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1 **Tuberculosis Burden and Determinants of Treatment Outcomes**
2 **According to Age in Brazil: A Nationwide Ecological Study of 896,314**
3 **Cases Reported Between 2010 and 2019**

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38 **Keywords:** tuberculosis, age, outcomes, pulmonary TB, extrapulmonary TB

39

40 **Summary**

41 **Background:** Approximately 1.4 million people die annually worldwide from tuberculosis. Large
42 epidemiologic studies can identify determinants of unfavorable clinical outcomes according to age,
43 which can guide implementation of public health policies and clinical management to improve
44 outcomes.

45 **Methods:** We obtained data from the national tuberculosis case registry: cases reported to the Brazilian
46 National Program (SINAN) between 2010-2019. Clinical and epidemiologic variables were compared
47 between age groups (child:<10 years, young:10-24years, adult:25-64years and elderly:≥65years).
48 Univariate comparisons were performed together with *second-generation p-values*. We applied a
49 backward stepwise multivariable logistic regression model to identify characteristics in each age group
50 associated with unfavorable TB treatment outcomes.

51 **Findings:** There were 896,314 tuberculosis cases reported during the period. The tuberculosis
52 incidence was highest among adult males, but the young males presented the highest growth rate
53 between the period. Directly observed therapy (DOT) was associated with protection against
54 unfavorable outcomes in all age groups. The use of alcohol, illicit drugs, and smoking, as well as
55 occurrence of comorbidities were significantly different between age groups. Lack of DOT, previous
56 tuberculosis, race, location of tuberculosis disease, and HIV infection were independent risk factors
57 for unfavorable outcome depending on the age group.

58 **Interpretation:** The clinical and epidemiological risk factors for unfavorable tuberculosis treatment
59 outcomes varied according to age in Brazil. DOT was associated with improved outcomes in all age
60 groups. Incidence according to the age and sex identified adults and young males as the groups that
61 need prevention efforts. This supports implementation of DOT in all population to improve
62 tuberculosis outcomes.

63
64 **Funding:** National Institutes of Health.

66 **Introduction**

67

68 Tuberculosis (TB) remains a major public health problem worldwide, accounting for 10 million new
69 cases and 1.4 million deaths in 2019 according to the World Health Organization (WHO) ¹. Brazil is
70 among the 22 high TB burden countries identified by the WHO, which account for 82% of TB cases
71 worldwide ¹. Previous studies have assessed the dynamics of age on TB epidemiology in different
72 settings around the world^{2,3} and also in Brazil⁴. Recently, an investigation of a national database
73 identified important associations between adolescence and TB notification over several years in South
74 Africa ⁵. Additional studies using nationwide datasets in TB-endemic countries can help delineate
75 strategies focused on age groups to identify interventions that could improve outcomes.

76

77 The Brazilian National Plan to Control Tuberculosis (PNCT) was implemented in 1999. Following
78 WHO recommendations, the program set goals of a cure rate >85% and loss to follow-up rate <5%⁶.
79 In addition, the PNCT employed in 2003 implemented the directly observed therapy (DOT), which is
80 a tool proposed by the WHO for supervising and documenting the intake of anti-TB medication ⁷, to
81 reduce the incidence of TB drug resistance and increase the likelihood of successful treatment
82 outcomes. However, non-research settings, DOT has not been uniformly implemented among all
83 persons treated for TB in Brazil. TB control at the population level requires a better understanding of
84 the clinical and epidemiological characteristics of the people affected by TB. This was facilitated by
85 the Information System for Notifiable Diseases (SINAN) - a health information platform created in
86 1993 and maintained by the Ministry of Health of Brazil ⁸. SINAN collects standardized data, from
87 diagnosis to treatment outcome, to inform and guide health professionals and policymakers about TB
88 epidemiology in Brazil, as well as measuring the impact of the policies implemented ⁶.

89

90 Through the SINAN database, there is valuable information for TB control in Brazil, such as clinical
91 and demographic characteristics, proven risk factors for TB treatment outcomes, and the actual
92 outcomes. Moreover, it is feasible to analyze such characteristics over time, enabling the understanding
93 of TB epidemiology nationwide over several years. In the present study, SINAN data from a 10-year
94 period (2010-2019) were analyzed to assess temporal changes in incidence, TB clinical manifestations,
95 and clinical outcomes, in individuals stratified by age group and biological sex.

