



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Vanuatu Health Research Symposium 26-28 October 2022 Luganville, Santo, Vanuatu

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### Abstract

**Background:** Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be a major public health problem throughout the world. A quarter of the world's population is infected with Mycobacterium Tuberculosis and is at risk of developing the disease. Approximately 15,000-20,000 people are diagnosed with TB in the Pacific annually, and 15% more unreported.

**Methods:** Descriptive analysis of all forms of TB, clinically diagnosed and bacteriologically confirmed, are presented. Provincial TB officers report registered cases to the National TB Unit through an online registry every quarter. Epidemiological data received at the National TB Unit from 2016 to 2020 were analyzed according to person, place, and time.

**Results:** A total of 450 cases of Tuberculosis were reported from 2016 to 2020 (range: 101 in 2016 to 75 in 2020). Of these cases, 55% were male. Younger age groups accounted for more TB reported, with 36% of total cases reported among people 15-34 years. Six percent of total cases are under the age of 4 years. TB notification rate in 2016-2020 was 37, 33, 32, 32 and 25 per 100,000 population, respectively. Provincial specific incidence varied, with Tafea and Shefa reporting higher burden and 70% of total cases, including 5 resistant TB cases. Treatment success rate was 77% in 2019 and 99% in 2020. Estimated case detection rate was 98% in 2016 while 84% in 2019.

**Discussion:** The TB case notifications rate decreased during the reporting period, however the case detection rate also decreased during this period. This suggests that the downward trend in cases may be misrepresentative of the true TB situation and that there remain unidentified, and therefore untreated, TB cases in the community. Thorough follow up of all cases as well as active case finding in areas with historically high case numbers is needed to understand the true burden of TB and to limit community spread.