Tuberculosis disease surveillance in Québec from 2014 to 2024

Why does tuberculosis remain a public health concern?

Tuberculosis disease surveillance is essential for understanding the magnitude and progression of the disease, identifying populations at higher risk, and supporting prevention and public health interventions.

This infographic provides an overview of the Tuberculosis disease surveillance in Quebec from 2014 to 2024 (available in French only), based on official provincial surveillance data. This epidemiological portrait of tuberculosis, covering more than ten years of surveillance in Quebec, provides a unique longitudinal perspective on trends in the disease across the province from 2014 to 2024.

- Read the report (French only)

CONTEXT AND INCIDENCE

After nearly twenty years of decline and stability, a resurgence of tuberculosis has been observed since 2022.

The provincial incidence rate increased by 18% over 25 years, reaching a record high in 2024

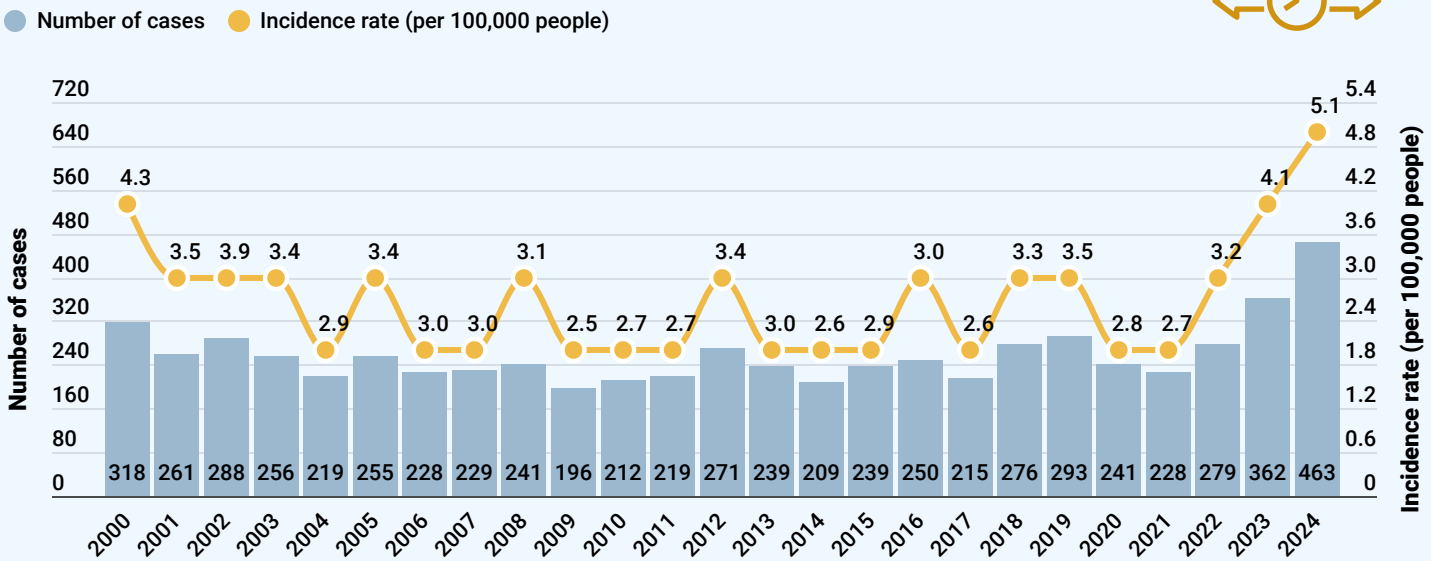
463
new cases in Québec in 2024

5
new cases per 100,000 pop. in Québec in 2024

HISTORIAL OF TUBERCULOSIS IN QUÉBEC

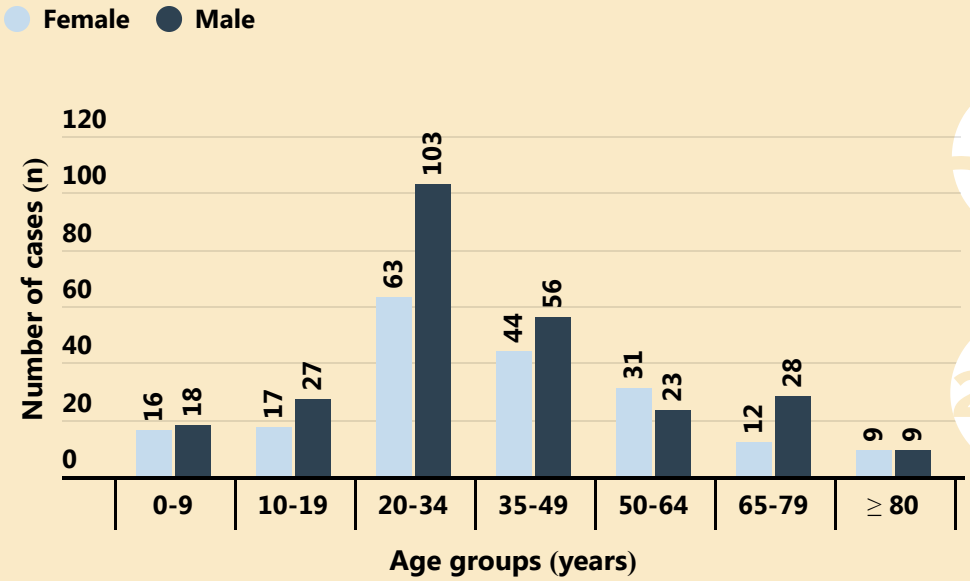
Figure 1. Number of TB cases and annual incidence rate for the province of Quebec (2000–2024)