96 **Methods**

97 The materials and methods used in this article are described in detail in the appendix (pp 2–3).

98

99 **Results**

100

101 **Population characteristics over time**

102 Overall, there were 896,314 TB cases reported in Brazil between 2010-2019. Most TB patients were
103 male (66·9-70%) and the age group most affected was 25-64 years (70·9-75·93%). Most of the patients
104 self-reported their race as *pardo* (41·2-49·1%) and 44·1-56·1% were literate. The percentage of
105 patients co-infected with HIV declined over time (χ^2 trend $p < 0\cdot001$), being significantly lower in 2019.
106 Over time, the frequency of patients who reported alcohol consumption, of those diagnosed with DM,
107 and with smear-positive TB remained similar (Table 1). The proportion of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
108 (Mtb) positive cultures increased over time (13·1-22·1, χ^2 trend $p = 0\cdot03$) while abnormal findings on
109 chest x-rays became less frequent (χ^2 trend $p = 0\cdot01$) (Table 1). The incidence of TB remained stable
110 over time in men (MK-trend $p = 0\cdot808$) and women (MK-trend $p = 0\cdot709$) (Figure 1A). However, within
111 each sex, changes in TB incidence according to age group differed over the study period (Figure 1B).
112 The incidence in adult (MK-trend $p = 0\cdot12$), elderly (MK-trend $p = 0\cdot121$), young (MK-trend $p = 0\cdot751$)
113 and child females (MK-trend $p = 0\cdot779$) remained stable. In young men, TB incidence increased
114 significantly over the study period (MK-trend $p = 0\cdot0007$), while the incidence in elderly (MK-trend
115 $p = 0\cdot004$) and adult men (MK-trend $p = 0\cdot004$) decreased. The TB incidence in male children did not
116 change significantly (Figure 1B).

117

118 In all the years evaluated, the proportion of cases that were new exceeded 80% (80-82·8%), while the
119 proportion treated with DOT decreased over time (χ^2 trend $p < 0\cdot001$), even when we did not take 2019
120 into account (whose patients were still being treated, χ^2 trend $p = 0\cdot015$) (Table 1). The most frequent
121 form of TB was pulmonary (PTB) (82·9-84·6%), followed by extrapulmonary TB (EPTB) (12·3-
122 13·5%) and, finally, combined PTB-EPTB disease (2·78-3·54%). The most frequent comorbidity in
123 all years was hypertension (9-10·5%), followed by DM (5·85-7·92%). Between 2010 and 2018 the
124 cure rate of patients undergoing TB treatment was over 60% (63·3-68·7%), while the death rate ranged
125 between 7·61 and 7·27%. Many patients diagnosed in 2019 were likely still in treatment when data
126 were collected, and therefore there were missing values for this variable. Of note, we found a large
127 number of missing and poorly filled variables in the data.

128 **Analysis by age group**

129 Approximately 70% ($n = 632,211$) of TB diagnoses in Brazil during the study period were made in
130 people 25-64 years old (Table 2). This was the age group that had the highest proportion of people
131 reporting at least one previous episode of TB (20·5%, χ^2 trend $p < 0\cdot008$) among the four age groups
132 evaluated in this study, as well as a higher proportion of persons living with HIV (PLWH)(13·9%,
133 χ^2 trend $p < 0\cdot003$), alcohol consumption (20·7%, χ^2 trend $p < 0\cdot001$), and smoking (13·9%, χ^2 trend
134 $p < 0\cdot001$) (Figure 2A). As expected, the frequency of literate people was significantly different between
135 subgroups, given that the first subgroup consisted of children mainly of preschool age (χ^2 trend
136 $p < 0\cdot008$)(Table 2). Children also had the lowest percentage of PTB (68·3%, χ^2 trend $p < 0\cdot004$) and the
137 highest proportion of EPTB among the age groups of the study (27·3%) (appendix p 5). Consistent
138 with this result, children also had a higher percentage of chest X-rays considered clinically normal
139 (14·8%, χ^2 trend $p = 0\cdot012$), in addition to a higher frequency of negative sputum smears (19·1%,
140 χ^2 trend $p < 0\cdot001$), negative TB culture (6·87%, χ^2 trend $p < 0\cdot001$) and lower detection of DM (0·31%,
141 χ^2 trend $p < 0\cdot001$, Figure 2B). Children also had a higher proportion of cure after treatment (69·22%,
142 χ^2 trend $p < 0\cdot001$, Figure 2C). Young people more frequently reported illicit drug use (11%, χ^2 trend
143 $p < 0\cdot001$, Figure 2A), while elderly individuals were more likely diagnosed with DM (16·7%, χ^2 trend

