



# Jackson County Health Department

1715 Lansing Avenue • Jackson, MI 49202 • Phone (517) 788-4420 • Fax (517) 788-4373

*Creating Healthy Communities*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 22, 2023

**CONTACT:** Tracy Payne, Communicable Disease Nurse; 517-768-1664; [Tpayne@mijackson.org](mailto:Tpayne@mijackson.org)

## World Tuberculosis Day

**JACKSON COUNTY, MI** – – Each year, we recognize World TB Day on March 24 to spread knowledge and awareness of Tuberculosis (TB). This annual event commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacillus that causes TB. TB is the world's deadliest infectious-disease killer. In the last several years the United States has reported the lowest number of TB cases on record, but too many people still suffer from TB. Jackson County sees an average of one to two active TB cases diagnosed per year.

Common symptoms of TB disease are a persistent cough (lasting more than two weeks), fever, night sweats, unexplained weight loss, chest pain and coughing up blood. TB bacteria spread through the air from one person to another when a person with infectious TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, speaks, or sings, TB bacteria get into the air. People nearby may breathe in these TB bacteria and become infected. When a person breathes in TB bacteria, the bacteria can settle in the lungs and begin to grow. TB bacteria can also move through the blood to other parts of the body, such as the kidney, spine, and brain and is usually not infectious. People with infectious TB disease are most likely to spread it to people they spend time with every day; family members, friends, coworkers or schoolmates.

Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick. As a result, two TB-related conditions exist: latent TB infection (LTBI) and TB disease. Both LTBI and TB disease can be treated. LTBI can lie dormant for years without a single symptom. Without treatment latent TB infection can progress to TB disease. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that more than 80% of TB cases in the United States result from longstanding, untreated LTBI. The CDC estimates up to 13 million people in the United States are living with LTBI.

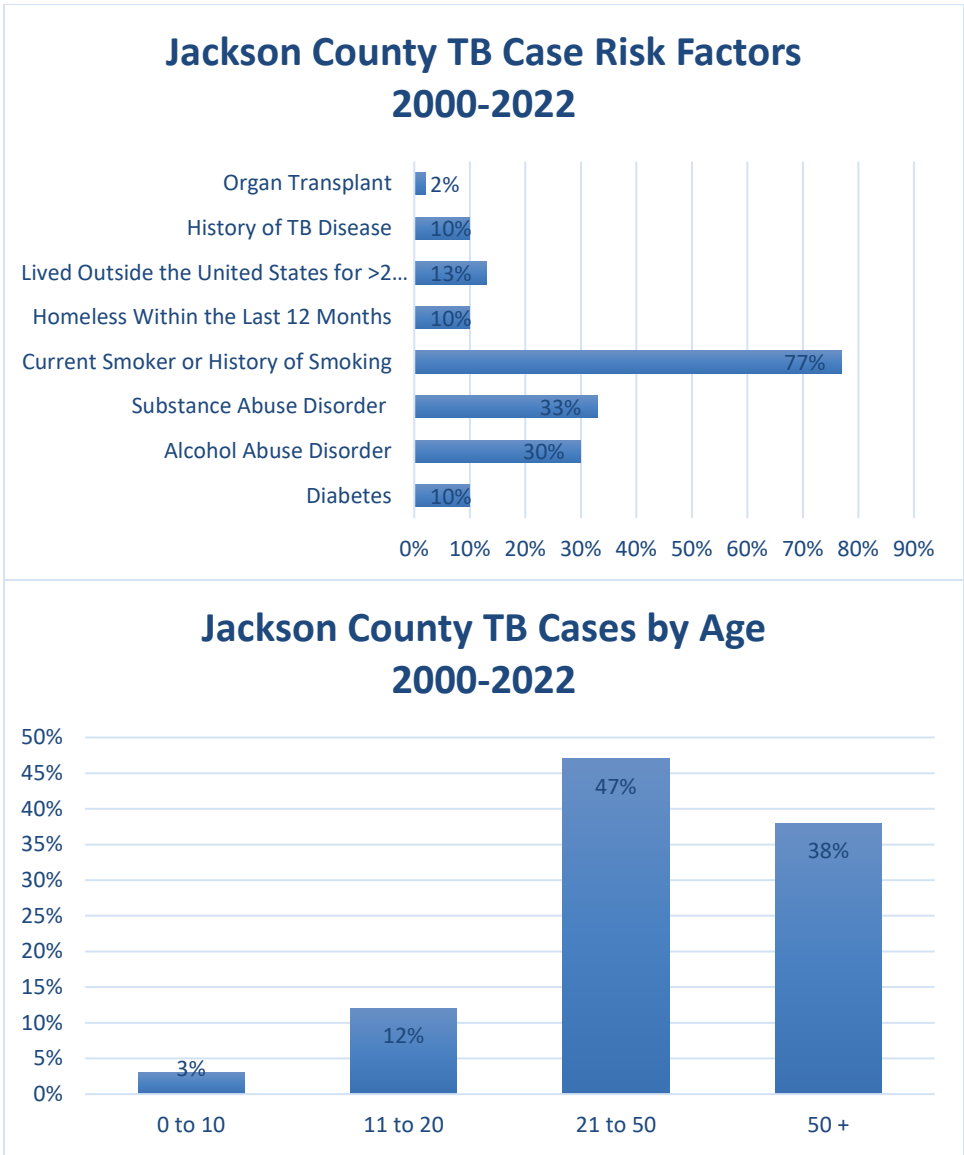
Certain people should be tested for TB infection because they are at higher risk for being infected with TB bacteria, including:

- People who have spent time with someone who has TB disease, especially infants, children and adolescents.
- People from a country where TB disease is common (most countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Russia)
- People who live or work in high-risk settings (for example: correctional facilities, long-term care facilities or nursing homes, and homeless shelters)

TB tests are generally not needed for people with a low risk of infection with TB bacteria.

---

Working together to create and promote a healthy community through disease prevention and control, health education, environmental protection and emergency preparedness.



The Immunization Department at the Jackson County Health Department (JCHD) offers walk in TB skin testing Monday, Tuesday and Friday every week from 8:00am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 4:00pm. For more information, call (517)-788-4477.

If you are diagnosed with LTBI, there are short and convenient treatment options available that can help protect you from getting sick with active TB disease. The Communicable Disease Department at JCHD provides surveillance and case management of TB disease and LTBI. For questions or additional information, please call (517) 768-1664. You may also find additional information about TB and LTBI at [www.cdc.gov/tb](http://www.cdc.gov/tb)

###