

## Tuberculosis

According to the TB registry data<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, the number of TB cases in all registration categories from 1998 to 2016 decreased by nearly 54 %. In 2016, the prevalence of TB in Lithuania was 49,9 cases per 100 000 population. 1036 new cases of pulmonary TB (or 35.9 cases per 100 000 population) were reported.

The incidence rate of children TB increased by 15% compared to the previous year. In 2016, 69 TB cases were registered in children (13.3 cases per 100 000 children). In 2015 – 58 cases (11.6 cases per 100 000 children).

The number of multidrug resistant TB cases decreased during the period 2008 - 2016 by almost 11.5% (from 276 cases to 244 cases), but the ratio for previously treated TB patients who were diagnosed with multidrug - resistant TB remains about 51.6% of all multidrug-resistant TB cases diagnosed in 2016. There is almost no difference in new the treatment results of pulmonary multidrug - resistant TB over the period of 2007 - 2014 with around 25% of patients discontinuing the treatment (more than 2 months) and around 20 % of them die.

In 2016, 165 TB related deaths were reported in Lithuania which is by almost 10% more than in the year 2015.

In terms of TB prevalence and incidence Lithuania remains the leading country in Europe. In 2015, the TB prevalence rate in Lithuania, compared to other EU countries, was one of the highest (51.6 cases per 100 000 population), exceeded only by Romania (76.5 cases per 100 000 population) whereas the average EU rate was 11.7 cases per 100 000 population<sup>1</sup>.

In order to ensure effective TB prevention and control and to improve health statistics record, pursuant to the order by Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania, all children 7 years of age and children at risk should undergo tuberculin test (TT) annually which is financed by State resources. Coverage and results of TT are recorded and presented in Annual TT statistic forms. ULAC conducts annual review of TT coverage and results. The importance of TT is proved by the number of children who following tuberculin test were diagnosed with open form of TB. According to the data from ULAC, tuberculin test was carried out in 42920 children: 24127 (79%) children 7 years of age, and 18793 (58%) children at risk in the country in 2016, and this number constitutes 68% of the children who were to receive it. According to annual TT reports, 47 children were diagnosed with TB in the country in 2016, 3 of whom had an open TB.

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Tuberculosis data processor is a National Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases University Hospital

<sup>1</sup> European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control/WHO Regional Office for Europe. Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe 2017.