



Wisconsin Tuberculosis (TB) Program Updates

SNTC Virtual Conference

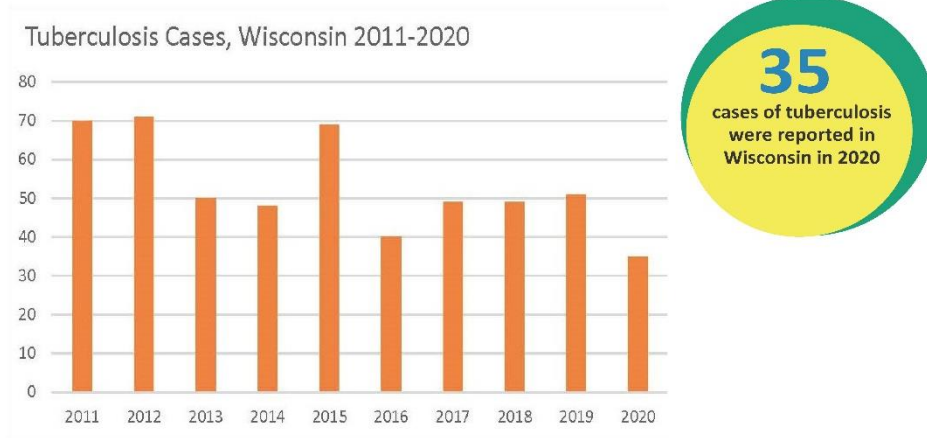
October 5-6, 2021

Updates

- TB in Wisconsin
- Survey: Effects of COVID-19 on TB response in Wisconsin
- Afghan guests in Wisconsin
- New Wisconsin resources
- Wisconsin TB Program contact information

TUBERCULOSIS IN WISCONSIN

Tuberculosis Disease in WI



Case average

Wisconsin has had an average of 53 TB cases per year during the past 10 years.



Multi-drug resistance

Wisconsin's rate of multi-drug resistant TB is one of the highest in the U.S. Wisconsin treated 19 patients with MDR-TB in the past 10 years.



Deaths

In 2020, five people died from TB or complications of the disease.

TB Disease in Wisconsin, 2020

Wisconsin: 30% less TB cases in 2020

- The steep decline in cases is due to multiple factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A true decline in TB incidence could be due to:
 - changes in immigration and travel patterns, low arrival of immigrants and refugees
 - pandemic mitigation efforts (e.g., mask-wearing and social distancing)

TB Disease in Wisconsin, 2020

Wisconsin: 30% less TB cases in 2020

- An under-ascertainment of cases could be due to:
 - Missed or delayed TB disease diagnoses: healthcare providers may not be considering TB disease, even in patients with high risk for TB infection.
- Limited access to and reluctance to seek medical care because of the COVID-19 pandemic

SURVEY: EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON TB RESPONSE IN WISCONSIN

Survey: Effects of COVID-19 on TB Response in Wisconsin

- In May, 2021, the Wisconsin TB Program surveyed local health departments (LHDs) to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on TB prevention and control in Wisconsin.
- The survey also assessed LHD training needs.
 - Many LHDs experienced staff turn-over and retirement of experienced nurses.