144 $p < 0.001$), hypertension (65.6%, χ^2 trend $p < 0.001$) and also had a higher mortality rate (18.6%, χ^2 trend
145 $p < 0.001$) (Figure 2B and 2C).

146 **Anti-TB treatment outcomes over time**

147 Over time, the proportion of treatment outcomes did not differ substantially (Table 1), but there was
148 some variability according to age group (Figure 2C, χ^2 trend $p < 0.001$). Younger patients had a higher
149 proportion of cure. Among unfavorable outcomes (non-cure), loss to follow-up was more frequent in
150 young and adults, while death was more frequent in the elderly. (Table 2, Figure 2C). These outcomes
151 were grouped as favorable and unfavorable (Table 3, appendix p6). Except for children, the other
152 groups of patients with non-cure had a higher percentage of HIV co-infection (Figure 2D). The most
153 affected group was adults ($p = 0.013$, $p\delta = 0$), followed by young ($p = 0.05$, $p\delta = 0$) and elderly people
154 ($p = 0.006$, $p\delta = 0$) (Figure 2D). Adults and young people with an unfavorable outcome also had higher
155 frequencies of prior TB cases (Figure 2E), both with $p = 0.007$ and $p\delta = 0$. In all age groups, the use of
156 DOT was more frequent in patients with a favorable outcome (Figure 2F).

157 **TB in Children**

158 Children diagnosed with TB between the years 2010 and 2019 maintained a similar proportion of sex
159 distribution over the years (Table 1), as well as the incidence per 100 thousand inhabitants, did not
160 change significantly (Figure 1B). As in other age groups, the most common form of TB in children
161 was PTB, but the frequency of EPTB was relatively high, representing 27.3% of cases (appendix p 5).
162 Children also had a low smear-positive rate (35.8%) being diagnosed by this method (appendix p 5).
163 A binomial logistic regression analysis was performed to test independent associations between the
164 parameters analyzed and treatment outcomes in children (Figure 3). We found that the unfavorable
165 outcomes were increased in patients with prior TB (adjusted odds ratio [aOR]: 4.83, 95% confidence
166 interval [CI]: 2.17-10.76, $p < 0.001$), in those who did not undergo DOT (aOR: 3.38, 95% CI: 1.88-
167 6.08, $p < 0.001$) and in those who presented with simultaneously PTB-EPTB (aOR: 3.45, 95% CI: 1.3-
168 9.14, $p = 0.013$).

169 **TB in the Young**

170 Young patients diagnosed with TB between 2010 and 2019 showed a significant change (χ^2 trend p -
171 value = 0.048) in the distribution by sex over the years (Table 1 and Figure 1B). This change was
172 characterized by a significant increase in TB incidence in men over the study period (MK-trend
173 $p = 0.0007$), while the TB incidence in women remained relatively stable (MK-trend $p = 0.751$) (Figure
174 1B). The most common (86.4%) form of TB in young patients was PTB, (appendix p 5) and a high
175 positive smear rate was observed (76.9%, appendix p 5). Binomial logistic regression analysis showed
176 results similar those in children, with prior TB (aOR: 3.17, 95% CI: 2.90-3.47, $p < 0.001$) and no DOT
177 indication (aOR: 2.96, 95% CI: 2.76-3.17, $p < 0.001$) independently associated with unfavorable
178 treatment outcome (Figure 4). Additional factors associated with unfavorable outcomes were
179 male (aOR: 1.18, 95% CI: 1.10-1.27, $p < 0.001$), illiteracy (aOR: 1.49, 95% CI: 1.31-1.69, $p < 0.001$), HIV
180 infection (aOR: 2.69, 95% CI: 2.35-3.08, $p < 0.001$), illicit drug use (aOR: 1.99, 95% CI: 1.82-2.17,
181 $p < 0.001$), smoking (aOR: 1.50, 95% CI: 1.36-1.65, $p < 0.001$), and kidney disease (aOR: 9.89, 95% CI:
182 1.66-59.11, $p = 0.012$).

