



Tuberculosis in Ireland: provisional trends in surveillance data

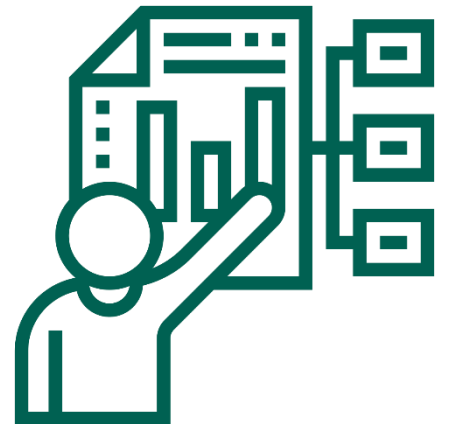
March 2026





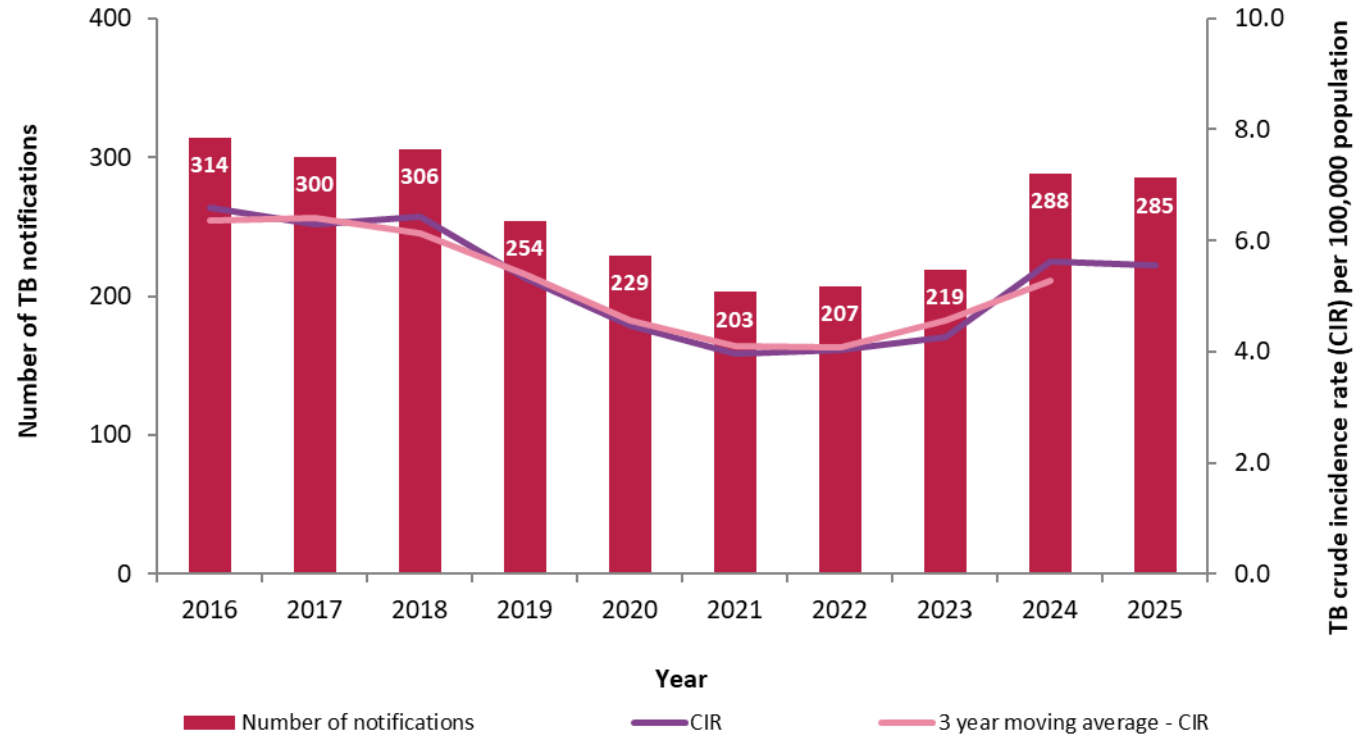
Key points

- An 80% reduction in TB incidence by 2030 relative to 2015 levels is required to achieve the End TB target
- TB incidence plateaued in 2025 and is comparable with 2015 levels
- The number of cases reported exceeds the projected number of cases required to achieve [End TB target](#)
- [Paediatric TB](#) rates remain elevated
- The number of [rifampicin resistant](#) cases has decreased in 2025
- Number of [outbreaks](#) reported remains elevated in 2025
- 54 cases notified in 2025 were to linked to [33 clusters](#) identified through Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) by the Irish Mycobacteria Reference Laboratory (IMRL)





Annual TB notifications 2016-2025



TB cases 2025:

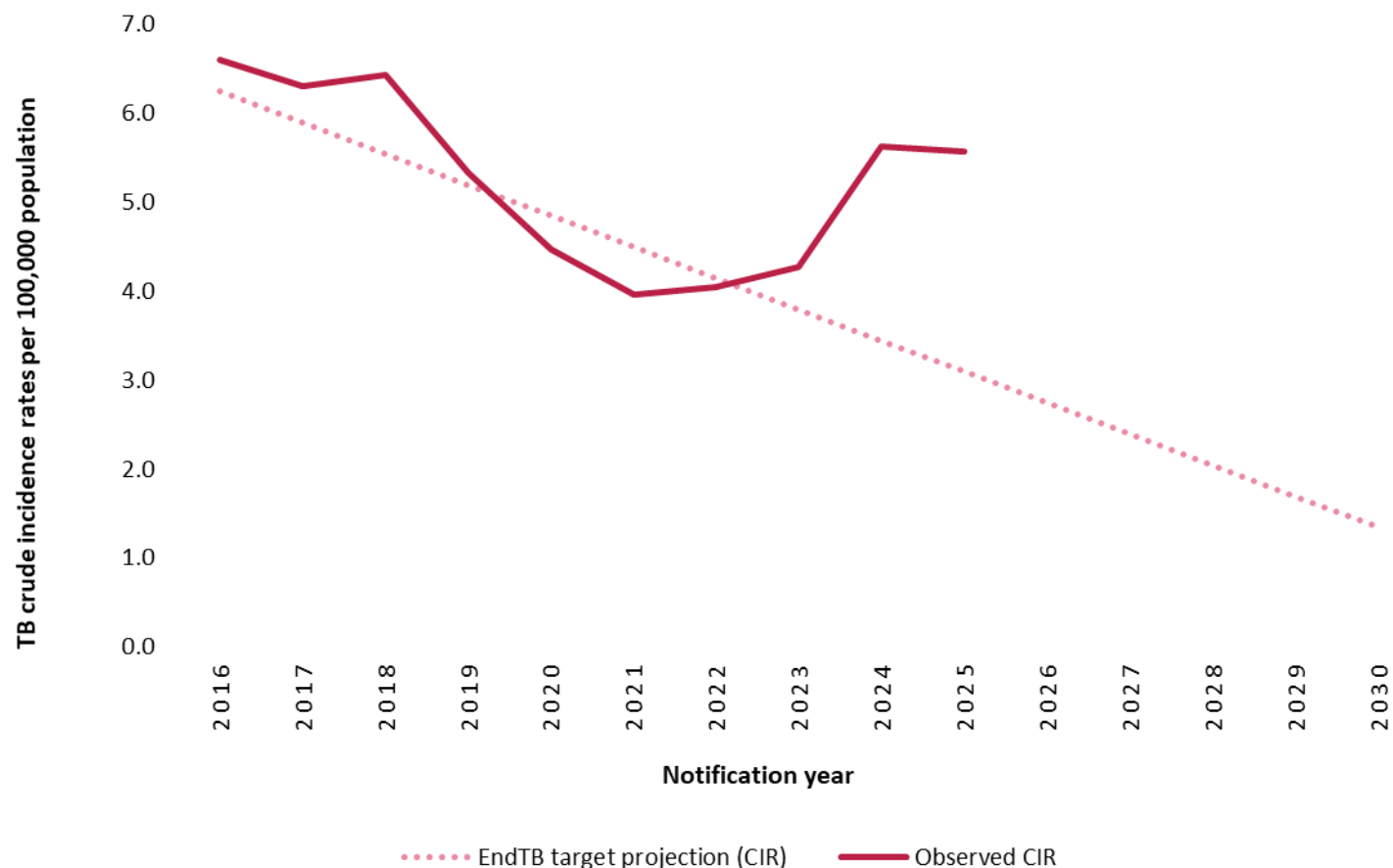
285

- TB rate (5.5) remains stable compared to 2024
- TB rates in 2024-2025 are comparable to levels observed prior to 2019





