



TBWIRE

THE U.S. PARTNER IN THE GLOBAL
STOP TB PARTNERSHIP

December 2024

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR!

I am not going to lie; I love listening to Christmas music. It puts me in a good mood, but I also get a bit nostalgic at the fact that the year is ending. How will you end your year? We recommend acting to **#EndTB** and end the year on a high note. Here are some ideas: 1. **Donate** to Stop TB USA; 2. **Nominate** someone to be our new Chair Elect and/or Secretary; and 3. **Call** your Representative to ask them to urge leadership to pass the End TB Now Act.

- Cynthia A. Tschampl, PhD, Chair

DC UPDATE

We are in the final days of the 118th Congress! While the End TB Now Act of 2023 **passed the Senate** in September, we need to keep asking to our House members to co-sponsor the bill and to speak with leadership to add it to the suspension calendar so it can pass before year's end!! Looking toward next year, save April 9/10 for the annual TB Hill Day (and plan to see us in DC!).

Here are **the asks** for your Members of Congress:

1. (House members only:) Co-sponsor the **End TB Now Act, H.1776/S.288!** Here's a helpful [fact sheet](#) and a [press release](#) about the **End TB Now Act**. **Sample script:** As your constituent and a global health advocate, I urge you to support the bipartisan End Tuberculosis Now Act (H.R.1776) being led by Reps. Bera and Salazar. The Senate just passed their companion bill via unanimous consent - and we are urging the House Leadership to put this bill on the suspension calendar for a vote as soon as possible.
2. Write a letter to CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure in support of a ****timely**** National Coverage Determination of LTBI screening and testing. Get more information [here](#).

Pro Tips: Call the Capitol Switchboard at **1-202-224-3121** and ask for your senator/representative or give your state if you do not know their name. When you are connected to an office, ask for the Health Legislative Assistant. If you leave a voicemail message, include your name, phone number, and email so they can respond to you. If you

2023 Tuberculosis (TB) Surveillance Report Now Available

- CDC's annual TB surveillance report, Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 2023 is now available exclusively online. The number of reported TB disease cases and incidence rate increased in 2023 for the third year since 2020, surpassing pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. CDC created a slide set and infographic to highlight findings from the 2023 surveillance report.



2022 ARPE Contact Investigation Report

- CDC recently released the 2022 U.S. Contact Investigation Report, highlighting national TB investigations diagnosed in 2022. The report also includes summary data from 2018 to 2021. The United States prioritizes follow-up exams and treatment for patient contacts to prevent and control TB disease.

TBESC-II Parts A and B Online

- The Tuberculosis Epidemiologic Studies Consortium (TBESC)-II operated from 2011 to 2021 to enhance strategies for latent TB diagnosis and treatment. It conducted three studies: Parts A, B, and C, with Parts A and B currently available online. Part A compared three TB infection tests in high-risk populations, and Part B examined the TB prevention care cascade in clinics.



TB REPORTS & RESOURCES

- [Global Tuberculosis Report 2024](#)
- [Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 2023](#)
- [Communicable disease threats report, 16-22 November 2024, week 47](#)
- [USAID's Global Tuberculosis \(TB\) Strategy 2023–2030](#)
- [TB continues to be the world's leading infectious disease killer: WHO Global TB Report 2024](#)
- [Digital TB Surveillance System Assessment Report](#)

Read more reports and resources on our website page 'From TB Wire'!

