Tuberculosis Data Brief 2024

Tuberculosis (TB) is a communicable, potentially fatal disease that usually affects the lungs but can attack other parts of the body as well, including the kidneys, spine, and brain. It is an airborne infection that is spread when a person with an active case of TB breathes out the disease-causing bacteria, which are then inhaled by another person. TB is curable, though new drug-resistant strains are appearing that are more difficult to treat. To prevent the disease from recurring in a drug-resistant form, nurses in the Guilford County TB control program use directly observed therapy protocols to ensure that patients are taking all medications as instructed.

Key Findings from 2023 TB Data

- The number of TB cases declined from 19 cases in 2016 to 9 cases in 2023.
- **Over the past 20 years, TB rates in Guilford County have declined by 83.8 %**, dropping from 9.9 per 100,000 in 2003 to 1.6 per 100,000 in 2023.
- **Since 2019, TB rates in Guilford County have remained below 2.0 per 100,000, demonstrating sustained control efforts. Ongoing prevention, surveillance and control efforts are essential to protect those most vulnerable and the community at large.**
- In 2023, 55.6% of TB cases in Guilford County occurred among Asian residents, 33.3% were among White residents, and 11.1% were among African American residents. Additionally, 22.2% identified as Hispanic.
- 22.2% of cases were identified as being unhoused* within the past year.
- 33.3% of cases identified the United States as country of origin, while 67% identified another country of origin.
- Among selected comparison counties, Guilford County had the lowest TB rate in 2023 (1.6 per 100,000), whereas Durham (3.3 per 100,000) and Mecklenburg (3.2 per 100,000) had the highest rates.
- In 2023, Guilford County reported a lower TB rate (1.6 per 100,000) compared to North Carolina (2.0 per 100,000) and the U.S. (2.9 per 100,000).

Note: *Unhoused: Identified as homeless within the past year.

Tuberculosis Cases and Rates, Guilford County, 2016-2023

Reportable Disease	2016	2016	2017	2017	2018	2018	2019	2019	2020	2020	2021	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Tuberculosis	19	3.6	21	4.0	17	3.2	11	2.0	10	1.9 [1]	10	1.8	11	2.0	9	1.6
Population	521,330		526,953		533,213		537,174		540,521		542,410		546,101		549,866	

Source: North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NCEDSS).
Technical Notes: Rates are expressed per 100,000 population. Please note that rates based on small numbers (fewer than 20 cases) are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.
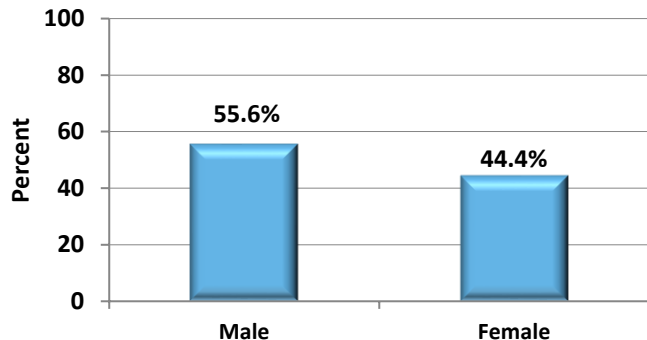
Tuberculosis Cases and Percentages by Race and Hispanic Status, Guilford County, 2019-2023

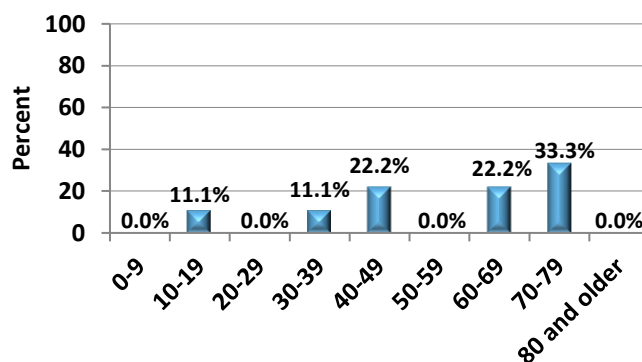| Race and Ethnicity	2019 Number	2019 Percent	2020 Number	2020 Percent	2021 Number	2021 Percent	2022 Number	2022 Percent	2023 Number	2023 Percent
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Asian	2	18.2%	3	30.0%	1	10.0%	5	45.5%	5	55.6%
Black/African American	6	54.6%	5	50.0%	6	60.0%	2	18.2%	1	11.1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0%
White	2	18.2%	2	20.0%	3	30.0%	4	36.4%	3	33.3%
Race Total	**11**	**100%**	**10**	**100%**	**10**	**100%**	**11**	**100%**	**9**	**100%**
Hispanic*	2	18.2%	1	10%	2	20%	2	18.2%	2	22.2%

*Hispanics can be of any race.