End TB target projections

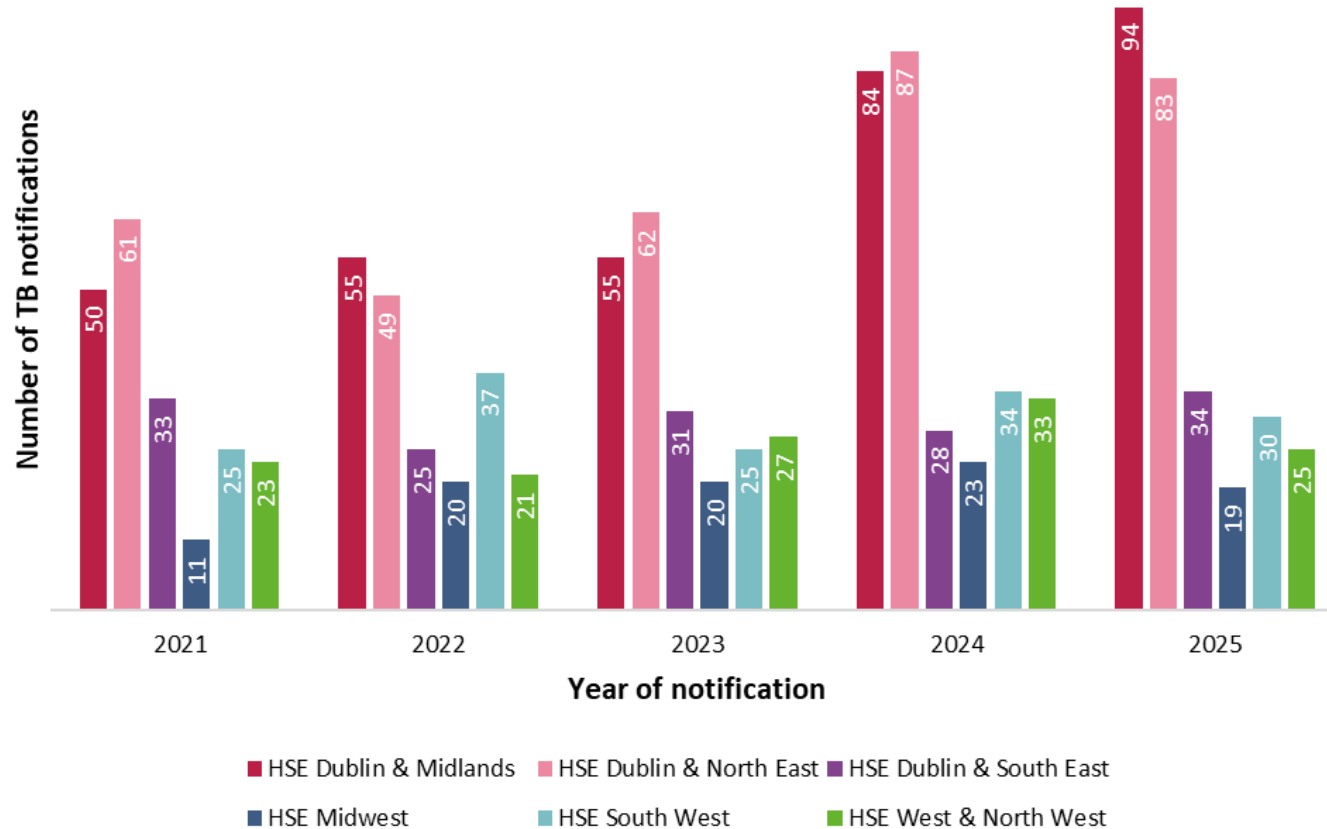


- An 80% reduction in incidence by 2030 relative to 2015 levels is required to achieve End TB target
- Current TB incidence is above EndTB target projections





Annual TB notifications by Regional Health Area & year



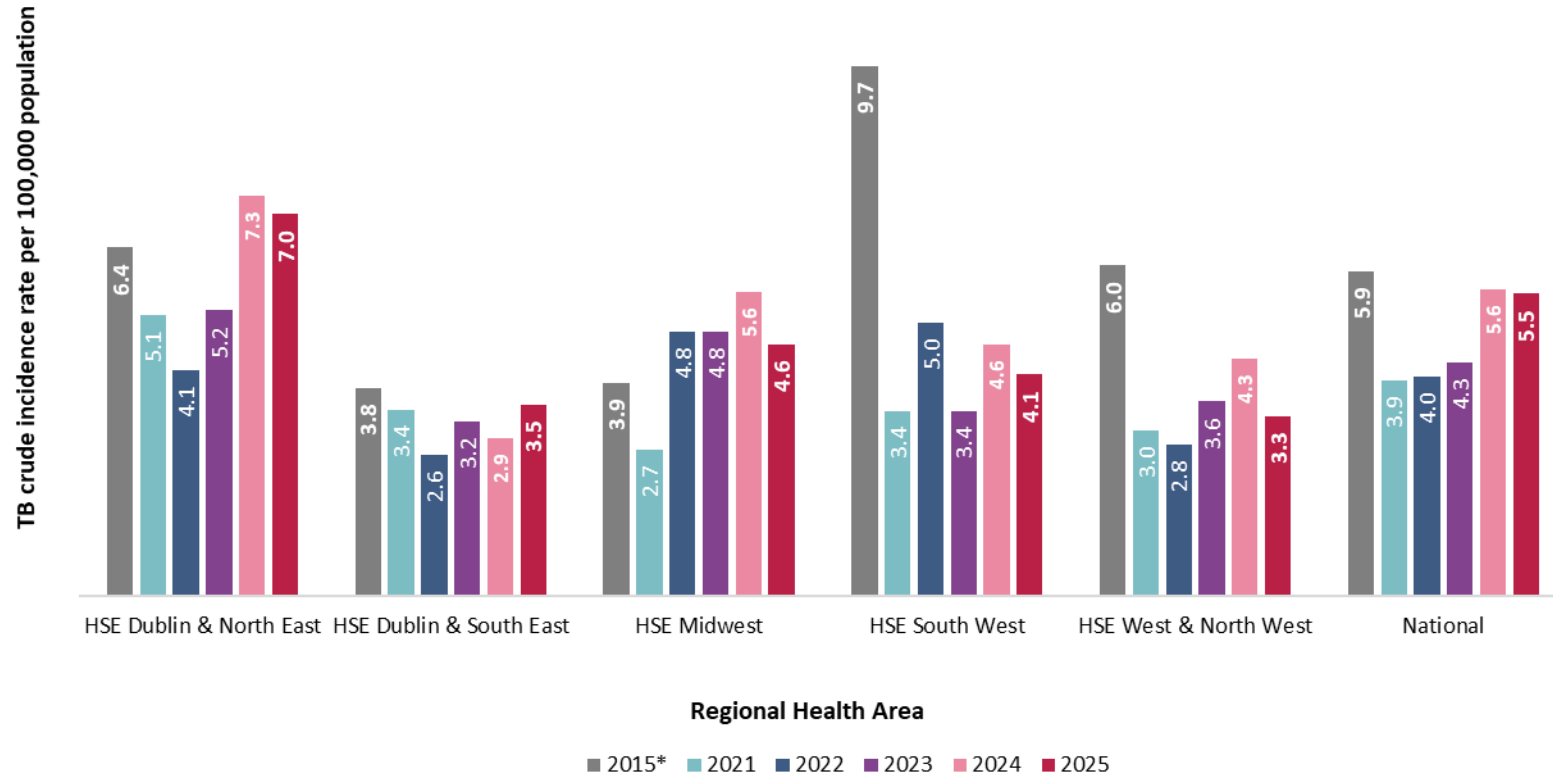
2025:

- Highest numbers of cases in:
 - Dublin & Midlands (94)
 - Dublin & North East (83)





Annual TB crude incidence rates (CIRs) by RHA



- Regional rates mostly remained stable compared to 2024, except for Dublin Midlands which continued to increase
- 2 RHAs have achieved a decrease in incidence relative to 2015* levels
 - HSE South West
 - HSE West & North West



*An 80% reduction in TB incidence by 2030 relative to 2015 levels is required to achieve the End TB target



TB crude incidence rates (CIRs) by RHA: 2025



2025:

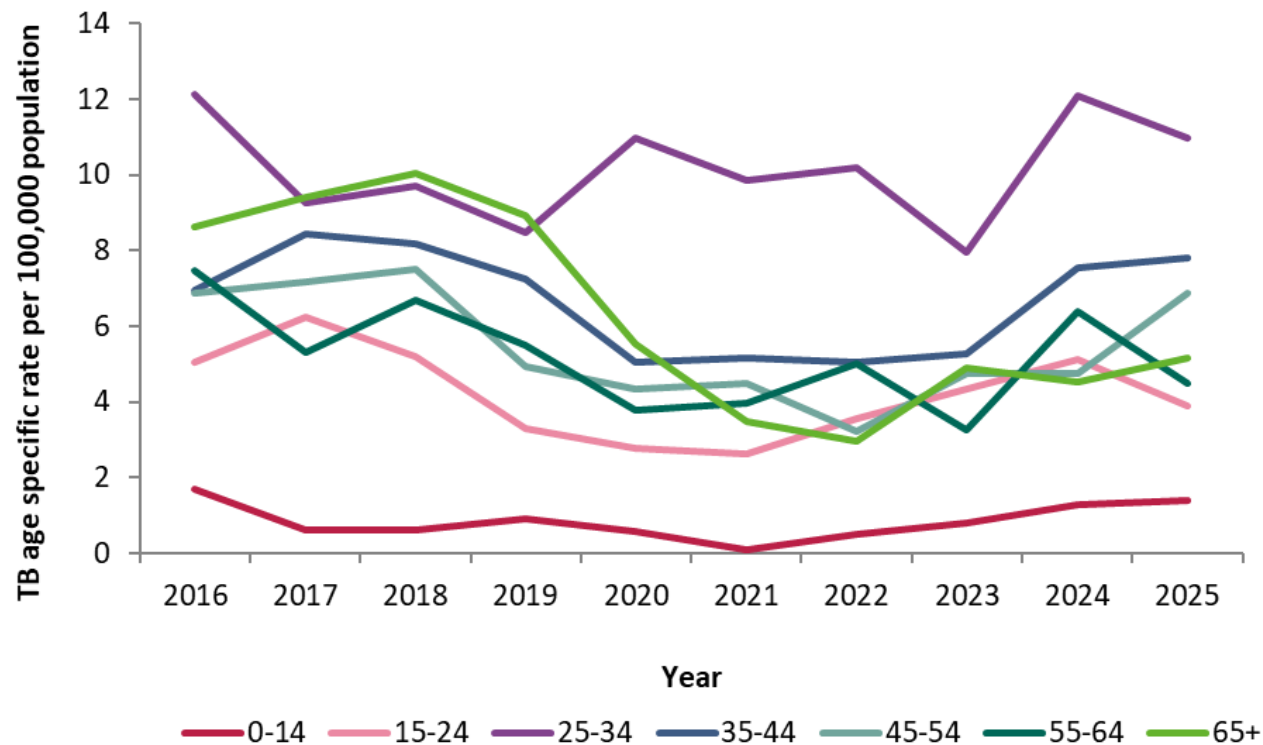
↑ The CIR in Dublin & Midlands (8.7) was significantly **higher** than the national CIR

