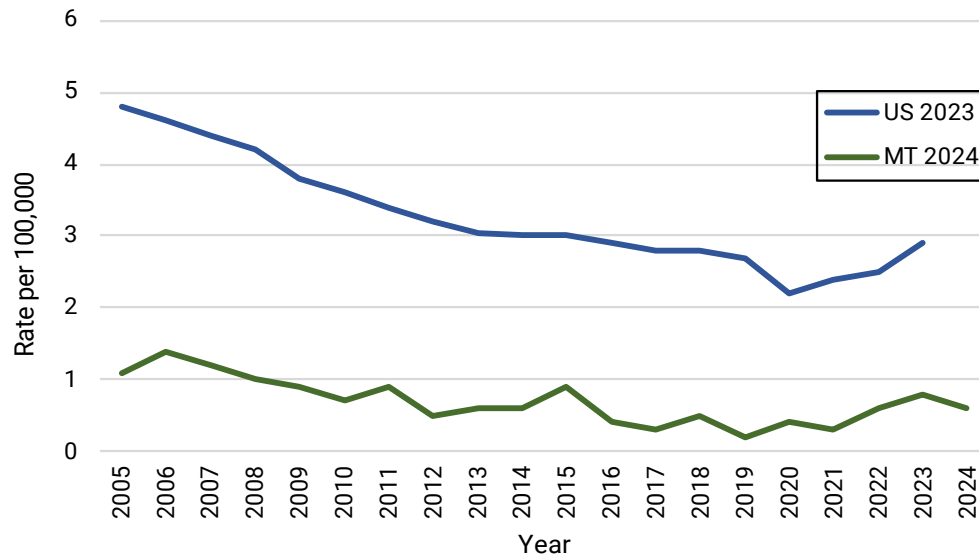


TABLE. TUBERCULOSIS CASE SUMMARY—MONTANA, 2022-2024

Characteristics	2022	2023	2024
New TB Cases	6	8	6
Incidence Rates (per 100,000)			
Montana	0.6	0.8	0.6
Sex			
Male	2	3	3
Female	4	5	3
Age at diagnosis (years)			
<5	-	-	-
5-14	-	-	-
15-24	1	-	-
25-44	-	5	4
45-64	5	-	-
≥65	-	3	2
Race, Ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic, White	1	3	2
Non-Hispanic, American Indian	2	1	2
Non-Hispanic, Other	3	2	-
Hispanic, White	-	2	2
Site of Disease			
Pulmonary/Pleural	4	6	5
Extrapulmonary only	1	2	1
Pulmonary & Extrapulmonary	1	-	-
Drug Resistance			
No resistance	4	8	5*
Mono-drug resistance	1	-	-
Multiple-drug resistance	1	-	1
Country of Origin			
U.S. born	3	3	4
Foreign born	3	5	2

*One or more patients met the definition of a clinical case but were culture-negative so susceptibility testing could not be completed

Data source: DPHHS Montana Infectious Disease Information System