25 YEARS



DISTRIBUTION OF CASES

Figure 2. Number of TB cases by age and sex in Quebec in 2024

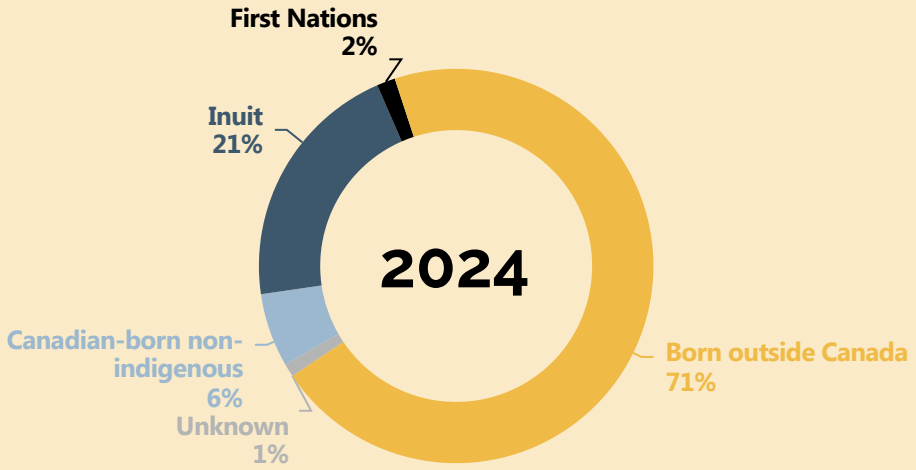


Male predominance observed

29%

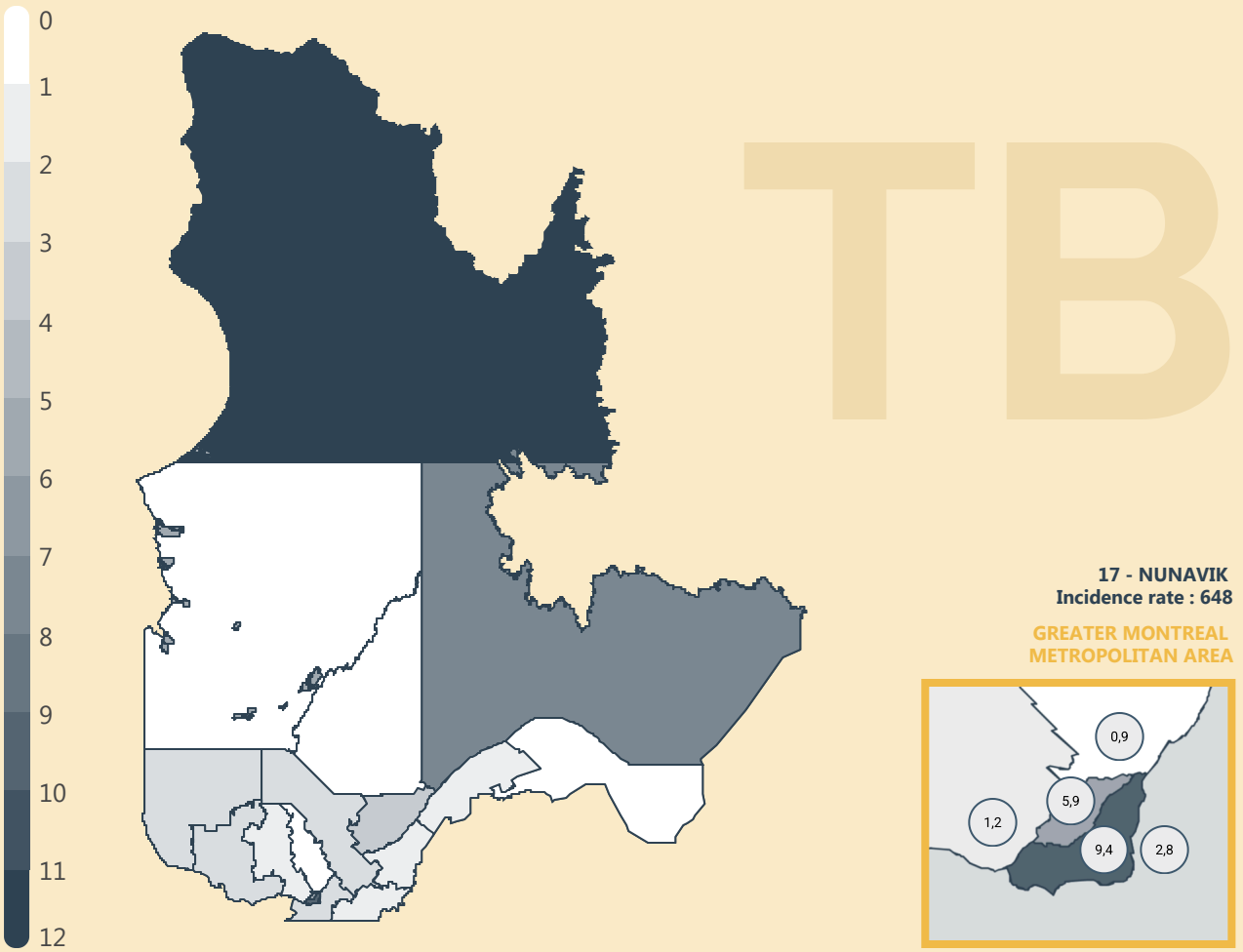
of the cases observed are adults aged 20 - 34