183 **TB in Adults**

184 Adults diagnosed with TB showed a similar proportion of men and women between 2010 to 2019
185 (Table 1), but in terms of incidence, there was a significant decrease only in male sex (women MK-
186 trend $p = 0.12$; men MK-trend $p = 0.004$) during the 10-year study period (Figure 1B). Similar to the rest
187 of the population, the most common type of TB was pulmonary (86.5%, appendix p 5). In adults, the
188 proportion of positive sputum was slightly lower than that found in young people, corresponding to
189 70.5% of the TB adult population (appendix p 5). The binomial logistic regression analysis showed

190 similar results to children and young patients, with prior TB (aOR: 2.35, 95% CI: 2.26-2.44, p<0.001)
191 and no DOT (aOR: 2.29, 95% CI: 2.60-2.79, p<0.001) independently associated with unfavorable
192 outcome (Figure 5). As seen among children, the presence of both PTB-EPTB was associated with
193 unfavorable outcomes (aOR: 1.17, 95%CI: 1.07-1.28, p<0.001) and as in young people, the following
194 factors were also associated with unfavorable outcomes: HIV infection (aOR: 2.42, 95%CI: 2.31-2.53,
195 p<0.001), illicit drug use (aOR: 1.94, 95%CI: 1.86-2.03, p<0.001) smoking (aOR: 1.19, 95%CI: 1.14-
196 1.24, p<0.001), and kidney disease (aOR: 3.11, 95%CI: 1.37-7.07, p=0.007). Being male (aOR: 1.08,
197 95%CI: 1.04-1.13, p<0.001), white (aOR: 0.64, 95%CI: 0.53-0.77, p<0.001) black (aOR:0.79,
198 95%CI: 0.64-0.97, p=0.027), Asian (aOR: 0.62, 95%CI: 0.46-0.84, p=0.002), *pardo* (aOR : 0.69,
199 95%CI: 0.56-0.85, p=0.001), alcohol consumption (aOR: 1.41, 95%CI: 1.36-1.47, p<0.001),
200 illiteracy (aOR: 1.18, 95%CI: 1.13-1.24, p<0.001), abnormal chest x-ray (aOR:1.15, 95%CI: 1.05-
201 1.15, p=0.002), cancer (aOR: 1.33, 95%CI: 1.09-1.64, p=0.006) or COPD (aOR: 1.78, 95%CI: 1.05-
202 3.02, p=0.032) were also significantly associated in this subpopulation.

203 **TB in Elderly**

204 The changes concerning biological sex affected by TB in the elderly population between the years 2010
205 and 2019 showed a pattern similar to that found in the adult population, with little change in frequencies
206 over the years (Table 1) but showed a significant decrease only in male sex with regard to TB incidence
207 per 100 thousand population (women MK-trend p=0.121; men MK-trend p=0.004, Figure 1B). The
208 frequency of PTB in this population was very close to that found in young people and adults (84.4%,
209 appendix p 5), but the proportion with smear-positive disease was considerably lower, at 62%
210 (appendix p 5). Unlike other sub-populations, ethnicity was not associated with unfavorable outcome
211 in elderly (Figure 6). However, factors such as prior TB (aOR: 1.60, 95%CI: 1.38-1.85, p<0.001),
212 HIV infection (aOR: 2.69, 95%CI: 1.99-3.64, p<0.001), alcohol consumption (aOR: 1.22, 95%CI:
213 1.04-1.44, p=0.015), illicit drugs use (aOR: 2.01, 95%CI:1.31-3.08, p<0.001) and smoking (aOR:
214 1.57, 95%CI: 1.38-1.79, p<0.001), in addition to cancer (aOR: 1.69, 95%CI: 1.69-2.47, p=0.007),
215 COPD (aOR: 1.98, 95%CI: 1.28-3.05, p=0.002), other comorbidities (aOR: 1.72, 95%CI: 1.34-2.19,
216 p<0.001) and no DOT (aOR:1.80, 95%CI:1.62-2.00, p<0.001) were associated with unfavorable
217 outcome.