10 SURVEY QUESTIONS

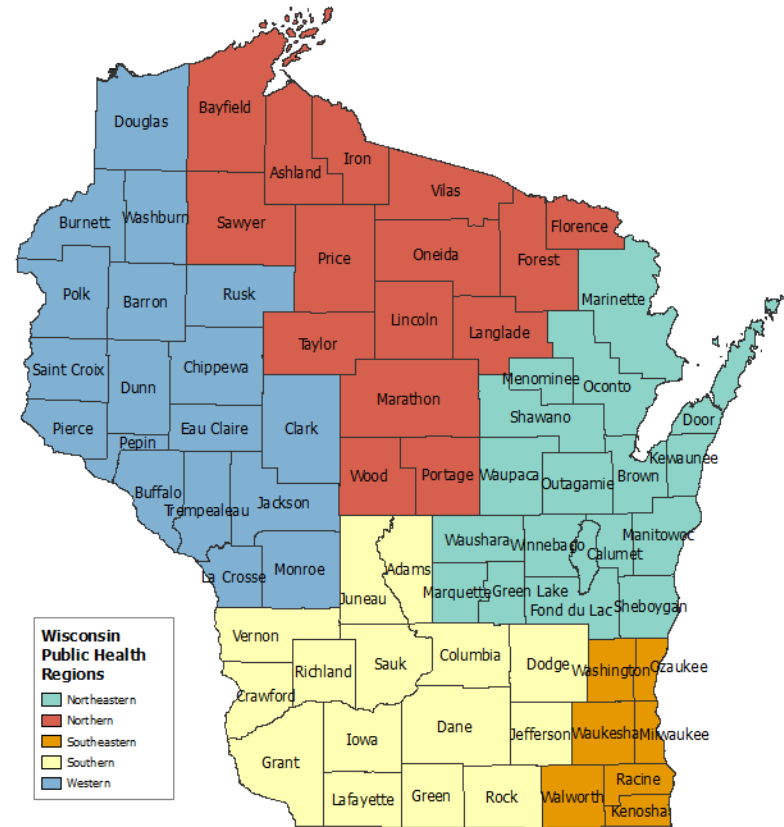
6 related to TB staffing and services capacity