↓ The CIR in Dublin & South East (3.5) and West & North West (3.3) was significantly **lower** than the national CIR





Annual TB age-specific incidence rates (ASIRs)



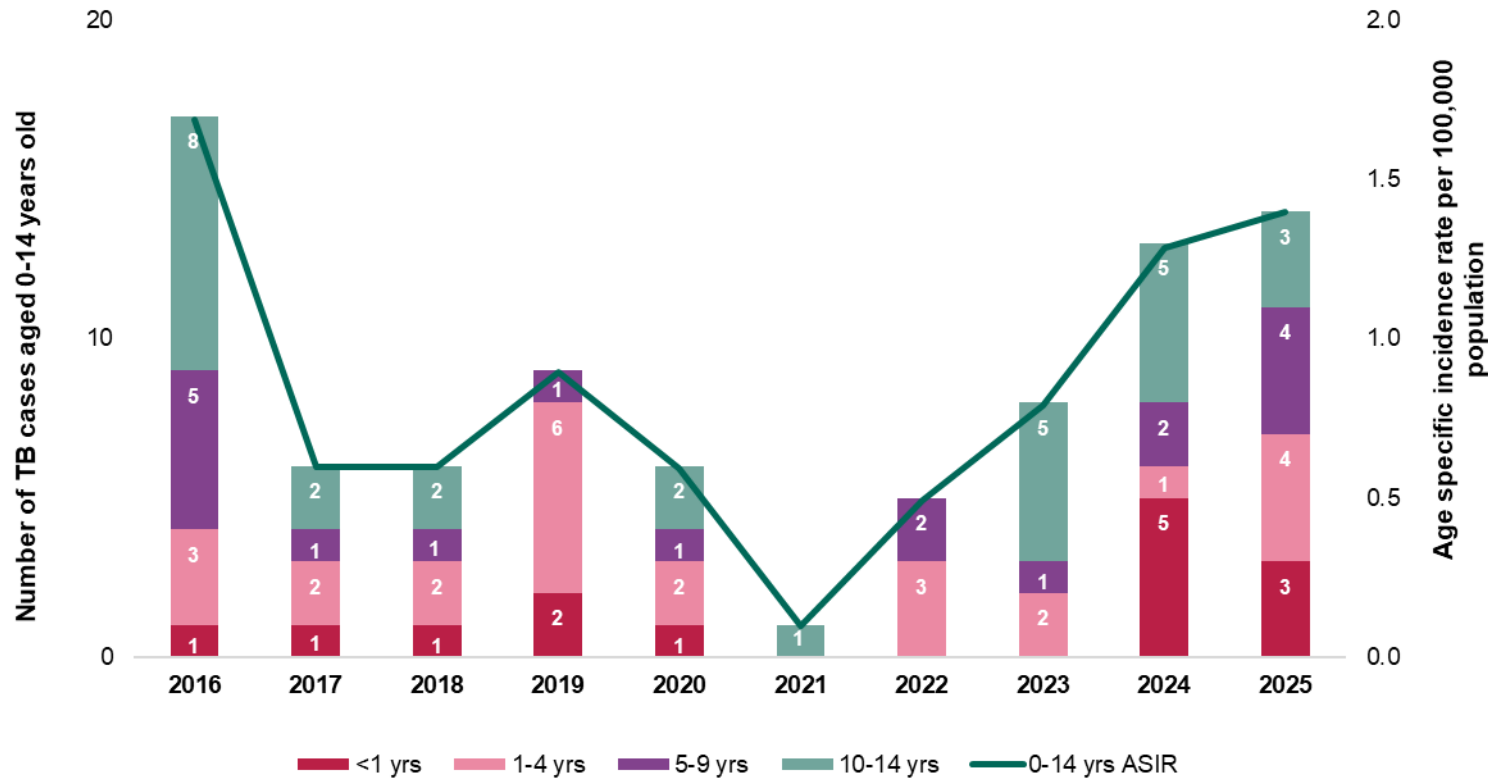
2025:

- Highest ASIRs in 25-34 year olds (11.0)





Paediatric TB notifications and age specific incidence rate (ASIR) by year



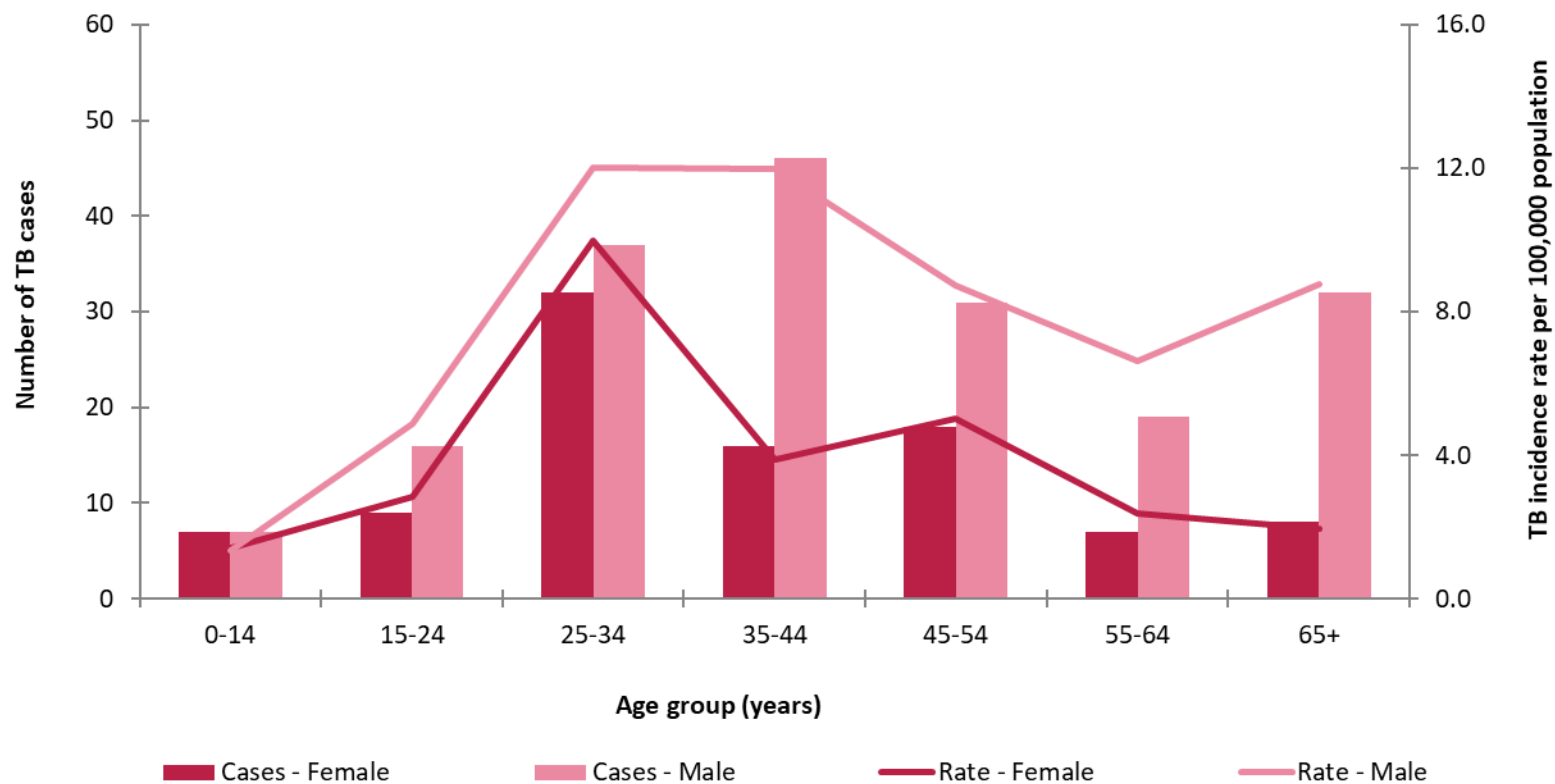
2025:

- ASIRs in 0-14 year olds remain elevated at 1.4
- No cases of meningitis among 0-14 year olds
- 1 congenital TB case
- 10/14 cases associated with outbreaks





