



# TUBERCULOSIS (TB) IN CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS

In 2021,  
**1.2  
MILLION**  
children aged 0-14 years  
old fell ill with TB around  
the world.

Globally, an estimated  
**68%**  
of children with TB go  
undiagnosed, untreated  
or unreported.

## THE BURDEN OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT TB

In 2021

**217K\***  
Children died  
from TB

**80%\*\***  
Died before the  
age of five

**95%\*\***  
of the children who died  
from TB did not receive  
TB treatment

\*World Health Organization Global TB Report 2022

\*\*2018 WHO Roadmap towards ending TB in children and adolescents

## CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING CHILD AND ADOLESCENT TB



### Difficulties in Diagnosis

TB in children is difficult to diagnose with traditional diagnostic tools, but consistent use of child-friendly specimens and increasing access to chest x-rays can improve case-finding among children.



### TB Preventive Treatment Remains Low

Provision of TB preventative treatment among children in contact with someone with TB remains low, with only one third of those eligible receiving preventative treatment every year.



### HIV-associated TB

An estimated 33 percent of deaths among children living with HIV are due to TB.

# CDC'S ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD AND ADOLESCENT TB



## FIND

Working with ministries of health (MOH) to promote use of child friendly approaches and diagnostics to diagnose TB in children. **In Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda, CDC is working with MOH and Baylor College of Medicine to evaluate the latest screening and diagnostic methods to determine the most effective and efficient ways to diagnose TB among children.**



## CURE

Linking every child screened through PEPFAR platforms to diagnostic evaluation and treatment for TB. **Through CDC and PEPFAR-supported programs, 85 percent of all children living with HIV were screened for TB in 2022.**



## PREVENT

Scaling-up TB preventive treatment to all eligible children, including household contacts of those with TB and children living with HIV. **In 2022, through CDC and PEPFAR-supported programs, 65 percent of eligible children living with HIV newly starting antiretroviral therapy initiated TB preventative treatment and nearly 90 percent completed treatment.**



## SUSTAIN

Providing leadership and technical assistance to identify and address gaps that hinder childhood TB elimination. **CDC and the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease have established a global, virtual platform with twelve ministries of health to provide a community of learning and practice for child and adolescent TB in countries hardest hit by the epidemic.**

*\*Source: Annual Performance Results from The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)*

**Significant progress has been made in response to child and adolescent TB, but there is still much left to do**

## RESPONDING TO CHILD AND ADOLESCENT TB

1. **Less invasive diagnostic methods discovered**, simplifying the diagnosis of TB in children.
2. **Shorter treatment regimens for drug-susceptible TB among children** have been endorsed by WHO, reducing burden on children and their families/and can improve treatment outcomes for children.
3. **Comprehensive roadmap for ending TB** in children and adolescents—supported by CDC—identifies key actions to close remaining gaps.

## THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE TO END CHILDHOOD TB

1. **Slow adoption and uptake of child-friendly diagnostic tools** create a gap in TB diagnosis.
2. **Shorter treatment regimens for children** require capacity to differentiate severe TB disease from uncomplicated, non-severe disease, slowing uptake of/access to this preferred treatment.
3. **Additional action is needed to close the gaps** in diagnosis, treatment and prevention of TB in children.

To learn more, visit:  
[cdc.gov/GlobalHIVTB](https://cdc.gov/GlobalHIVTB)

