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## Tuberculosis in Alaska, 2012–2016

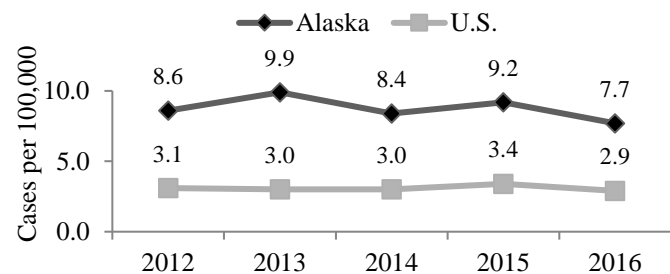
### Background

Alaska continues to have one of the highest tuberculosis (TB) rates in the United States. This *Bulletin* presents a snapshot of TB trends in Alaska during 2012–2016.

### Incidence of TB

Fifty-seven cases of TB were reported in Alaska in 2016, a rate of 7.7 cases per 100,000 population. This rate was more than 2.5-times higher than the national average (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup> In 2016, Alaska had the second highest rate of TB in the nation.

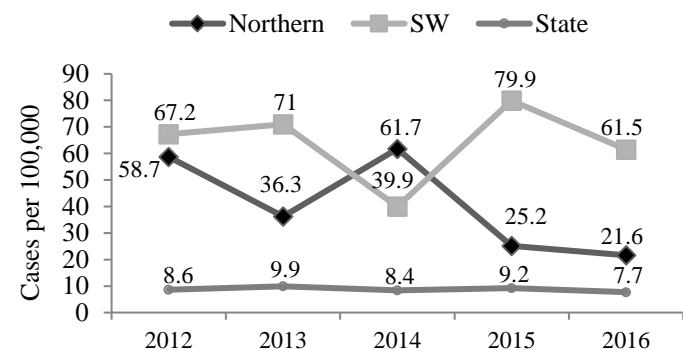
Figure 1. Alaska TB Incidence by Year, 2012–2016



### Region

The incidence of TB varies across the state. In 2016, rates in the Northern and Southwest (SW) regions were nearly 3 and 8 times higher, respectively, than the statewide rate (Figure 2).

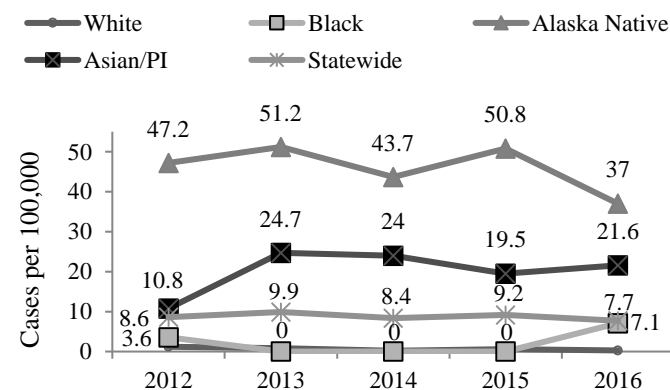
Figure 2. Alaska TB Incidence by Region, 2012–2016



### Racial Group

Alaska Native people continue to bear a disproportionate burden of TB; however, Asian/Pacific Islanders (Asian/PI) also have elevated rates (Figure 3). The incidence rates among whites and blacks are equal to or less than the statewide rate.

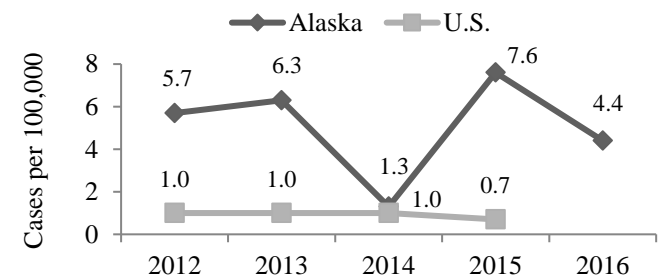
Figure 3. Alaska TB Incidence by Race, 2012–2016



### TB among Children Aged 0–14 Years

During 2012–2016, TB rates among Alaska children aged 0–14 years were higher than in the U.S. overall (Figure 4). Pediatric case counts were as follows: 2012, 9 cases; 2013, 10 cases; 2014, 2 cases; 2015, 12 cases; and 2016, 7 cases.<sup>3</sup>

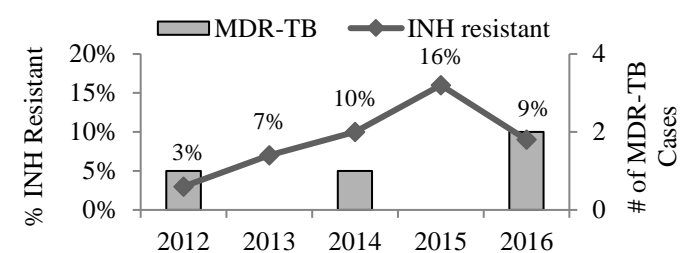
Figure 4. Alaska and U.S. TB Incidence in Children Aged 0–14 Years, 2012–2016



### Drug Resistance

During 2012–2016, 3%–16% of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) isolates were resistant to isoniazid (INH), and four cases of multidrug resistant TB (MDR-TB) were identified (Figure 5). No extensively drug resistant TB (XDR-TB) cases have ever been reported in Alaska.

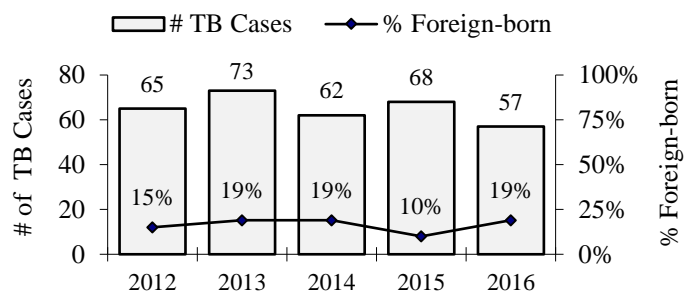
Figure 5. *Mtb* Drug Resistance in Alaska, 2012–2016



### TB among Foreign-born Persons

During 2012–2016, on average, 16% of Alaska TB cases were in foreign-born persons (Figure 6). By comparison, over two-thirds of TB cases nationwide are in foreign-born individuals.

Figure 6. Alaska TB Cases by % Foreign-Born, 2012–2016



### Summary

Tuberculosis remains a major public health challenge in Alaska, particularly in the Northern and Southwest regions of the state and among Alaska Native people and Asian/Pacific Islanders. A recent summary of the history of TB in Alaska offers considerations for future approaches to TB control.<sup>3</sup> The full 2016 annual TB report, including discussion of control measures, will be available in Summer 2017.<sup>4</sup>

### References

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