TB age-specific rates by sex: 2025



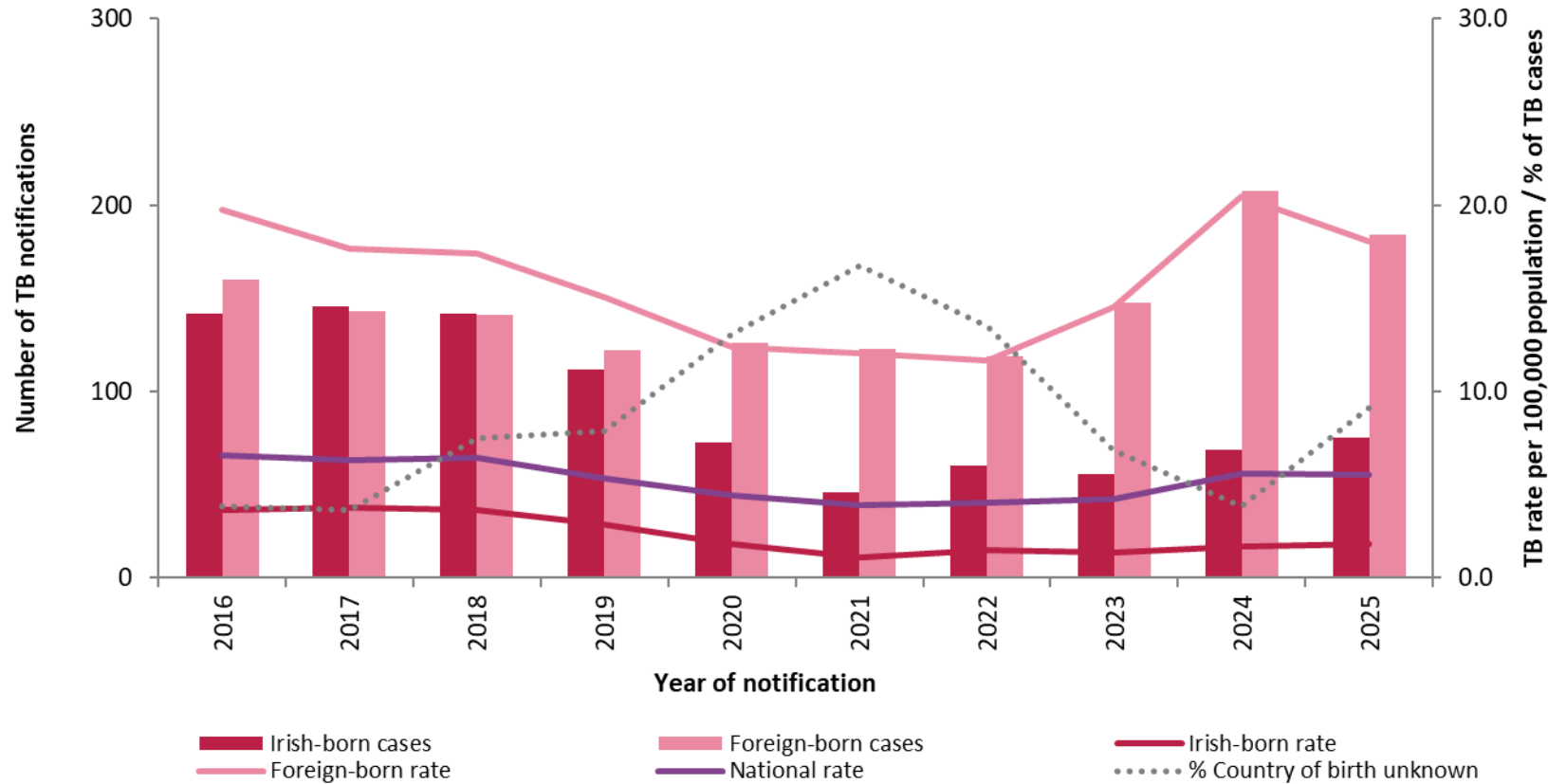
2025

- Rates were higher in males compared to females in the majority of age groups





Annual TB notifications and rate by geographic origin

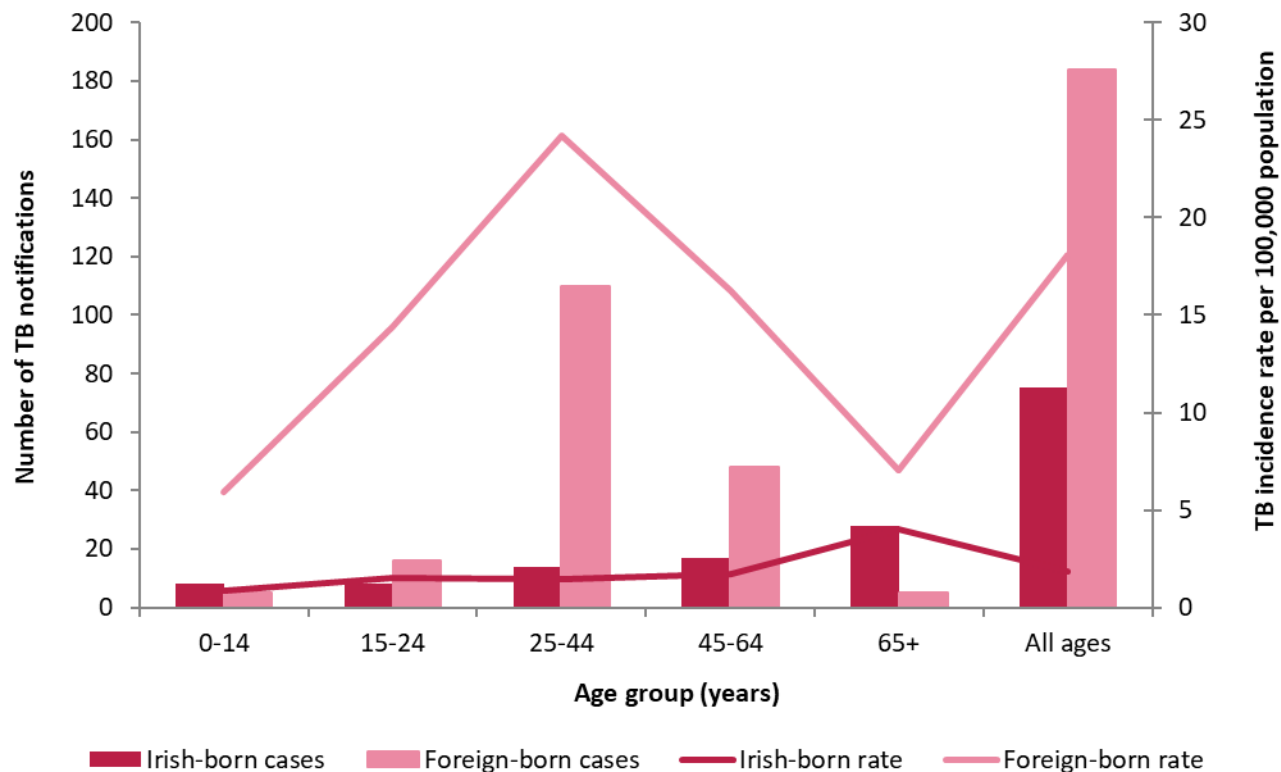


2025:

- Rates in Irish-born remain stable (1.8)
- Rates were higher in people born outside Ireland (18.1)
- 65% of cases in 2024 were born outside Ireland



TB age-specific rates by geographic origin: 2025



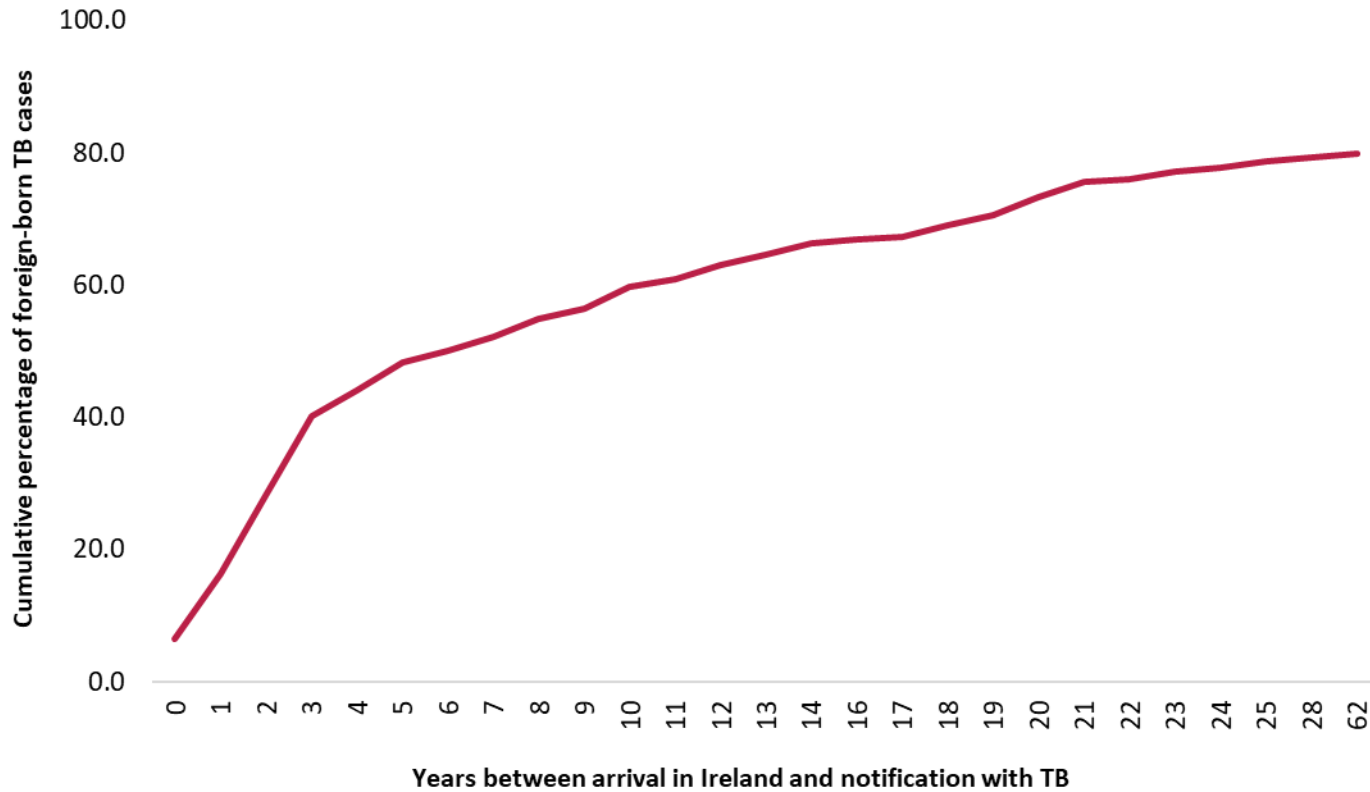
2025:

- For cases born outside Ireland, rates were highest in those aged **25-44 years** old (24.2 /100,000).
- For cases born in Ireland, rates were highest in those aged **65 years and older** (4.0 / 100,000).