3 related to TB training needs

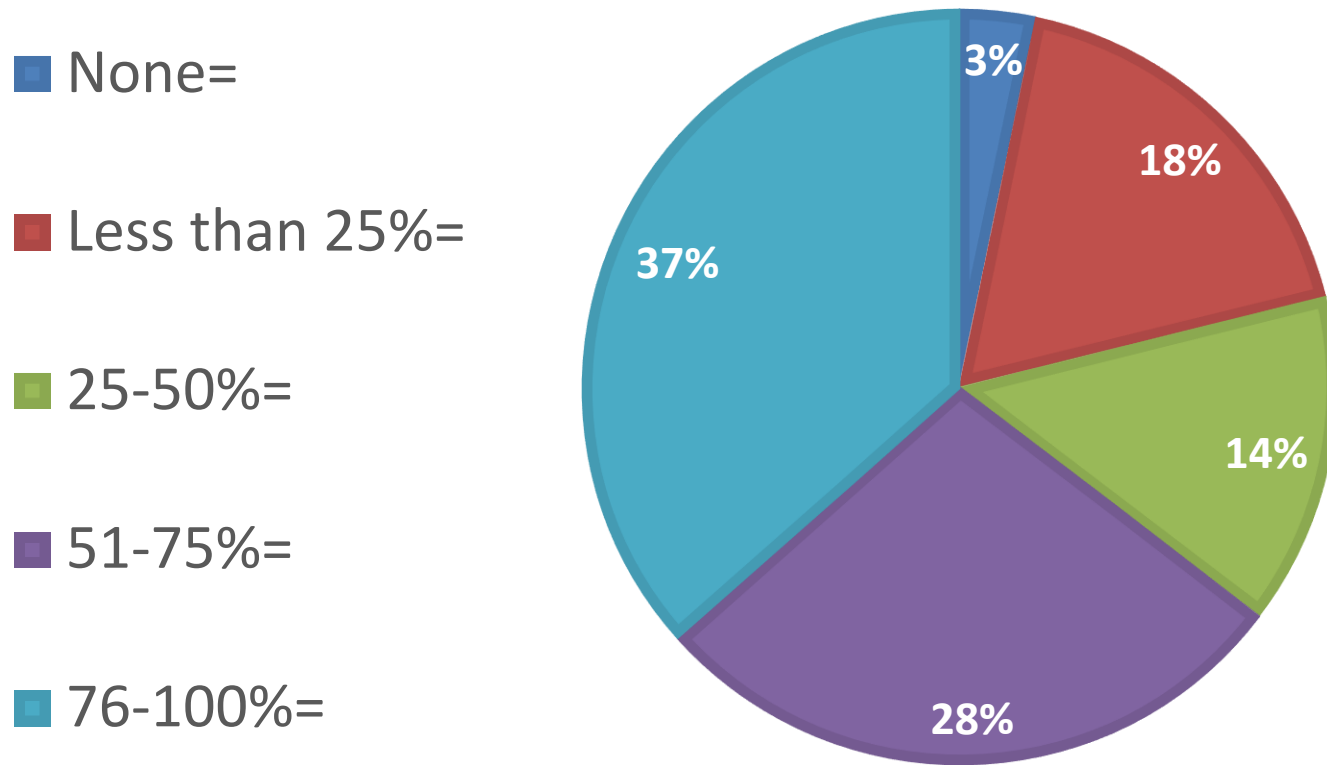
+1 demographic of respondents

Respondents

- 248 surveys completed total
 - Northern: 42
 - Western: 37
 - Northeastern: 74
 - Southern: 48
 - Southeastern: 46
- A few from MN (grouped with western); one from IL



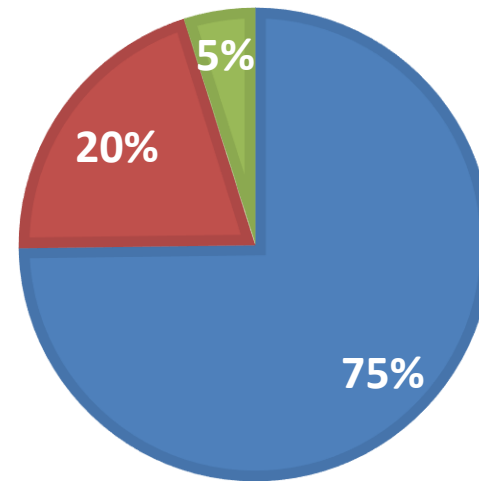
How much of your time is currently spent doing COVID-19 related work?



Does your health department currently have nurses or other staff who are still dedicated to TB-related work?

