

Development of the NHIS Technology Platform

Basic Overview of Tuberculosis Epidemiology in the Czech Republic in 2020

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Basic Overview of Tuberculosis Epidemiology in the Czech Republic in 2020

Introduction

The publication “Basic Overview of Tuberculosis Epidemiology in the Czech Republic” has been regularly published by the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic (IHIS) since 2016 (containing data for 2015) and picks up the threads of the publication “Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases”, which included data from 1960 to 2014. It is a selection of the most important review tables describing the occurrence of reported cases of tuberculosis (TB) and other mycobacterial infections in the Czech Republic. The presented data were obtained from the Register of Tuberculosis (RTB), which is part of an information system maintained by public health protection authorities, and which is run as a web application based on a central database. Furthermore, the Information System of Bacillary Tuberculosis (ISBT) has become an inseparable part of RTB. In the Czech Republic, all detected cases of tuberculosis or other mycobacterial infections must be reported into RTB. Apart from RTB data, data from the Czech Statistical Office are used to calculate rates per population.

RTB is administered by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic (MZ CR). Data on the national level are processed by IHIS, which is also responsible for providing and publishing statistical outputs and, together with the National Tuberculosis Surveillance Unit, maintains contacts with international organisations.

The binding regulations in this domain involve: Act No. 258/2000 Coll. on Protection of Public Health and Amendment to Some Related Acts; Decree No. 306/2012 Coll. of MZ CR on Conditions of Prevention and Spread of Infectious Diseases and Hygiene Requirements for the Operation of Medical Facilities and Social Care Institutions; Decree No. 473/2008 Coll. of MZ CR on System of Epidemiological Vigilance for Selected Infections, as subsequently amended; and Standard of Follow-Up Care for Patients with Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Infections and for Persons at a Higher Risk of These Diseases (Bulletin No. 7/2016 of MZ CR).

In the context of evaluation of TB epidemiology in the Czech Republic, a new online and publicly available data-mining tool has been developed during the year 2020, providing a better insight into this issue; the tool will be designed in an interactive way, offering many different (and adjustable) points of view (available at: <https://tbc.uzis.cz/>).

Methodology

The tabular outputs summarise TB epidemiology in the Czech Republic in 2020, based on data from RTB valid as of 1 June 2021. The reported cases of disease are assessed from many points of view, such as laboratory verification of the disease, age groups and sex, previous treatment, disease location, sensitivity to antitubercular agents, patient’s death or country of birth. Information on the evaluation of antituberculosis therapy at 12 months after its start is linked to cases reported into RTB in 2019. The last two tables, unlike all the preceding ones, provide information on reported cases of mycobacterial infections other than TB.

Data are available both as absolute numbers and as standardised indicators.

Summary of Results

In 2020, a total of 368 TB cases (i.e. 3.4 cases per 100,000 population), involving all forms and locations, were reported into RTB (Table 1). Compared with the previous year, the number of reported cases has decreased (in 2019, there were 96 more than in 2020). There has been a continuous downward trend in TB incidence in the Czech Republic in the long term, and the burden has been low when compared to other countries. Among the reported patients, there were 16 persons who had been previously treated with antituberculotics (Table 3).

From the total number of reported TB cases in 2020, definitive diagnosis of TB was confirmed in 278 cases – 75.5% were culture positive, of which 214 cases were verified from sputum or from the laryngeal swab (LS). Sputum smear microscopy was positive in 149 patients (40.5%) (Table 1).

According to RTB data, pulmonary TB was reported in 324 cases (88.0%); these cases also involved patients who had both pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB. By contrast, extrapulmonary TB only was reported in 44 cases (Table 4).

TB occurred much more frequently in men than in women: men accounted for more than 67% of cases. TB was most frequently reported in people aged 30–54 years; when recalculated per 100,000 population, men between 60–64 years and 80–84 years and women between 30–34 years and over 90 years were most frequently affected. When compared to 2019, there was a year-on-year decrease in TB cases reported among patients in younger age groups; there were 5 cases of TB reported among patients younger than 20 years (in 2019 there were 13 cases) and the number of patients in the age group of 20–29 years was lower too: 33 (14 cases less). Among patients there were 2 in the age group of 0–14 years (in 2020, there was 2 less cases than in 2019), of which 1 were under 5 years of age and 1 was in the group 10–14 years (Tab. 2).

