Tuberculosis

Both contagious and airborne, tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which generally affects the lungs. While many cases of tuberculosis do not progress to active disease, those that do can be fatal. Tuberculosis is especially deadly to patients who are smokers or have HIV/AIDS. Tuberculosis is a leading killer of people with HIV, and “a major cause of deaths related to antimicrobial resistance,” according to WHO. Much of the global tuberculosis burden is in middle-income countries, including India, Russia, China, and South Africa.

In 2017, a total of $10.9 billion (10.3–11.8) was spent on tuberculosis; note that our global spending estimate for tuberculosis is only inclusive of 135 low- and middle-income countries, as well as global initiatives and unallocable spending. Between 2000 and 2017, total spending on tuberculosis increased 90.9% (66.4–116.1). Of the 2017 total, DAH accounted for 15.8% (14.7–16.8), prepaid private spending 2.1% (1.7–2.6), out-of-pocket spending 18.7% (15.2–23.6), and government spending 63.5% (59.2–66.8). Government spending on tuberculosis was highest in Russia, India, and China, while tuberculosis DAH was highest in India, South Africa, and Nigeria.

Figure 1 shows tuberculosis spending in low- and middle-income countries in 2017. Figure 2, meanwhile, shows tuberculosis DAH received compared to government spending in tuberculosis-endemic countries, illustrating which endemic countries remain dependent on DAH for tuberculosis spending. And Figure 3 shows tuberculosis DAH received by program area in 2019.
**FIGURE 2** Development assistance for tuberculosis compared to government health spending, 2017*

Percent of government health spending that is development assistance for tuberculosis:
- 0% to <0.0021%
- 0.0021% to <0.2%
- 0.2% to <1.06%
- 1.06% to <4.32%
- 4.32% to 71.5%

*All World Bank high-income designated countries are excluded and shown in white.

**FIGURE 3** DAH for tuberculosis, by program area, 2019**

- 11% Other health systems strengthening
- 14% Treatment
- 61% Human resources
- 10% Diagnosis
- 2% Drug resistance
- 2% Other

**2019 estimates are preliminary