Cumulative percentage of foreign-born cases by years between arrival and notification with TB: 2025

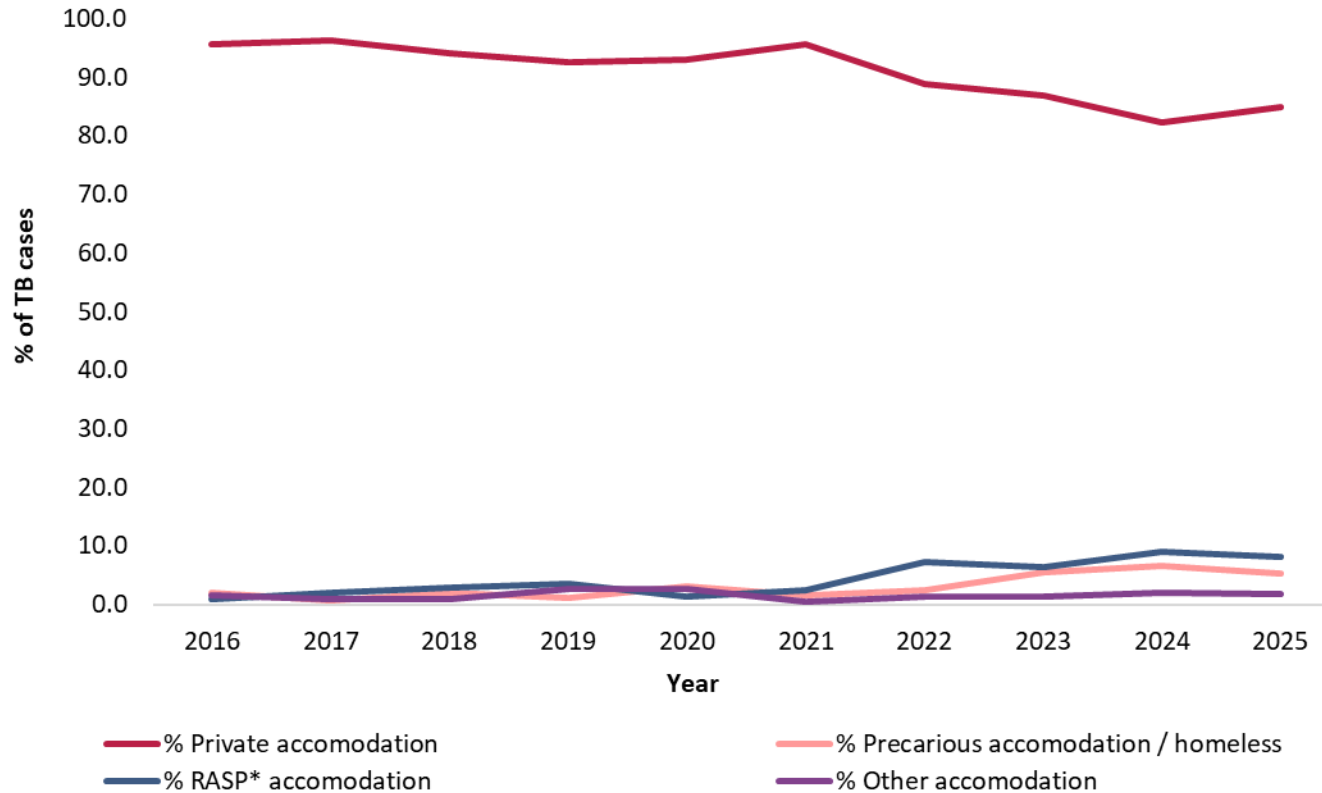


2025:

- Year of arrival was reported for ~80% of cases born outside Ireland in 2025.
- Less than half are diagnosed within 5 years of arrival in Ireland



Annual % of TB cases by housing type



2025:

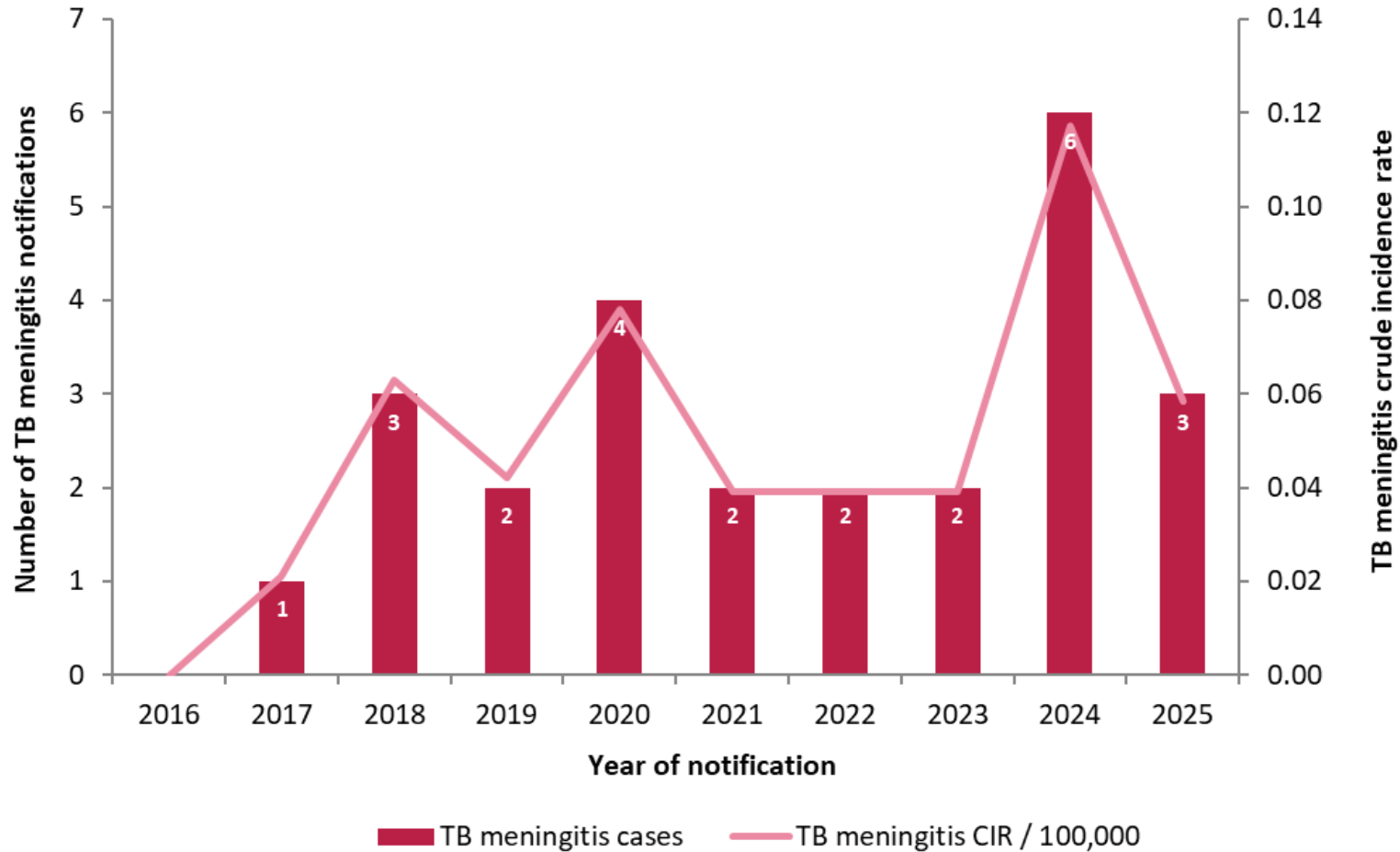
- The majority of people notified with TB were resident in private accommodation
- The proportion of people notified with TB who were resident in precarious accommodation has increased in recent years



* RASP – Refugees and applicants seeking protection
Precarious housing includes accommodation such as hostels, emergency accommodation and B&B/hotels.