Just as in previous years, the Capital of Prague was the residence of most TB patients (97; 7.3 per 100,000 population) reported in 2020. Higher numbers of TB cases than the national mean of 3.4 per 100,000 population were also reported in the Plzeň Region (4.4 per 100,000), Karlovy Vary Region (4.1 per 100,000) and Ústí nad Labem Region (5.7 per 100,000). By contrast, the lowest absolute numbers of TB cases were reported in the Liberec Region (11; 2.5 per 100,000) and the lowest relative number of TB cases were reported in the Olomouc Region (13; 2.1 per 100,000) (Table 1).

TB cases of 126 persons born outside the Czech Republic were reported into RTB in 2020, accounting for more than 34% of the total number of reported TB cases. Most of these people originated from Ukraine (27 persons), Vietnam (21 persons), India (17 persons), Slovakia (10 persons) and Mongolia (8 persons) (Table 6).

In 2019, sensitivity to antituberculotics was tested in 258 patients. Isoniazid, streptomycin, pyrazinamide, rifampicin and ethambutol resistance were detected in 20 (7.8%), 16 (6.2%), 12 (4.7%), 10 (3.9%) and 7 (2.7%) cases, respectively. Multidrug-resistant TB was detected in 10 cases (3.9%). More information on resistance to antitubercular drugs is available in Table 5.

From the total number of newly detected TB cases in 2019 that were verified from sputum or from the laryngeal swab (295 cases), evaluation of antituberculosis therapy at 12 months after its start (Treatment outcome monitoring) has shown that 207 persons (70.2%) were successfully treated and 29 persons (9.8%) died, out of which 10 died from TB. After one year, treatment continued in 12 persons (4.1%). Seven persons (2.4%) moved elsewhere; treatment was interrupted or data on treatment were missing in 39 persons (13.2%) and the treatment failed in 1 case (Table 7).

In 2020, a total of 24 TB deaths were reported into RTB (this number may include additionally reported deaths from previous periods); the highest numbers of deaths were reported in the Capital of Prague (5 persons) (Table 8).

Apart from tuberculosis, cases of other mycobacterial infections are reported into RTB, too. In 2020, there were 87 reported cases of other mycobacterial infections (in 2019, there were 103 cases), i.e. 0.81 cases per 100,000 population. Within these cases, there were 65 cases with pulmonary location and 22 cases with extrapulmonary location. *M. avium* (44 cases), *M. kansasii* (9 cases) and *M. xenopi* (6 cases) were the most frequently isolated strains (Table 9). Mycobacterial infections are most frequently reported in the Ústí nad Labem Region (14 cases), Central Bohemian Region (13 cases) and Moravian-Silesian Region (13 cases) (Table 10), when recalculated per 100,000 population, there were most cases in the Ústí nad Labem Region (1.71 per 100,000 population) or in the Plzeň Region (1.52 per 100,000 population).

Table 1. Reported numbers of TB cases in regions of the Czech Republic

Territory, region ¹⁾	Reported TB cases in total		Culture positive TB cases		Culture positive TB cases, verification from sputum or LS		Sputum smear microscopy positive TB cases	
	absolute numbers	per 100,000 population	absolute numbers	per 100,000 population	absolute numbers	per 100,000 population	absolute numbers	per 100,000 population
Czech Republic	368	3,44	278	2,60	214	2,00	149	1,39
Capital of Prague	97	7,31	78	5,88	60	4,52	36	2,71
Central Bohemian	36	2,59	27	1,94	22	1,58	14	1,01
South Bohemian	15	2,33	14	2,17	7	1,09	6	0,93
Plzeň	26	4,40	24	4,06	19	3,22	14	2,37
Karlovy Vary	12	4,08	10	3,40	10	3,40	10	3,40
Ústí nad Labem	31	3,78	19	2,32	15	1,83	11	1,34
Liberec	11	2,48	9	2,03	8	1,81	8	1,81
Hradec Králové	16	2,90	11	1,99	8	1,45	6	1,09
Pardubice	16	3,06	13	2,48	10	1,91	7	1,34
Vysočina	13	2,55	10	1,96	8	1,57	7	1,37
South Moravian	42	3,52	26	2,18	17	1,42	10	0,84
Olomouc	13	2,06	7	1,11	6	0,95	3	0,47
Zlín	12	2,06	5	0,86	4	0,69	4	0,69
Moravian-Silesian	28	2,34	25	2,09	20	1,67	13	1,09

