

## NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS IN CANADA, 1997 TO 2006

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### BACKGROUND

Although the rate of tuberculosis (TB) in Canada has levelled off at 5.0/100,000, the overall proportion of cases with a nonrespiratory site of infection has increased. This report describes the epidemiological trends of nonrespiratory TB disease in Canada.

### METHODS

All new and relapsed cases captured by the Canadian TB Reporting System between 1997 and 2006 were included. Diagnostic site was identified using the International Classification of Disease, version 9 (ICD-9) and version 10 (ICD-10). Factors such as age, sex, country of origin and HIV status were analysed.

### RESULTS

Between 1997 and 2006, 17,283 cases of TB were reported. Of the 17,102 with known diagnostic site, 4,837 (28.3%) were nonrespiratory. The most commonly reported nonrespiratory sites were: lymph (2,507/51.8%), bone/joint (474/9.8%), genitourinary (366/7.6%), abdominal (288/6.0%), miliary (259/5.4%) and CNS (201/4.2%). Compared to those with respiratory TB, nonrespiratory cases were more likely to be female ( $p < 0.001$ ) and foreign-born ( $p < 0.001$ ). HIV status was known for only 15.8% of cases; those with miliary and CNS TB were more likely to be HIV positive than those with other nonrespiratory sites of infection.

### CONCLUSION

The increasing proportion of nonrespiratory TB cases in Canada may reflect the changing patterns of immigration from countries with a high prevalence of TB, particularly Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific. There is also great variability in age and sex characteristics for nonrespiratory sites of infection.