

## Tuberculosis among Toronto’s Homeless and Underhoused Community in 2014

The following report provides a summary of tuberculosis cases among Toronto's homeless and underhoused community in 2014. Cases were included in the analysis if the client was diagnosed in Toronto in 2014 and the reported risk setting at diagnosis was "shelter", or "homeless shelter day drop-in/day program use", or risk factor was "underhoused/homeless". Cases with a historical use of shelters and living in rooming houses were included.

### Case Summary

A total of four cases of tuberculosis (TB) were diagnosed in 2014 among Toronto’s homeless and underhoused community. Figure 1 shows the trend in the number of cases in this community from 2004 to 2014.

**Figure 1: Number of Homeless, Underhoused and Shelter-Associated Tuberculosis Cases by Year of Diagnosis, Toronto Public Health, 2004 - 2014**

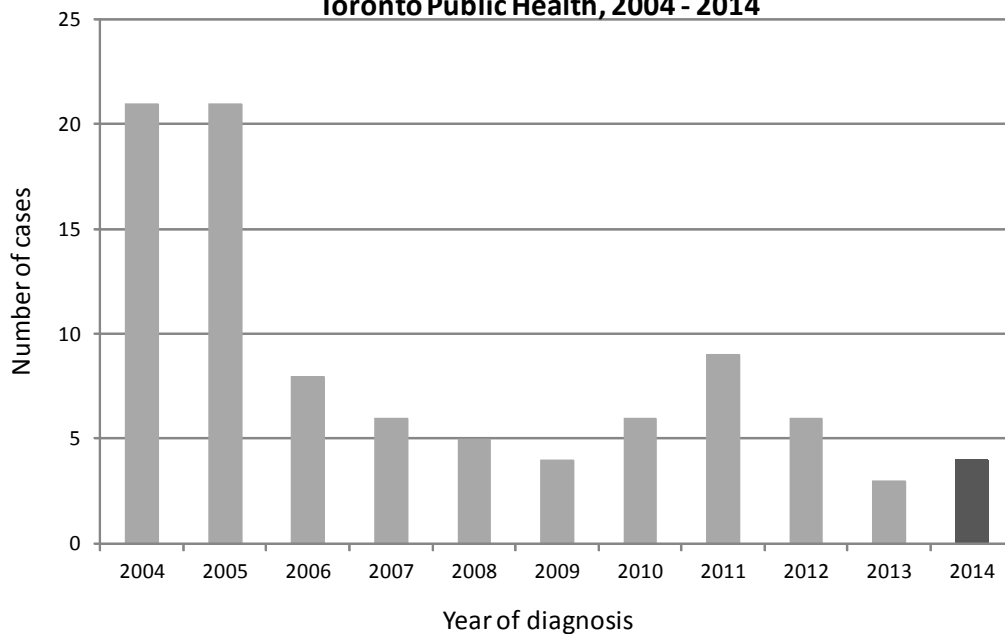


Table 1 shows a summary of the method of detection, diagnosis, demographic characteristics and treatment status of TB cases in this community. Out of the four cases in 2014, three were detected through symptom identification. One case was identified through routine screening (application to alternative housing). All four cases had pulmonary tuberculosis. All four cases were male and the average age was 49.3 years. Two cases were born in Canada (non-Aboriginal), one case was registered status Indian, and one case was born in the Philippines. Three cases completed treatment as recommended. The fourth case started treatment but passed away prior to completing treatment. The underlying cause of death was tuberculosis.

**Table 1: Tuberculosis Cases in Toronto’s Homeless and Underhoused Community, 2014 (N=4)**

Variable	n (%)
<b>Method of detection</b>	
Symptoms	3 (75.0)
Routine screening	1 (25.0)
<b>Site of infection</b>	
Pulmonary only	4 (100.0)
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	4 (100.0)
<b>Age at diagnosis</b>	
Average (range)	49.3 (42 – 57) years
<b>Origin</b>	
Canadian-born non Aboriginal	2 (50.0)
Registered Status Indian	1 (25.0)
Born Outside of Canada	1 (25.0)
<b>Treatment status*</b>	
Completed as recommended	3 (75.0)
Incomplete – client deceased	1 (25.0)

\*Treatment status as of July 10, 2015

### Contact Follow-up

There were a total of 113 contacts identified (average of 37.5 contacts per case). Of the 113 contacts, 81 (71.7%) were located and 58 (51.3%) completed one or more TB tests (i.e. either a skin test and/or chest x-ray and/or sputum sample). One out of the seven eligible contacts started prophylactic therapy.

In addition to case management and contact follow-up, the homeless and corrections TB team also provided 31 TB education sessions at specific homeless shelters and drop-ins.