¹⁾ Regions of patients' residence are reported

Table 2. Reported numbers of TB cases by age groups and sex

Age group (years)	Reported TB cases					
	absolute numbers			per 100,000 population		
	total	men	women	total	men	women
0-4	1	-	1	0,18	0,00	0,36
5-9	-	-	-	0,00	0,00	0,00
10-14	1	1	-	0,17	0,33	0,00
15-19	3	2	1	0,62	0,80	0,42
20-24	13	7	6	2,70	2,83	2,57
25-29	20	13	7	3,14	3,96	2,27
30-34	38	19	19	5,27	5,11	5,44
35-39	35	27	8	4,61	6,88	2,19
40-44	33	23	10	3,63	4,92	2,27
45-49	31	27	4	3,60	6,11	0,95
50-54	37	24	13	5,37	6,84	3,85
55-59	32	23	9	4,84	6,92	2,73
60-64	29	27	2	4,54	8,69	0,61
65-69	29	21	8	4,29	6,68	2,21
70-74	22	13	9	3,59	4,82	2,63
75-79	23	13	10	5,57	7,70	4,10
80-84	11	8	3	4,60	9,06	1,99
85-89	6	2	4	4,27	4,40	4,21
90-94	3	-	3	5,62	0,00	7,73
95+	1	-	1	9,04	0,00	11,52
Total	368	250	118	3,44	4,74	2,17

Table 3. Reported numbers of TB cases by previous treatment in regions of the Czech Republic

Territory, region ¹⁾	Reported TB cases			
	absolute numbers previously treated		per 100,000 population previously treated	
	yes	no	yes	no
Czech Republic	16	352	0,15	3,29
Capital of Prague	3	94	0,23	7,08
Central Bohemian	1	35	0,07	2,51
South Bohemian	-	15	0,00	2,33
Plzeň	4	22	0,68	3,72
Karlovy Vary	2	10	0,68	3,40
Ústí nad Labem	1	30	0,12	3,66
Liberec	-	11	0,00	2,48
Hradec Králové	-	16	0,00	2,90
Pardubice	1	15	0,19	2,87
Vysočina	1	12	0,20	2,35
South Moravian	2	40	0,17	3,35
Olomouc	-	13	0,00	2,06
Zlín	-	12	0,00	2,06
Moravian-Silesian	1	27	0,08	2,26

¹⁾ Regions of patients' residence are reported

Table 4. Reported numbers of TB cases by disease location in regions of the Czech Republic

Territory, region ¹⁾	Pulmonary TB (pulmonary TB only and both pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB)		Extrapulmonary TB (only)	
	absolute numbers	per 100,000 population	absolute numbers	per 100,000 population
Czech Republic	324	3,03	44	0,41
Capital of Prague	85	6,40	12	0,90
Central Bohemian	31	2,23	5	0,36
South Bohemian	13	2,02	2	0,31
Plzeň	24	4,06	2	0,34
Karlovy Vary	11	3,74	1	0,34
Ústí nad Labem	28	3,42	3	0,37
Liberec	10	2,26	1	0,23
Hradec Králové	15	2,72	1	0,18
Pardubice	14	2,68	2	0,38
Vysočina	13	2,55	0	0,00
South Moravian	33	2,76	9	0,75
Olomouc	12	1,90	1	0,16
Zlín	11	1,89	1	0,17
Moravian-Silesian	24	2,00	4	0,33

¹⁾ Regions of patients' residence are reported

Table 5. Resistance to antitubercular drugs

Resistance	Reported TB cases					
	previously treated yes		previously treated no		total	
	abs. numbers	%	abs. numbers	%	abs. numbers	%
Patients with TB resistant to certain drugs	10	100,0	248	100,0	258	100,0
Any resistance to:						
isoniazid (H)	3	30,0	17	6,9	20	7,8
rifampicin (R)	3	30,0	7	2,8	10	3,9
ethambutol (E)	1	10,0	6	2,4	7	2,7
streptomycin (S)	3	30,0	13	5,2	16	6,2
pyrazinamid (Z)	2	20,0	10	4,0	12	4,7
Resistance only to:						
isoniazid (H)	-	0,0	4	1,6	4	1,6
rifampicin (R)	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
ethambutol (E)	-	0,0	1	0,4	1	0,4
streptomycin (S)	-	0,0	2	0,8	2	0,8
pyrazinamid (Z)	-	0,0	4	1,6	4	1,6
Mono-resistance in total	-	0,0	11	4,4	11	4,3
H + R	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
H + R + E	-	0,0	1	0,4	1	0,4
H + R + S	1	10,0	-	0,0	1	0,4
H + R + Z	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
H + R + E + S	-	0,0	1	0,4	1	0,4
H + R + E + Z	-	0,0	1	0,4	1	0,4
H + R + S + Z	1	10,0	3	1,2	4	1,6
H + R + E + S + Z	1	10,0	1	0,4	2	0,8
Multidrug resistance (MDR) in total	3	30,0	7	2,8	10	3,9
H + E	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
H + S	-	0,0	5	2,0	5	1,9
H + Z	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
H + E + S	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
H + E + Z	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
H + S + Z	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
H + E + S + Z	-	0,0	1	0,4	1	0,4
R + E	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
R + S	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
R + Z	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
R + E + S	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
R + E + Z	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
R + S + Z	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
R + E + S + Z	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
E + S	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
E + Z	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
E + S + Z	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
S + Z	-	0,0	-	0,0	-	0,0
Poly-resistance in total (other than MDR)	-	0,0	6	3,7	6	2,3

