

Facts About Tuberculosis in Georgia

Collapse, even absence of Tuberculosis (TB) control in 1991- 1995, as well as, factors, like civil war, regional conflicts, low quality of life, and low TB awareness of the society did contribute to making TB the major public health challenge for Georgia.

At the mean time about 6000 cases of TB are registered annually in Georgia among which about 4000 are cases with no previous history of TB disease. Between 1998 and 2009, the total number of reported TB cases has been gradually decreasing (from 6695 cases in 1998 to 5978 cases in 2009). A decrease of all TB case notification rate is mainly due to decrease of re-treatment TB case notification and can be attributed to an improvement TB case management. Number of never treated TB case notified remains stable, since the reservoir of infected population stays the same. Although new TB cases notification rate remains rather stable for the civil sector, the Georgian NTP faced almost doubling in number of new TB cases in prison in 2009.

TB notification rate was 135.8 and 101.2 per 100 000 population for all and never treated TB cases, respectively, in 2009. Pulmonary TB accounted for 77% (4588) of all TB cases (5978) notified, sputum smear positive TB represented 63% of all pulmonary TB and 49% of all notified TB cases in 2009.

TB is most prevalent in males aged 25-44 years and females aged 15-34 years. The male to female ratio is 2.8. As expected for the country with TB case notification rate higher than 100 per 100 000 population, tuberculosis mostly affects labour force available for production.

In 2009 proportion of multidrug resistant tuberculosis was 10.3% and 31.1% among never and previously treated TB cases, respectively; although the prevalence of multidrug resistance is low compared to other Eastern European countries, it proves high burden of drug resistance and represents a key challenge for TB control in Georgia.

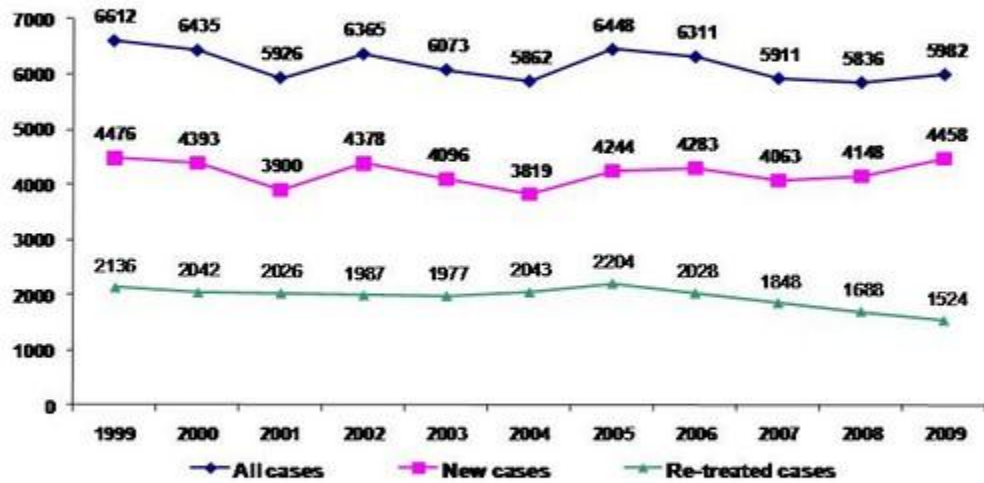
TB patients are screened on HIV with support of the Global Fund. In 2009, 2,794 TB patients were tested for HIV, and 56 (2%) of them were found to be HIV-positive.

Reversing global tuberculosis (TB) incidence by 2015 is included in the Millennium Development Goals. Prevalence and death rates and the proportion of cases detected and cured under a directly observed treatment strategy (DOTS) are used to measure progress towards this goal. World Health Organization (WHO) has formulated the following goals: a Case Detection rate of 70% and a Treatment Success rate of 85%. If both targets are achieved, the effect on TB transmission will be considerable.

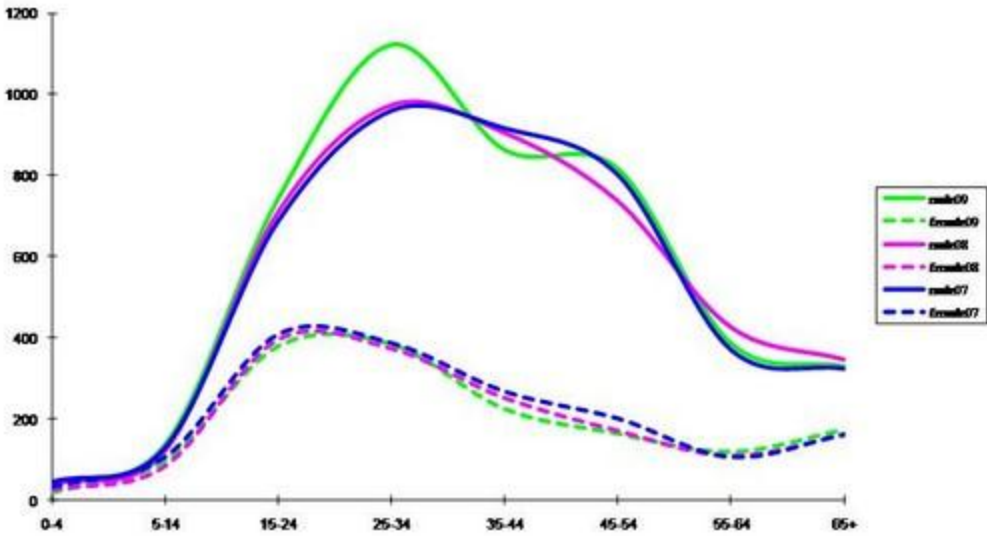
TB surveillance has been improved in the last decade in Georgia. As the results of this improvement the case detection rate of new sputum smear positive pulmonary TB cases remarkably increased from 63% in 2003 to 91% in 2005, and over 95% of new sputum smear positive pulmonary TB case detection rate was reported between 2006 and 2010.

Graphs demonstrating TB Epidemiologic trends are presented below:

All Registered TB cases in Georgia (absolute numbers)



TB cases by sex and age-groups (2007-09)



Drug Resistance Surveillance Results in Georgia 2005-2009