Yes	184
No	50
Not sure	12

■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure

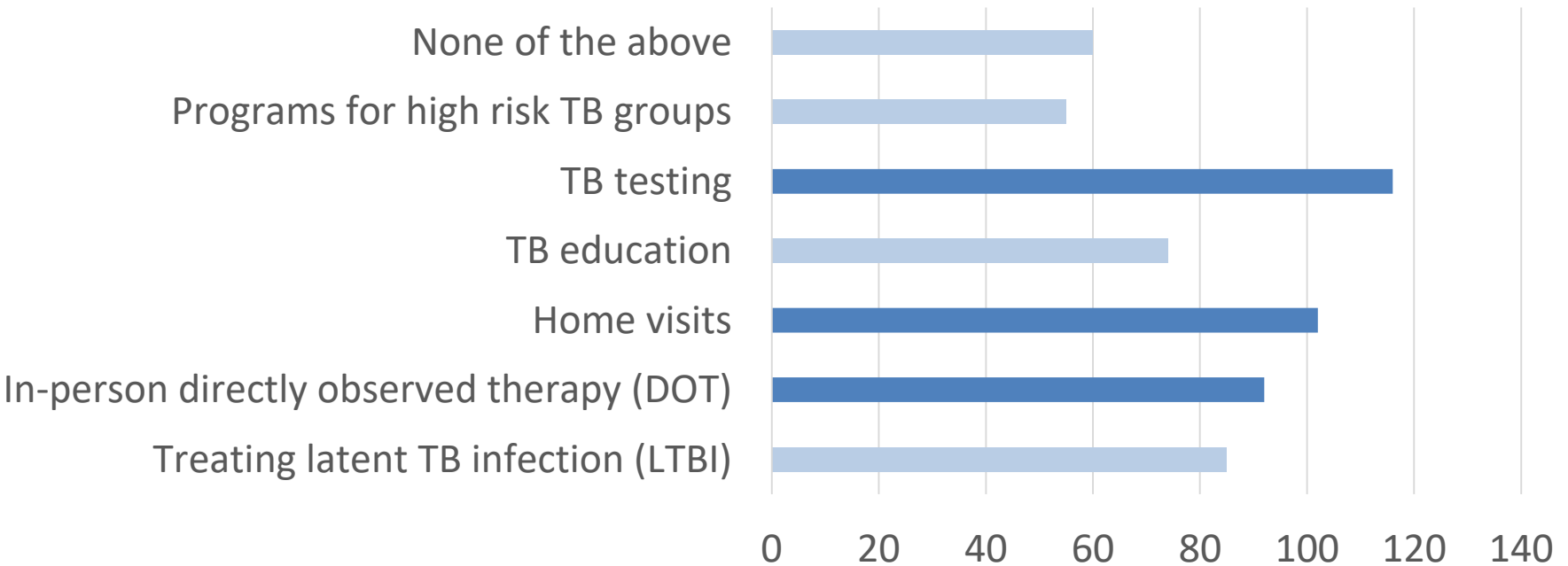


Within the last year, have you had staff who were previously doing TB-related work who either retired or left the health department?

Yes	108
No	123
Not sure	14

Hardest hit: **Western**, **Southern**, **Northeastern**— about half reported losing a TB staff

What types of TB activities were stopped or decreased due to the COVID-19 response?



What types of TB activities were stopped or decreased due to the COVID-19 response?

All regions (except **southeastern**) decreased or stopped home visits

Northeastern, **southeastern**, and **southern** also often reported decreasing LTBI treatment (at least 30% of respondents)

- Across the board– TB testing was decreased or stopped

- **When do you think that your health department will be able to turn attention back to TB-related work (including home visits and DOT)?**