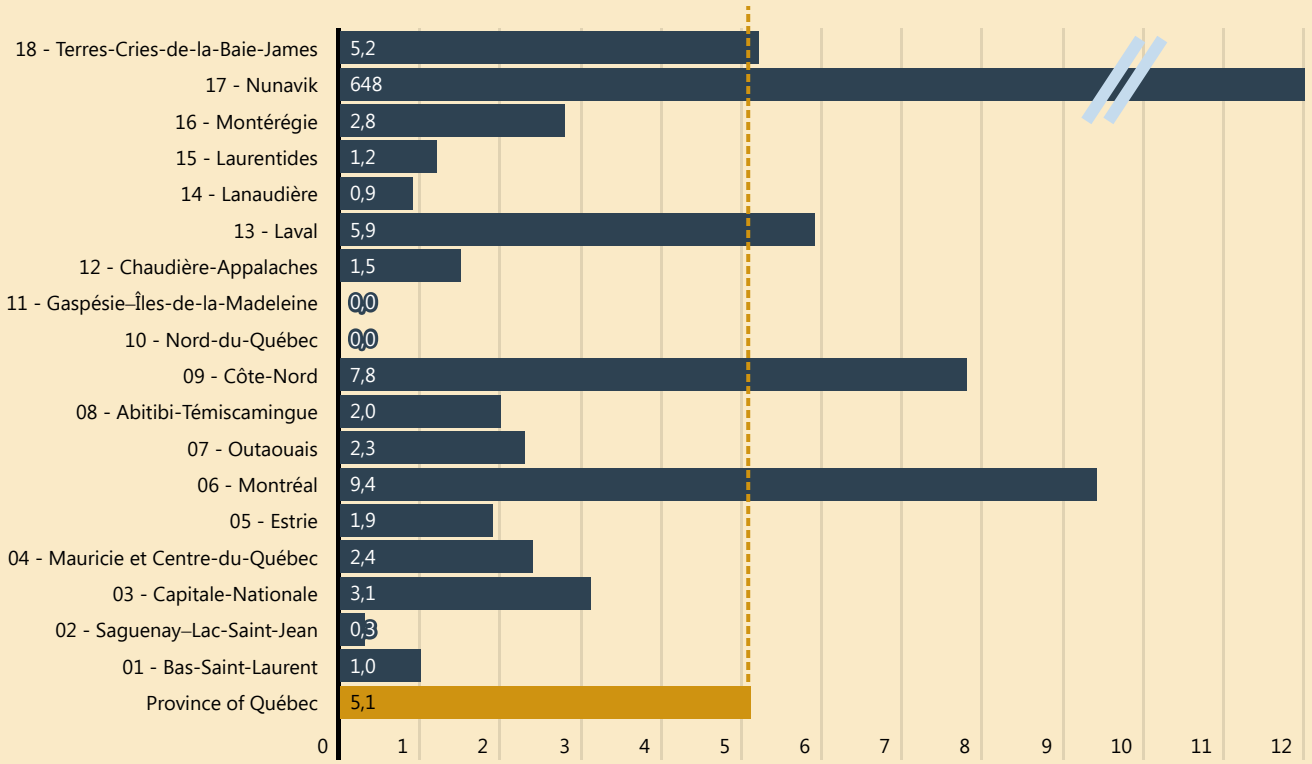
Figure 3. Proportion of TB cases in Quebec by population subgroup in 2024



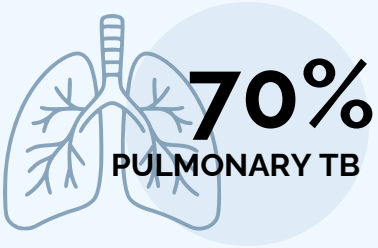
A gradual increase in the number of cases among people born outside Canada and among Indigenous people

Figure 4. Annual incidence rate of TB per 100,000 inhabitants by health and social services regions (régions sociosanitaires, RSS) of residence for cases in Quebec in 2024





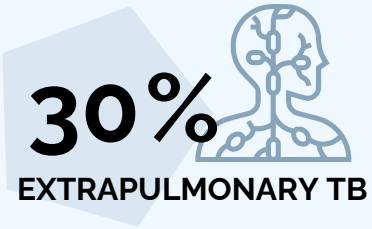
DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT



TB can affect many systems and organs.

Pulmonary TB (including primary infection) remains the most common form. It is generally contagious before treatment begins.

Among cases of **extrapulmonary TB,** involvement of the peripheral lymph nodes accounts for one-third of cases, followed by miliary TB, a disseminated and more severe form of the disease.



