



## News Release

Wednesday 21 August 2013

### London TB capital of Western Europe

New figures show 3,426 tuberculosis (TB) cases were reported in London in 2012, accounting for around 40% of cases nationally. The figures are published in Public Health England's annual "TB in the UK: 2013 report" published today (Wednesday).

Rates of TB have stabilised nationally at around 14 cases per 100,000 since the mid-2000s, following the increase in incidence seen in the previous two decades. However, despite considerable efforts to improve prevention, treatment and control, TB incidence in London is at a worryingly high 42 per 100,000, the highest rate of any western European capital. The majority of cases were among people born outside of the UK and many of these were young adults aged between 25 and 44.

Dr Yvonne Doyle, regional director for PHE London, said: "TB is a preventable and treatable condition, but, if left untreated, can be life threatening. It is encouraging to see the success of treatment in London with over 85% of people completing treatment at 12 months.

"However controlling the spread of this infection must remain a public health priority for London where the rates are consistently high. This is why Public Health England is calling for a concerted effort to significantly reduce the level of TB in London in the coming years.

"Screening for latent TB will be key to reducing TB levels in London and there is a need for focused commissioning of services in this area. Ensuring that NICE recommendations on screening for latent TB infection are commissioned and implemented in a coordinated manner across the city is therefore very important. To reduce the risk of latent TB reactivating it is essential that people who have come to London from high incidence countries, have good access to screening and diagnostic services and are invited for screening.

"People with social risk factors such as homelessness and drug or alcohol misuse still account for a significant number of TB cases in London and the figures reinforce the importance of NICE guidance on tackling TB among hard-to-reach groups, and of the dedicated outreach services in London such as Find and Treat."

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**Notes to editors:**

## 1. Table: London TB data by Local Authority

<b>Number of new TB notifications in London residents and rate per 100,000 population by LA of residence, 2012</b>		
<b>Local Authority of residence</b>	<b>Cases no.</b>	<b>Rate</b>
<b>PHE London</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>41.9</b>
Barnet	110	30.9
Camden	62	28.1
Enfield	79	25.3
Haringey	101	39.6
Islington	69	33.5
Barking and Dagenham	67	36.0
City Of London	1	13.5
Hackney	87	35.3
Havering	27	11.4
Newham	366	118.8
Redbridge	157	56.3
Tower Hamlets	119	46.8
Waltham Forest	129	50.0
Brent	313	100.6
Ealing	253	74.8
Hammersmith and Fulham	46	25.2
Harrow	185	77.4
Hillingdon	139	50.7
Hounslow	193	76.0
Kensington and Chelsea	33	20.8
Westminster, City of	51	23.2
Bexley	26	11.2
Bromley	29	9.4
Greenwich	131	51.5
Lambeth	98	32.3
Lewisham	84	30.4
Southwark	116	40.2
Croydon	119	32.7
Kingston Upon Thames	28	17.5
Merton	74	37.1
Richmond Upon Thames	13	7.0
Sutton	29	15.3
Wandsworth	92	30.00

2. PHE Tuberculosis in the UK Report (2013) – and the report will be available at the following link from 21 August 2013:  
[http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb\\_C/1317134916916](http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1317134916916)
3. TB is an infection caused by bacteria. It usually affects the lungs, but can affect other parts of the body. TB is transmitted when someone who has the infection coughs or sneezes, but it requires close prolonged contact in order to spread from person to person. For more information about tuberculosis, please visit:  
<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Tuberculosis/>
4. Latent TB is when a person has been infected with the TB bacteria but does not have any symptoms of the active disease. The disease however can reactivate at any time while the person is infected.
5. ECDC Director's presentation on urban tuberculosis control in the European Union offers a useful comparison of London with other major European cities. Available at:  
[http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/aboutus/organisation/director%20speeches/msprenger\\_urban-tb-control-world-tb-day-2012-rotterdam.pdf](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/aboutus/organisation/director%20speeches/msprenger_urban-tb-control-world-tb-day-2012-rotterdam.pdf)
6. Public Health England's mission is to protect and improve the nation's health and to address inequalities through working with national and local government, the NHS, industry and the voluntary and community sector. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

**Issued by:**

**Public Health England**

**London press office**

**Tel: 020 7811 7243 / 7242**

**Out of hours telephone 020 8200 4400**

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