Most (59%) were starting to at the time of survey or planning to within 3 months

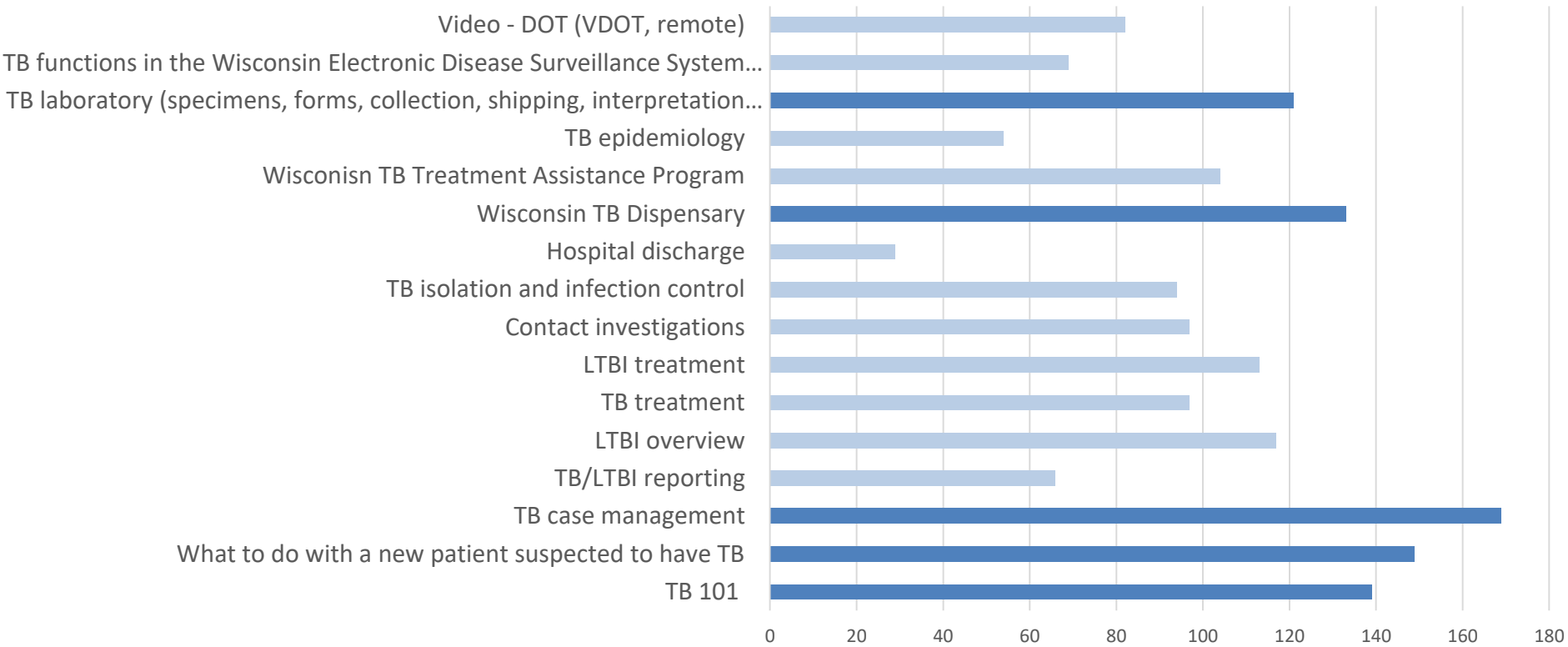


- **When do you think that staff would be able to dedicate time to TB trainings or workshops?**

Most (66%) were starting to at the time of survey or planning to within 3 months



What TB topics are of highest importance as far as training?



Survey: Effects of COVID-19 on TB Response in Wisconsin

CONCLUSIONS:

- COVID-19 continues to strain Wisconsin LHD resources.
- Most LHDs were preparing to refocus efforts on TB activities.
- LHDs desired TB training on fundamentals, patient evaluation and case management, TB financial assistance, and the TB Laboratory.
- “TB Tuesdays” webinar series is a response to LHD training needs.

Wisconsin “TB Tuesdays” Webinar Series

Name of Webinar	Date	Link
TB 101	08/24/21 (archived)	
Financial Assistance through the Wisconsin TB Program	09/14/21 (archived)	https://vimeo.com/showcase/8771749
Evaluation for TB and TB Case Management	09/28/21 (archived)	
The TB Laboratory	10/12/21	https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/zoom.us/s/83143259575

AFGHAN GUESTS IN WISCONSIN

Afghan Guests in Wisconsin

- Operation Allies Refuge was a U.S. military operation to airlift certain at-risk Afghan civilians, particularly interpreters and embassy employees from Afghanistan.
- Afghan guests were airlifted to the U.S. where they are temporarily housed by the U.S. military while they complete medical evaluations and paperwork for resettlement.
- Over 12,000 Afghan guests are currently being housed at Fort McCoy, in rural Wisconsin.

Afghan Guests in Wisconsin

Wisconsin TB Program Support:

- Consultation for diagnosis, treatment and case management of active and latent TB
- Consultation for infection prevention and isolation
- Provision of mycobacteriology laboratory services
- Provision of specimen collection containers and transport to the laboratory
- Provision of medications for treatment of TB and LTBI

Afghan Guests in Wisconsin

	Number
Number of Afghan guests identified with active TB disease	3
Number of Afghan guests with sputum specimens collected	25
Number of Afghan guests that have been evaluated for TB/LTBI	2,000
Number of Afghan guests that still need to be evaluated for TB/LTBI	Approximately 10,000

NEW WISCONSIN RESOURCES

New Wisconsin TB Program Resources

Publication Number	Description
<u>P-00647</u>	Nurse Case Management for Active TB
<u>P-42027</u>	Non-tuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) infections: Information for providers and local and tribal partners
<u>P-02969</u>	Home Isolation Agreement
<u>P-02849</u>	Hospital Discharge Checklist

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tb/index.htm>

Google “Wisconsin Tuberculosis Program”

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