TB is the only disease subject to **mandatory treatment** (MATO) in Québec.
In 2024:

- 99% of cases received treatment, and
- 92% of those cases completed their treatment.

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Some strains of TB are resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the disease (antituberculosis drugs). Among the strains tested in 2024:

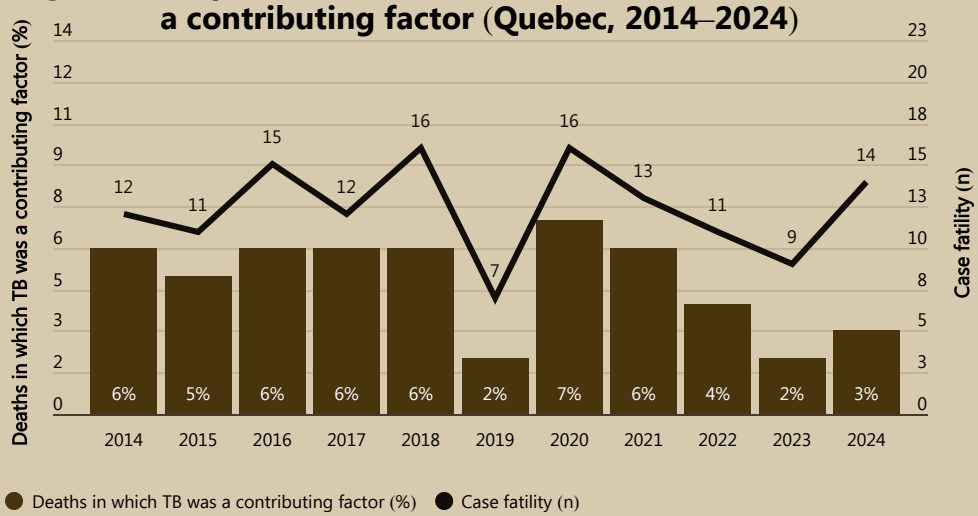
89% were **susceptible** to all anti-tuberculosis drugs tested

9% were **resistant** to one first-line antituberculosis drug

2% were **resistant** to more than one first-line antituberculosis drug

MORTALITY

Figure 5. Proportion of deaths in which TB was a contributing factor (Quebec, 2014–2024)



72% of deaths occured among people aged 65 and older.

4/yr average number of deaths caused by TB

SUMMARY

After nearly twenty years of decline and stability,
TB has been on the rise in Quebec since 2022.

Certain populations are disproportionately affected by TB.

- **People born outside Canada** account for the majority of cases in Quebec.
- **Indigenous populations,** particularly Inuit communities, are facing a record annual incidence rate in 2024.

Pulmonary TB remains the most common form of the disease and is contagious before treatment is initiated.

Nearly all cases receive and **complete treatment**.

Most TB strains were susceptible to first-line antibiotics, although some strains are resistant to a single antibiotic and rare cases show resistance to multiple drugs. No cases of extensively drug-resistant TB were detected between 2014 and 2024.

The **overall mortality rate** for TB cases is relatively low, and few deaths are **directly attributable** to the disease.

Despite these challenges, Québec continues to maintain one of the lowest tuberculosis incidence rates in Canada and worldwide.

Through effective treatment and ongoing surveillance, it is possible to limit transmission and improve the health of the populations most affected.

Together, these sustained efforts help reduce the impact of the disease and protect the most vulnerable populations.

METHODOLOGY

- In Quebec, TB surveillance relies on a centralized provincial registry maintained by the public health units. These units record cases of active TB reported by physicians and laboratories, in accordance with current nosological definitions.

- The data presented in this infographic and in the full report come primarily from this provincial registry and are supplemented by data on confirmed cases from the Laboratoire de santé Publique du Québec.

- Rates calculated from a small number of cases or a small population should be interpreted with caution, particularly in certain regions such as Northern Quebec, Nunavik, and the Cree Territory of James Bay.

>>For more details, consult the methodology section of the full report.

LEARN MORE
- Read full report [French]
- Read our webpage on TB [French]

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