

# 2018 TUBERCULOSIS DATA BRIEF



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 air-borne 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 treatable, 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 directed, for as long as directed. In the last 20 years, TB rates have declined by two-thirds in North Carolina and by half in Guilford County, but Guilford County still sees about 20 new cases each year.

## Tuberculosis Cases and Rate per 100,000 Population by Race and Hispanic Status, Guilford County, 2017

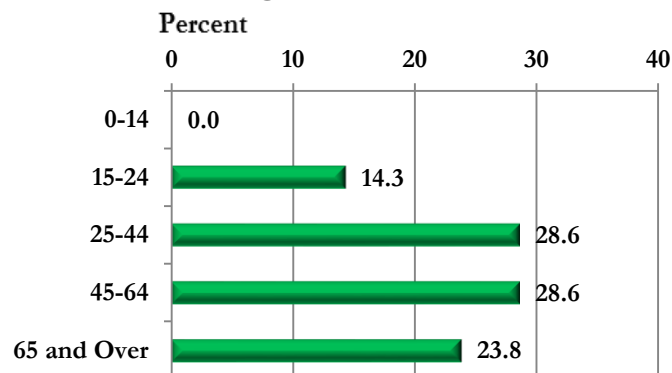
Reportable Disease	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Tuberculosis	19	3.8	20	3.9	21	4.1	19	3.6	21	4.0

## Tuberculosis Cases and Percent by Race and Hispanic Status, Guilford County, 2017

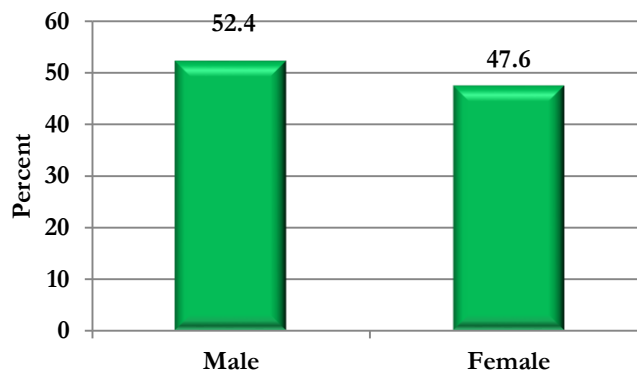
Race and Ethnicity	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases
Asian	6	28.6%
African-American	11	52.4%
White	5	23.8%
Race Total	21	100%
Hispanic*	4	19%

\*Hispanics can be of any race.

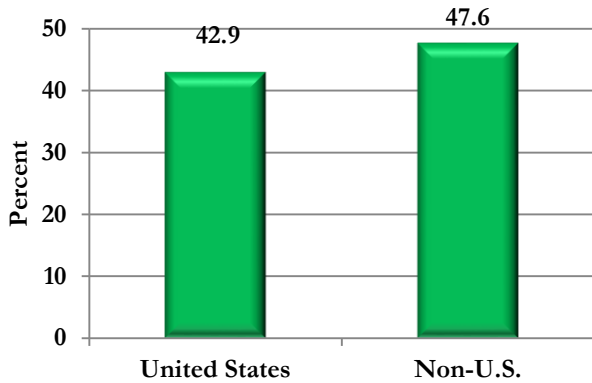
### Percent of Tuberculosis Cases by Age Group, 2017



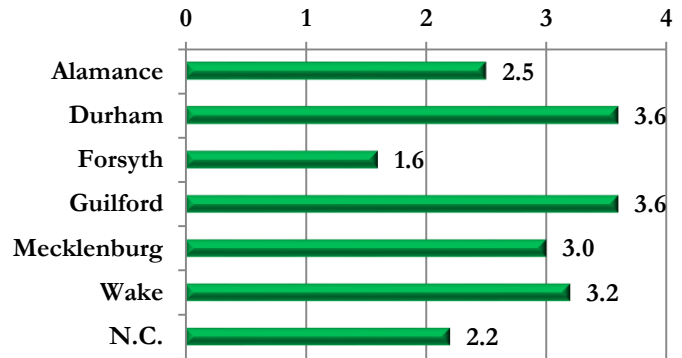
### Percent of Tuberculosis Cases by Sex, 2017



### Country of Origin of Cases, 2017

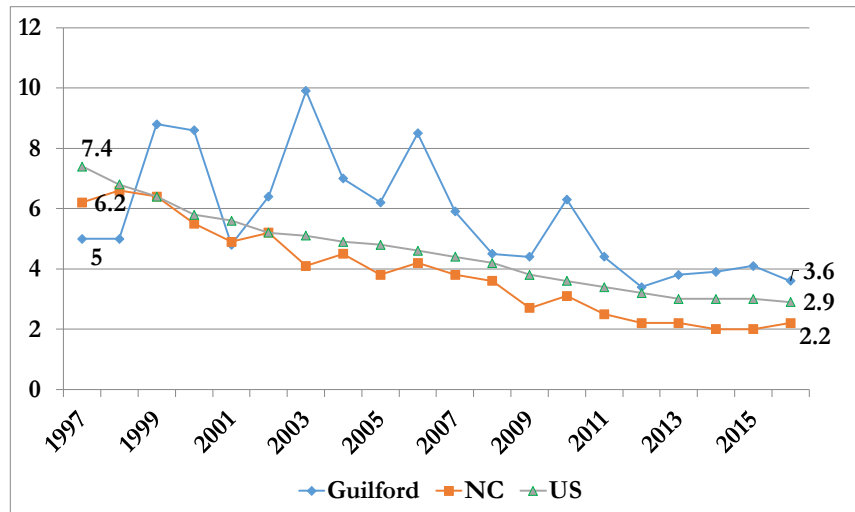


### Tuberculosis Rates per 100,000 for Selected Counties and NC, 2016



### Trends in Tuberculosis Incidence Rates Guilford County, NC and the US 1997-2016

Rate per 100,000



Source: NC Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS).

Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Note: NC and US Tuberculosis data not yet available for 2017.

This brief was prepared by Health Surveillance & Analysis Unit of the Division of Public Health:  
Mark H. Smith, Ph.D., Epidemiologist and Laura Mroska, MPH, MSW, Community Health Educator

For more information about Guilford County health statistics, visit [www.myguilford.com/humanservices/health/health-statistics](http://www.myguilford.com/humanservices/health/health-statistics)