

Current Status of Tuberculosis in Taiwan

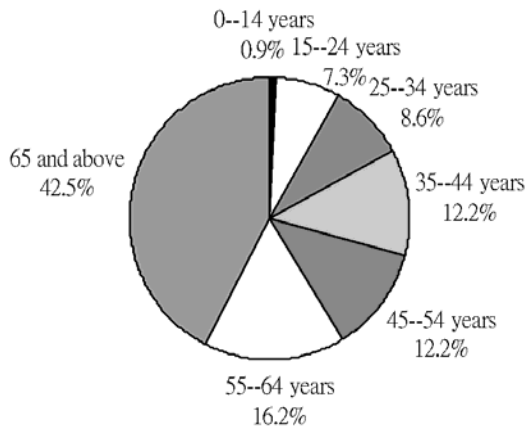
New Tuberculosis Patients Registered in 1998

In 1998 in Taiwan, a total of 14,169 new tuberculosis patients were identified, yielding an incidence rate of 64.89 per 100,000 population. By county and city, the incidence and mortality of tuberculosis corresponded accordingly. They were higher on the east coast, and in the southern part of the island, but lower in provincial cities. Hualien County had the highest incidence of 124.25 per 100,000, to be followed by Taitung County and Kaohsiung County with an incidence of over 100 per 100,000. Kinmen County had the lowest incidence of 35.25 per 100,000.

Of the newly registered patients, 10,055 (71.0%) were males and 4,114 (29.0%) females. Male patients were 2.4 times more frequent than female patients. The incidence rates were 89.75 per 100,000 for males and 38.69 for females, yielding a sex ratio of 2.3:1.

The incidence of tuberculosis increases significantly with age. 0.9% of the patients were under 14 years. In the age group above 65 years, the incidence was as high as 42.5%.

Age Distribution of New Tuberculosis Patients, 1998, Taiwan Area



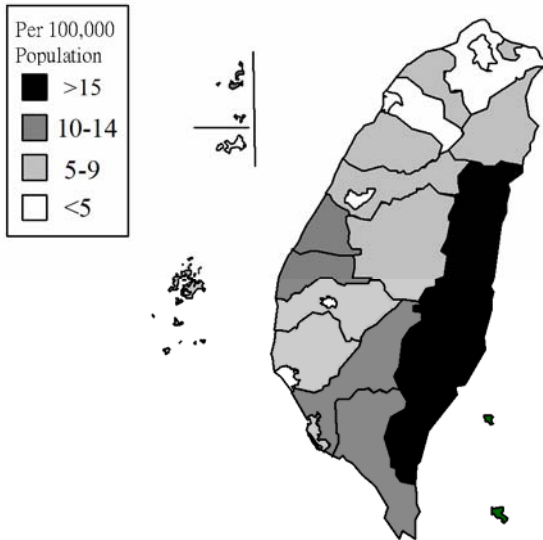
Mortality of Tuberculosis, 1998

The mortality rate of tuberculosis in the Taiwan Area in 1998 was 6.93 per 100,000 population. Taitung County had the highest mortality of 27.84, followed by Hualien County, and Pingtung County. In general, mortality was higher on the east coast, and in the southern part of the island, but lower in provincial cities.

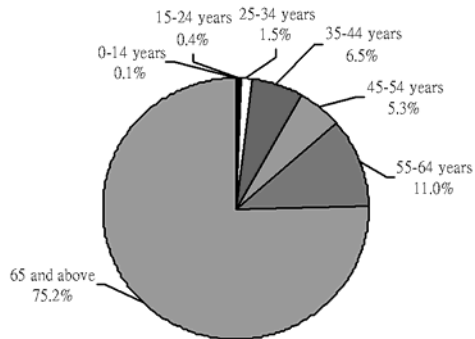
In 1998, 4.4 times more men died of tuberculosis than women. Mortality for males was 4.1 times higher than that of females. This higher mortality and number of deaths in males was more significant in 1998 than in any of the previous years.

Mortality rates increase with age. Only one person under 15 years died of tuberculosis. Of 1,513 deaths, 1,138 (75.2%) were in the 65 years and above age groups.

Mortality Rates of Tuberculosis in Taiwan Area, 1998



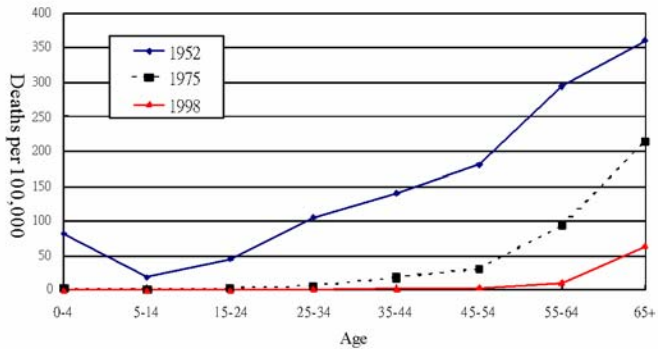
Age Distribution of Tuberculosis Deaths, Taiwan Area, 1998



Mortality of Tuberculosis by Year

In 1947, the tuberculosis mortality in the Taiwan Area was 294.44 per 100,000 population; and the number of deaths, 18,533, accounting for 16.23% of all deaths. In 1985, tuberculosis was, for the first time, excluded from the ten leading causes of death. Since 1986, tuberculosis mortality has always remained under 10 per 100,000. The decline in mortality, however, has slowed down ever since. In 1998, the mortality was 6.93 per 100,000; and the number of deaths, 1,513, accounting for 1.24% of all deaths, and was the 12th leading cause of death. In 50 years, tuberculosis mortality has declined by 97.65%.

Age-specific Tuberculosis Mortality (1952, 1975, and 1998)



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