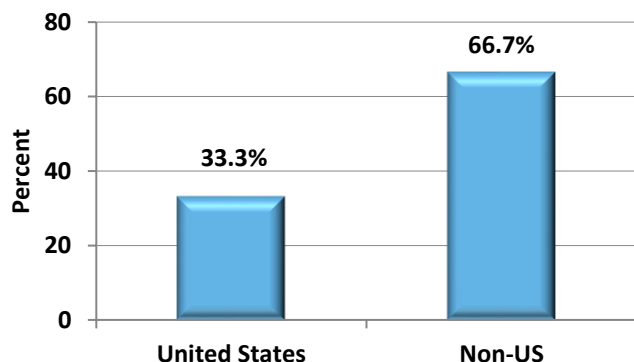## Select Characteristics of 2023 Guilford County Tuberculosis Cases

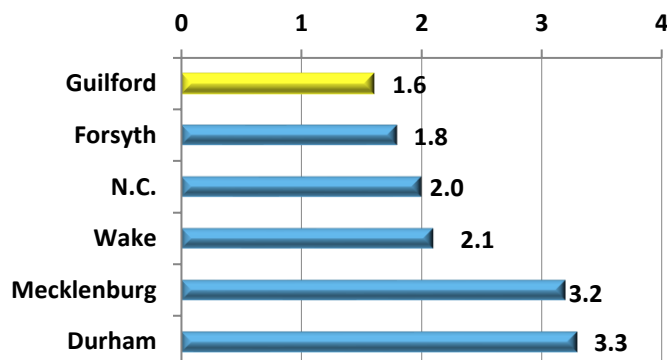### Percent of Tuberculosis Cases by Sex, Guilford County, 2023

Male: 55.6%
Female: 44.4%

Percent of Tuberculosis Cases by Age Group, Guilford County, 2023

0-9: 0.0%
10-19: 11.1%
20-29: 0.0%
30-39: 11.1%
40-49: 22.2%
50-59: 0.0%
60-69: 22.2%
70-79: 33.3%
80 and older: 0.0%

Percent of Cases by Country of Origin, Guilford County 2023

United States: 33.3%
Non-US: 66.7%

Tuberculosis Rates per 100,000 for Selected Counties and NC, 2023

Guilford: 1.6
Forsyth: 1.8
N.C.: 2.0
Wake: 2.1
Mecklenburg: 3.2
Durham: 3.3

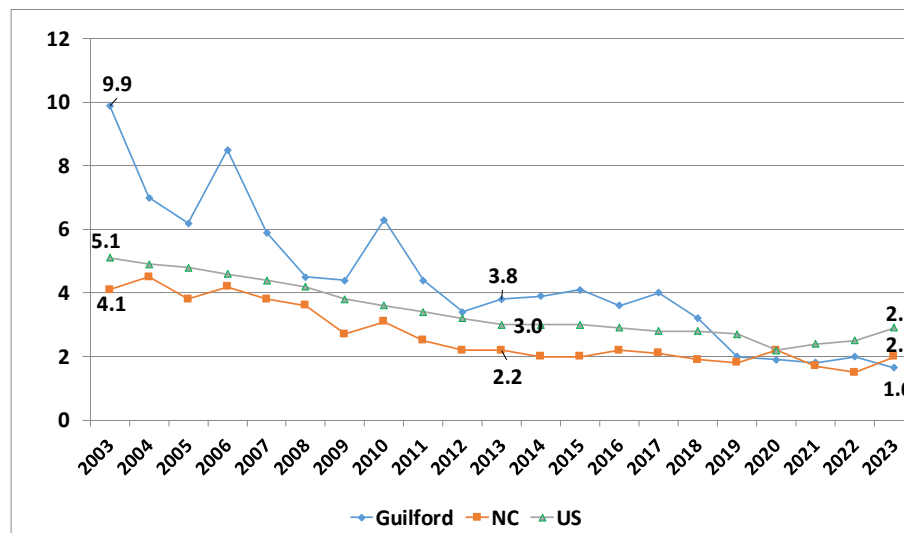## Percent of Cases Unhoused* within the Past Year, Guilford County 2023
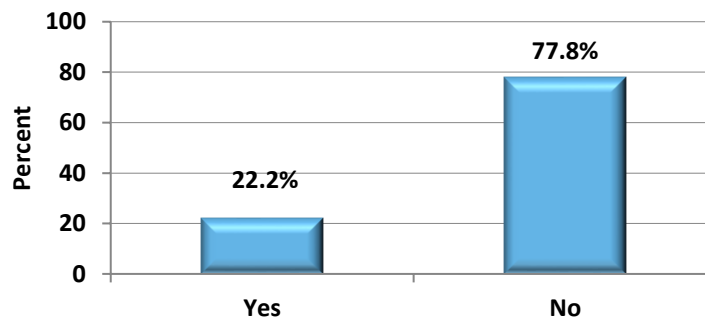
Note: *Unhoused: Identified as homeless within the past year.
Source: North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NCEDSS).

Trends in Tuberculosis Incidence Rates Guilford County, NC and the US, 2003-2023

Rate per 100,000

Sources: NC Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS), NC TB Control Program and Division of TB Elimination, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

This brief was prepared by the Health Surveillance and Analysis Unit of the Division of Public Health:
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For more information about Guilford County health statistics, visit:
https://www.guilfordcountync.gov/health-data-and-reports