TB meningitis notifications by year



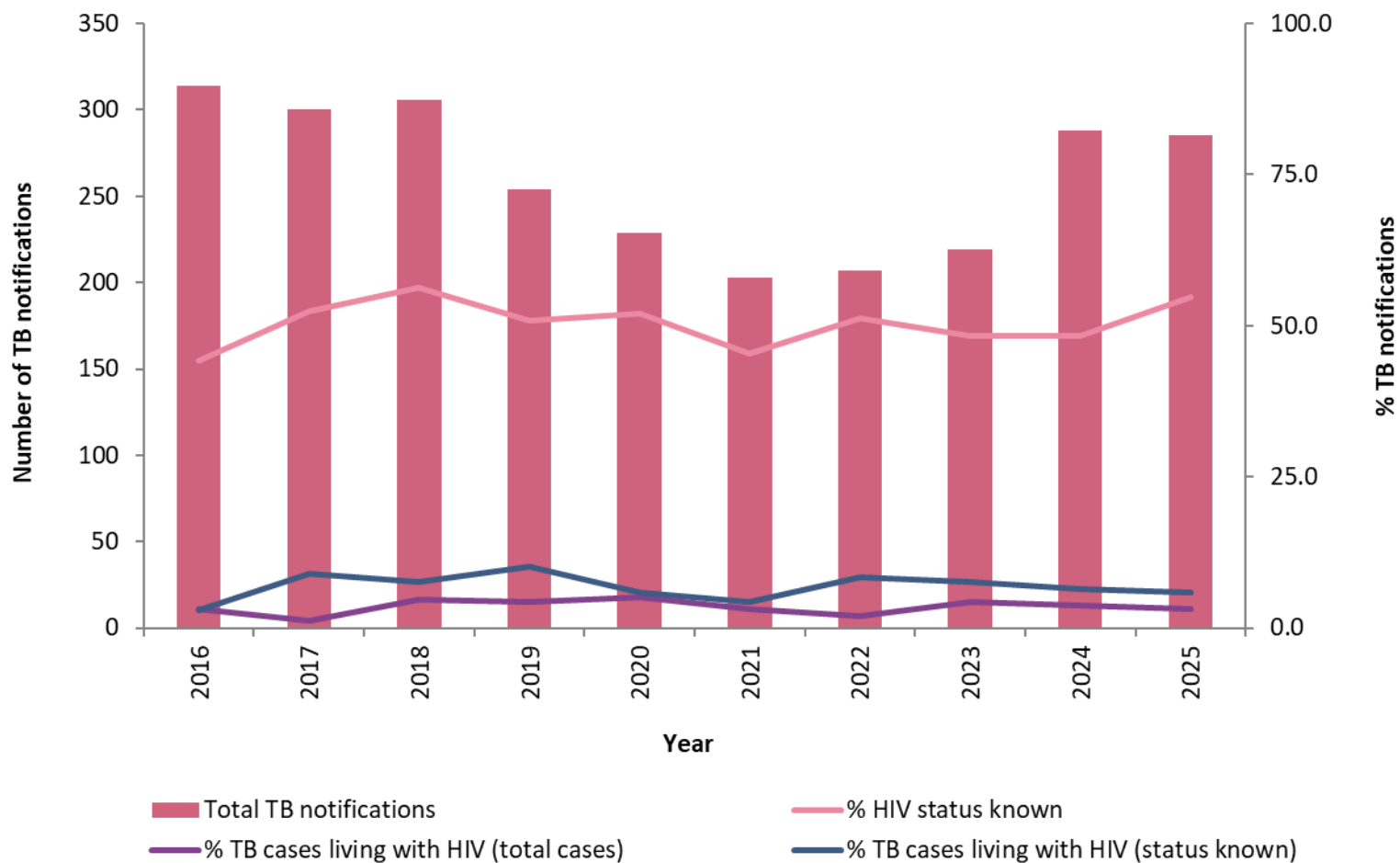
2025:

- All cases were in adults.
- Last child meningitis cases occurred in 2024 (n=2).





Annual TB notifications by HIV status



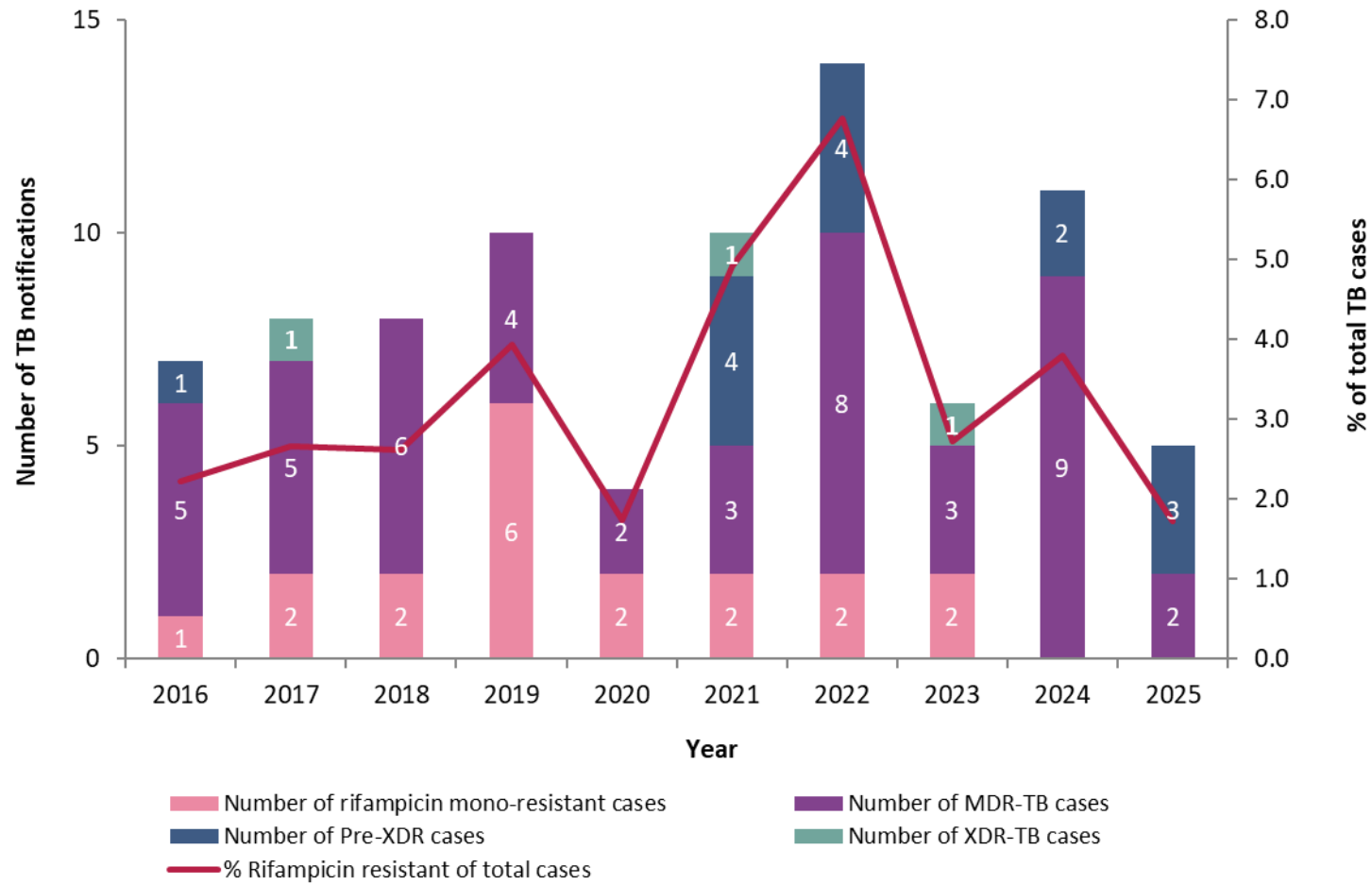
2025:

- The proportion of TB cases living with HIV remains low
 - 3.2% of total cases
 - 5.8% where HIV status was known
- HIV status was missing for 45.3% of TB cases





Rifampicin resistant cases by drug resistance profile and year



2025:

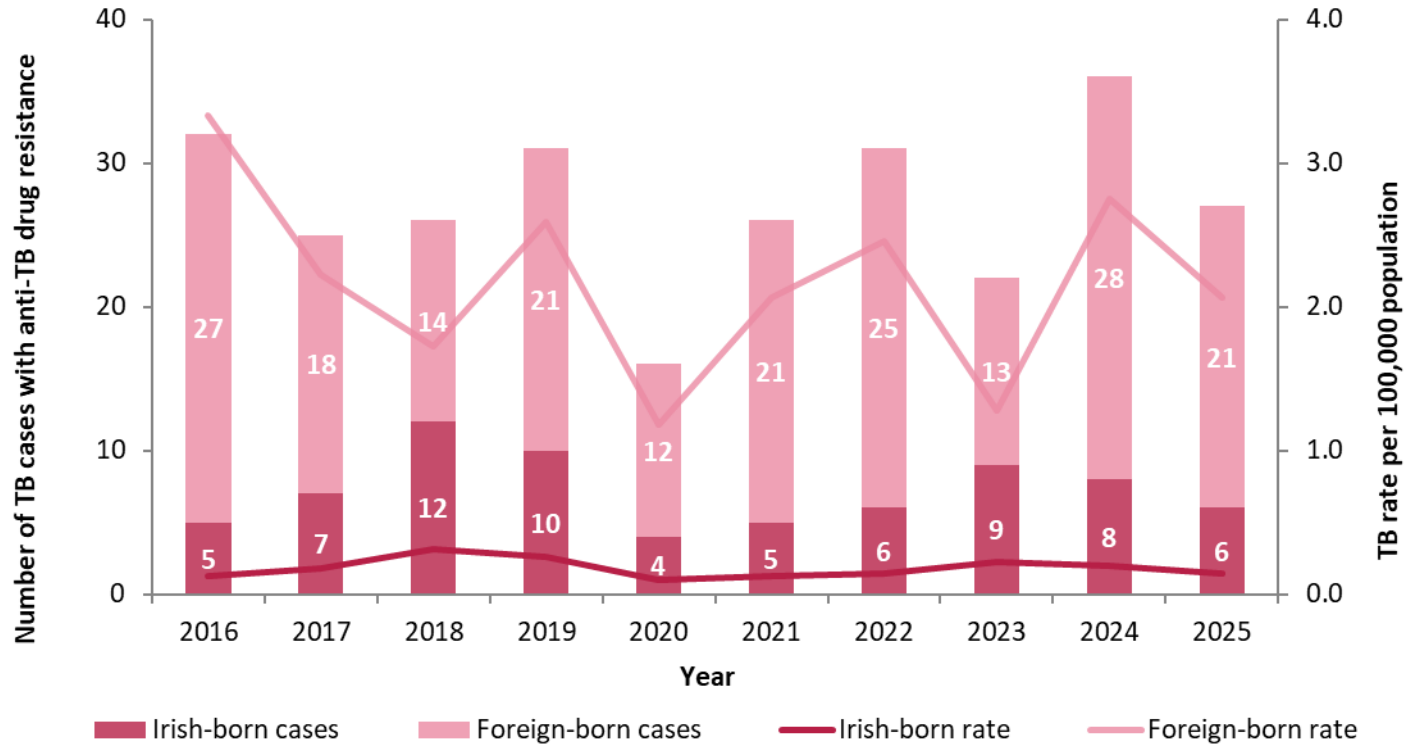
- The percentage of cases resistant to the antibiotic rifampicin decreased in 2025





Drug resistance by geographic origin & year

2025:

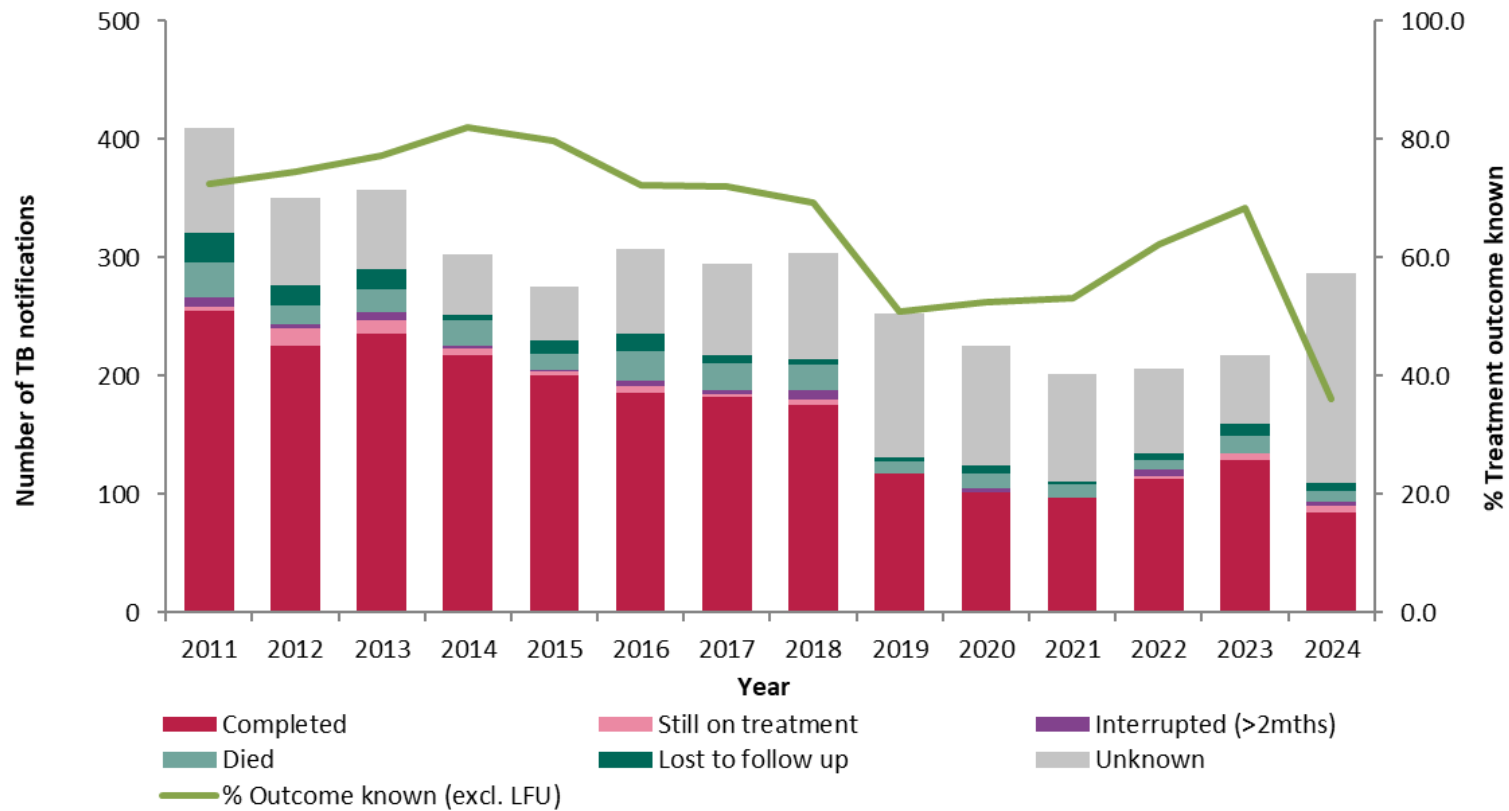


- The percentage of TB cases infected with strains resistant to TB drugs decreased in 2025, but remains higher among those born outside Ireland





TB treatment outcomes by year



- The percentage of TB cases with treatment outcome reported decreased during the pandemic but is slowly increasing.



TB outbreak summary



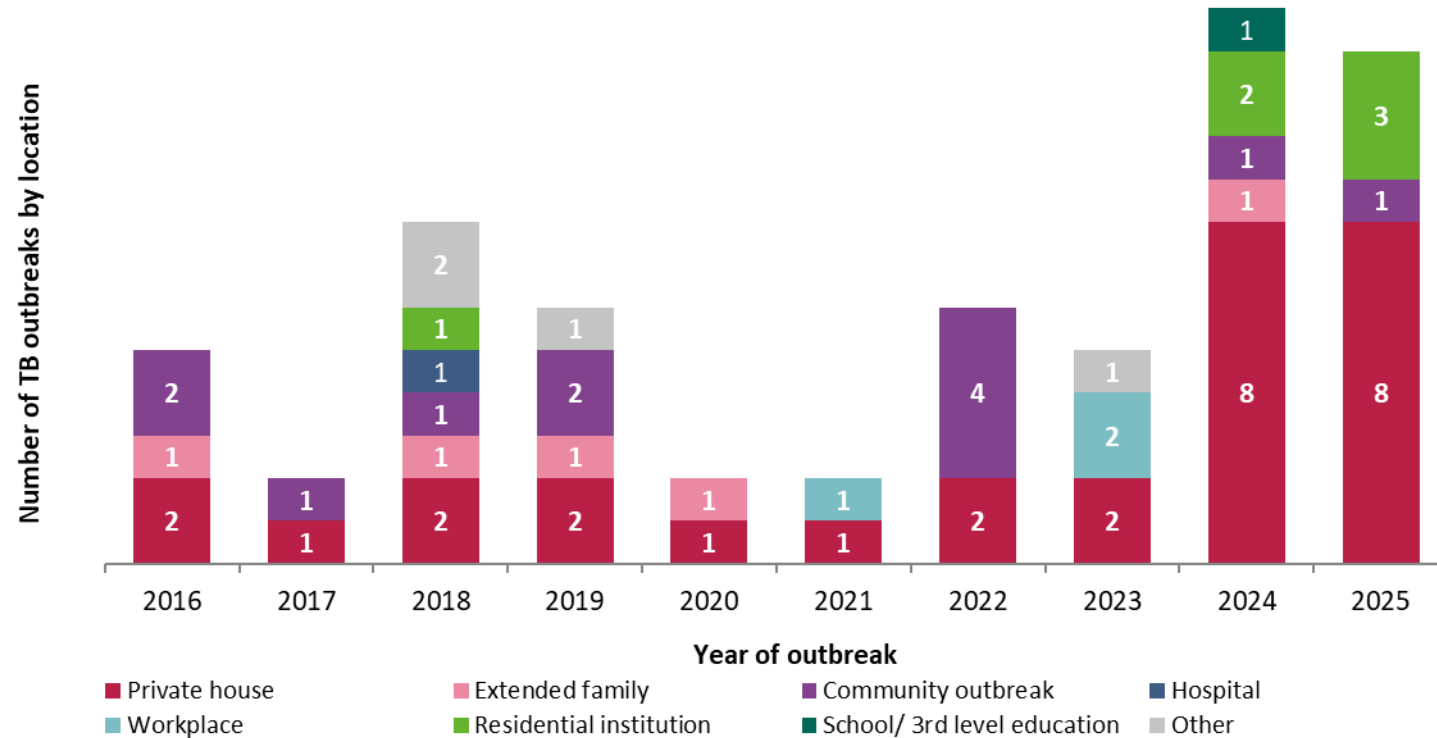
2025:

- Number of outbreaks remains elevated (n=12)
- Outbreak size ranged from 2-6 cases
- 6 outbreaks were confirmed by Whole Genome Sequencing results.