Table 6. Reported numbers of TB cases in foreign nationals by country of birth

Year	Reported TB cases							% of the total number of reported TB cases
	total	out of which						
		Ukraine	Vietnam	India	Slovakia	Mongolia	other	
2020	126	27	21	17	10	8	43	34,2

Table 7. Evaluation of antituberculosis therapy at 12 months after its start in TB cases reported into RTB in 2019 (Treatment outcome monitoring)

Treatment outcome	Reported TB cases in total		Newly diagnosed TB cases, verification from sputum or LS	
	abs. numbers	%	abs. numbers	%
Total number of reported TB cases in 2018	464	x	295	x
TB was excluded	3	x	-	x
Verified TB cases reported in 2018	461	100,0	295	100,0
Cured / treatment completed	332	72,0	207	70,2
Death from TB	19	4,1	10	3,4
Death from another cause	33	7,2	19	6,4
Treatment interrupted / missing data / missing follow-up report	53	11,5	39	13,2
Still on treatment	13	2,8	12	4,1
Patient transferred	10	2,2	7	2,4
Treatment failed	1	0,2	1	0,3

Table 8. Reported numbers of TB deaths in regions of the Czech Republic ²⁾

Territory, region ¹⁾	Number of deaths	
	absolute numbers	per 100,000 population
Czech Republic	24	0,22
Capital of Prague	5	0,38
Central Bohemian	3	0,22
South Bohemian	2	0,31
Plzeň	2	0,34
Karlovy Vary	-	0
Ústí nad Labem	1	0,12
Liberec	1	0,23
Hradec Králové	2	0,36
Pardubice	3	0,57
Vysočina	1	0,20
South Moravian	3	0,25
Olomouc	-	-
Zlín	-	-
Moravian-Silesian	1	0,08

¹⁾ Regions of patients' residence are reported

²⁾ Including additionally reported deaths from previous periods

Table 9. Reported numbers of cases of mycobacterial infections other than TB

Disease group	Patients with mycobacterial infections Diagnosis A31	
	absolute numbers	per 100,000 population
Pulmonary mycobacterial infection	65	0,61
Extrapulmonary mycobacterial infection	22	0,21
Reported infections in total	87	0,81
out of which, the following strains were isolated:		
M. avium	44	0,41
M. intracellulare	5	0,05
M. kansasii	9	0,08
M. xenopi	6	0,06
M. fortuitum	5	0,05
M. gordonae	5	0,05
M. jine	13	0,12

Table 10. Reported numbers of cases of mycobacterial infections other than TB in regions of the Czech Republic

Territory, region ¹⁾	Reported cases of pulmonary mycobacterial infections		Reported cases of extrapulmonary mycobacterial infections	
	absolute numbers	per 100,000 population	absolute numbers	per 100,000 population
Czech Republic	65	0,61	22	0,21
Capital of Prague	6	0,45	1	0,08
Central Bohemian	2	0,14	4	0,29
South Bohemian	1	0,16	1	0,16
Plzeň	8	1,35	1	0,17
Karlovy Vary	2	0,68	-	0,00
Ústí nad Labem	11	1,34	3	0,37
Liberec	2	0,45	-	-
Hradec Králové	2	0,36	1	0,18
Pardubice	2	0,38	-	0,00
Vysočina	-	0,00	2	0,39
South Moravian	9	0,75	4	0,34
Olomouc	7	1,11	1	0,16
Zlín	3	0,52	1	0,17
Moravian-Silesian	10	0,84	3	0,25

¹⁾ Regions of patients' residence are reported