TB IN THE NEWS

TB Incidence Reports:

- [Active tuberculosis case confirmed at Lakeville South High School, but officials say there's no further risk](#)
- [Tuberculosis cases in Georgia dropped in 2023, bucking the national trend](#)
- [Louisiana drops lawsuit after inmates exposed to rare kind of tuberculosis medically cleared](#)
- [Tuberculosis cases in Georgia dropped in 2023, bucking the national trend](#)
- [Arkansas seeing record-setting tuberculosis case numbers](#)

TB Articles:

- [How cigarettes and chocolates helped to tackle a TB epidemic](#)
- [Study finds tuberculosis changes liver metabolism and could promote diabetes](#)
- [Researchers reveal why a key tuberculosis drug works against resistant strains](#)
- [Inclusion for every child: reaching every child affected by tuberculosis](#)
- [ERA4TB accelerates the development of new treatment regimens for tuberculosis.](#)
- [For People Living with HIV/AIDS, TB is Still the Leading Cause of Death](#)
- [Ocular tuberculosis and relapse rates for recurrence of uveitis](#)
- [End TB Now Act can show national unity](#)
- [John Green's crusade to make the world "suck less"](#)

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JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [Trends and annual percentage changes in tuberculosis mortality estimated by Joinpoint regression and age-period-cohort analyses, Taiwan, 1978–2022](#)
- [Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection in pregnancy: A systematic review](#)
- [Study finds weakness in drug-resistant tuberculosis pathogens](#)

- “Oh, That Still Exists?” – An Overview of Tuberculosis and Its Effects on the Pediatric Population in America
- A Novel Actinobacteria-Specific Ribosome Hibernation Factor in Mycobacterium tuberculosis

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TB BOOKSHELF

Impact of drug shortages on Tuberculosis (TB) patients and programs: a Public Health crisis

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Background

- In 2023, the U.S. states provisionally reported 9,615 Tuberculosis (TB) cases, with an estimate of up to 13 million people with latent TB infection.
- MMWR report surveyed California's local health departments on the impact of TB drug shortages on people with TB and TB programs.
- Pharmacists are the final healthcare providers to interact with PWTB during prescription dispensing.
- Pharmacists play a key role in education to combat TB treatment disruptions and can provide directly observed treatment if implemented.

Objective

- Describe TB drug shortages and pharmacists' role in combating these shortages by developing public health systems to strengthen access to continuous care and an uninterrupted supply of quality drugs.
- Discuss strategies by which pharmacists can help alleviate TB drug shortages to strengthen the public health trust.

Methods

- A focused review of the TB drug shortage reports on FDA and CDC websites between 2020 and 2024 were performed.
- Searches for "TB," "drug shortages," "rifampin," "isoniazid," and "rifapentine" were conducted, with findings summarized descriptively.

Results

- Of 21 drug shortage reports,
 - 11/21 (52%) reported Rifapentine shortages
 - 10/21 (48%) Rifampin shortages
 - 11/21 (52%) Isoniazid shortages
- A shortage had been reported for
 - Rifapentine tablet since March 2020
 - Rifampin and Isoniazid injections beginning in February 2021
 - Rifampin and Isoniazid tablets emerged in December 2021 and May 2023, respectively

Map of TB Cases

"TB Cases and Incidence Rates" by Reporting Area, United States, 2022

Conclusions

- Pharmacists play a unique role through uninterrupted access to quality drugs, education, and bidirectional screening of PWTB, individuals at high risk of latent TB infection, and their communities.
- Data highlights opportunities for pharmacists to collaborate with healthcare teams, expanding their roles in patient care through enhanced TB screening services, especially in foreign-born individuals with diabetes.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Tuberculosis in the United States—2022. *MMWR*. 2023;72(10):1-12. doi:10.15585/mmwr.mm7210a1

2. California Department of Public Health. Tuberculosis in California—2022. *MMWR*. 2023;72(10):1-12. doi:10.15585/mmwr.mm7210a1

3. Stop TB USA. Tuberculosis in the United States—2022. *MMWR*. 2023;72(10):1-12. doi:10.15585/mmwr.mm7210a1

Drug

Drug	# of Studies
Rifapentine	11
Rifampin	10
Isoniazid	11

Drug Shortages Reported

Here is the research poster presented at APHA by Alina Cernasev and Aishva Kothari from the Stop TB USA Pharmacy Work Group, which shines a spotlight on the urgent need for pharmacy-driven TB interventions to combat drug shortages and strengthen prevention efforts.

Stop TB USA: Where we unite to #EndTB!

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Stop TB USA

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