* Outbreak definition: 2 or more cases with epidemiological links

Annual number of TB outbreaks by location



2025:

- The majority of TB outbreaks occurred among families (n=10) in private houses (n=8) and residential institutions (n=2)



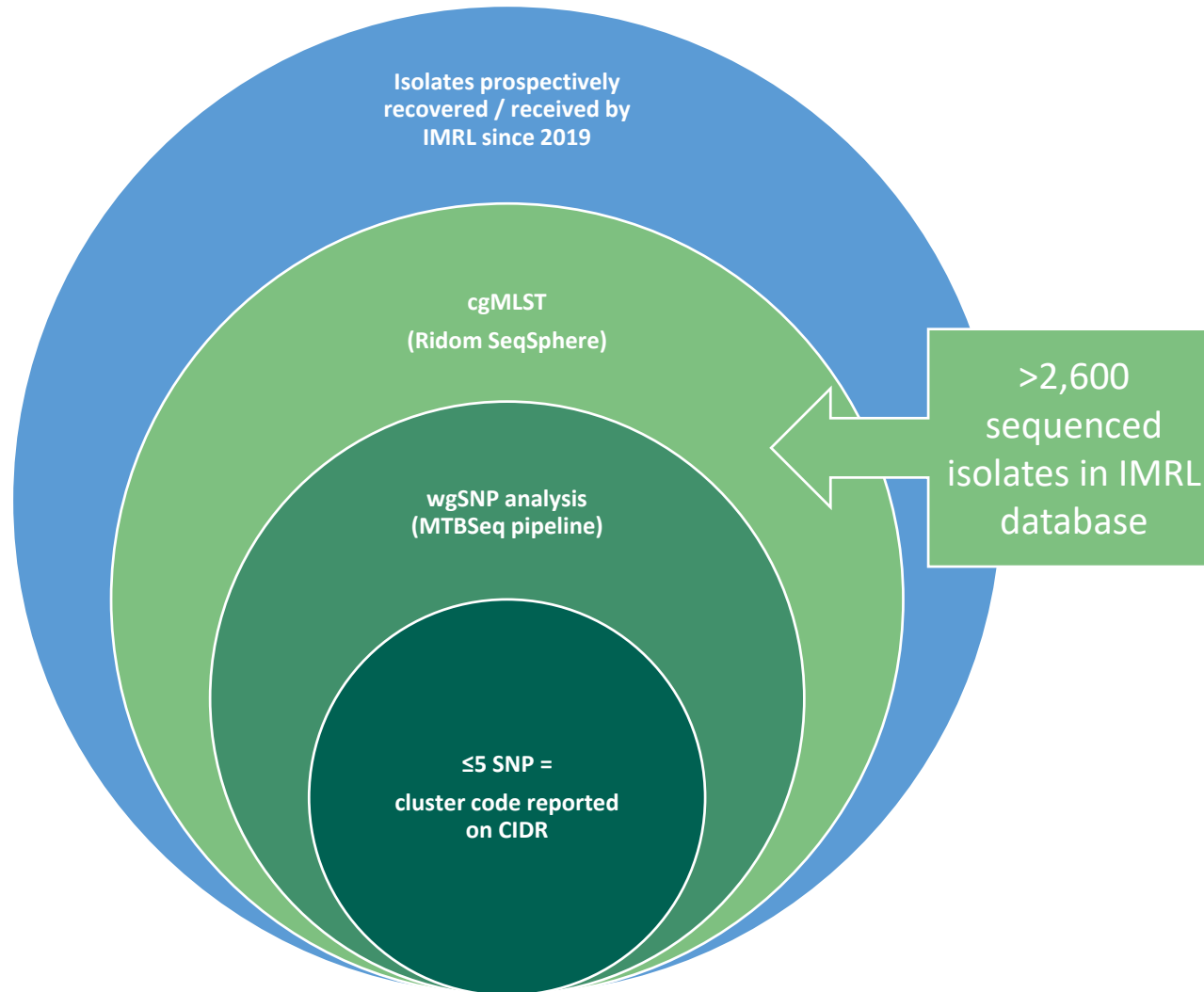
WGS cluster surveillance



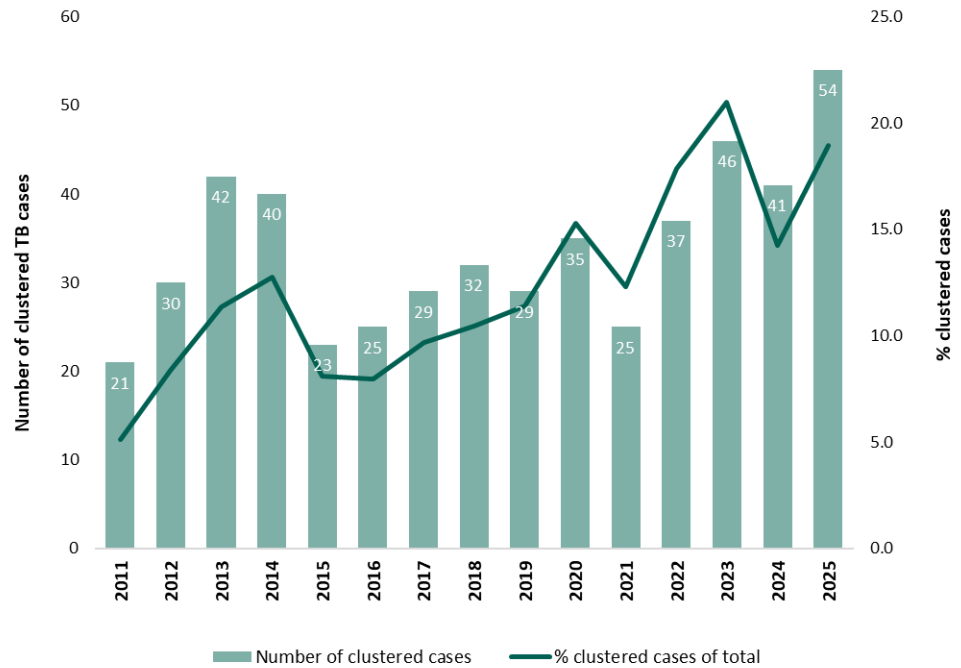
- The Irish Mycobacteria Reference Laboratory (IMRL) provide an ISO15189 accredited whole genome sequencing service for all Mycobacteria tuberculosis complex (MTC) isolates recovered in Ireland
- IMRL sequenced isolates recovery dates range from 1998 to present day
 - Since 2019, all MTC isolates have been sequenced (n = >2,000)
 - Between 1998 and 2018, selected cases and Mycobacterial Interspersed Repetitive Unit Variable Number Tandem Repeat (MIRU VNTR) clusters of interest were sequenced (n= >600)
- All clustered isolates from 2011 - present day are flagged with a cluster code on CIDR, providing a fully integrated view of clinical, laboratory and epidemiological data for clustered cases.
- If epidemiological links are detected among clustered cases, an outbreak will also be reported on CIDR



WGS cluster surveillance process



WGS cluster surveillance, 2011-2025



Number of clusters

- 119 clusters, 12% of total TB cases 2011-2025
- % clustered range: 5% in 2011 to 21% in 2023
- 9 clusters were newly detected in 2025

Cluster size

- Median cluster size 2 cases, mean 4 cases
- Range from 2 - 40 cases

Cluster spread

- 10 clusters span ≥ 3 RHAs
- Longest duration of cluster spans 1998 - 2025

TB cluster summary 2025



- 54 cases notified in 2025 were linked to 33 clusters identified through Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) by the Irish Mycobacteria Reference Laboratory (IMRL)
- Of these 33 WGS clusters, 9 were confined to 2025 cases
 - cluster start dates ranged from 1998 - 2025
- The most common lineages among clustered cases were Haarlem (n=15) and Euro-American (n = 10)
- 10 WGS clusters (30%) were reported as outbreaks:
 - 9 outbreaks represented the entire cluster
 - 1 outbreak represented a subset of epidemiologically linked cases within the WGS cluster



HE Acknowledgements



HPSC would like to thank all the health care workers who enable TB surveillance in Ireland and the patients whose data was used in this report.

Special thanks are extended to those who provided data for use in this report:

- Departments of Public Health
- Irish Mycobacteria Reference Laboratory
- Clinical staff
- Diagnostic laboratories

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Background

This report presents a provisional epidemiological summary of the cases of tuberculosis (TB) notified in Ireland up to 2025. Analyses are provisional and the underlying data remain subject to further change following validation.

Methods summary

- HPSC produces TB reports using notification data reported by departments of public health and laboratories to the CIDR system. Full details of the methods are available at www.hpsc.ie
- Incidence rates were calculated using population data taken Census 2022.
- Provisional data were extracted from CIDR on 05/03/2026.







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Appendix 1: Regional Health Area (RHA) geography



-  **FSS an Iarthair agus Iarthuaiscirt**
HSE West and North West
-  **FSS Bhaile Átha Cliath agus an Oirthuaiscirt**
HSE Dublin and North East
-  **FSS Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Lár na Tíre**
HSE Dublin and Midlands
-  **FSS an Iarthar Láir**
HSE Mid West
-  **FSS Bhaile Átha Cliath agus an Oirdheiscirt**
HSE Dublin and South East
-  **FSS an Iardheiscirt**
HSE South West