218 Discussion

219
220 In the present study, we investigated the epidemiologic characteristics of TB in the Brazilian population
221 between 2010 and 2019 through data from SINAN. We assessed favorable and unfavorable outcomes
222 as well as the factors associated with each. We focused on identifying the specific risk factors for
223 unfavorable outcomes in each age group, aiming to provide more detailed information for targeted
224 interventions in each group. Our results highlight the importance of DOT for success of TB treatment
225 and encourages the amplification of this strategy in the country, as has been recommend by WHO since
226 1993. DOT was associated with a considerable increase in favorable outcomes in all studied age groups.
227

228 We evaluated the population characteristics of TB cases over a 10-year period. The TB incidence rate
229 in Brazil remained high, and of the cases reported between 2010-2019 most were male (2:1), adults,
230 and self-reported as *pardo*. This profile is similar to that observed in previous years in Brazil ⁹. The
231 decrease in the incidence reported between the years 2011-2016 suggests that there was a positive
232 impact of the expansion of public policies leading to an economic incentive, since patients who
233 received cash transfer from governmental programs were about 7% more likely to have a favorable TB
234 treatment outcome ¹⁰. In addition, the increase in incidence recorded between the years 2017-2018
235 corresponds to the end of the implementation of GeneXpert, resulting in a greater use of this as a TB
236 diagnosis strategy, which was between 2013-2017, thus being an effective strategy for the optimizing
237 diagnosis even when sputum smear is negative.
238

239 As also found in previous years, substance use (alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs) was commonly
240 reported in the studied population, but there was a significant increase throughout the years. The
241 increase in the prevalence of tobacco smoking in this population is a surprising finding, as it is in the
242 opposite direction of the general population in Brazil ¹¹. Conversely, illicit drug use seemed to follow
243 the national trend of increasing over the years. Although there is no information about which specific
244 drugs were responsible for our findings, national surveys have demonstrated an increase in the use of
245 marijuana and cocaine in the Brazilian population in the past decade. The use of these drugs is
246 particularly prevalent and growing in young males, which is compatible with the findings of the present
247 study ¹²⁻¹⁴. This is an important finding in the young population, particularly since we also found that
248 substance use was significantly associated with unfavorable TB treatment outcomes. Moreover,
249 previous studies have shown that the use of these substances are also risk factors for developing TB
250 ^{11,15,16}.
251

252 Another interesting finding was that the prevalence of DM in our population was similar to the general
253 population.¹⁷ Although there has been an increase in DM prevalence in Brazil in recent years, the
254 increase was not statistically significant in our study population.^{18,19} One of the reasons for the
255 relatively low prevalence of DM in our study could be the fact that many cases of DM reported in
256 SINAN are self-reported. A systematic review of DM prevalence in Brazil has shown that studies that
257 used complex diagnoses (self-reported and laboratory investigation) of DM have found a much higher
258 prevalence than studies that relied solely on self-report. Of note, Brazilian TB treatment guidelines
259 suggest but do not mandate DM testing in TB patients (as with HIV testing, following WHO
260 recommendation) ⁶. Emphasis on the importance of detecting DM is important to reduce the
261 underdiagnosis of DM.
262

263 The proportion of TB cases with positive cultures increased over time. This may be due to greater
264 access to the test and to technical improvements. As an example, a study performed in a state reference
265 laboratory found an increase of 61.5% in the positive results for Mtb after the implementation of a
266 semi-automated procedure²⁰. It is possible that health professionals may be more aware of the

267 importance of performing cultures for all TB cases. Another hypothesis pertains to the recommendation
268 to perform universal culture and DST on all presumed TB cases, made by WHO and followed by the
269 Brazilian MoH after 2015. It is worth noting that, despite the improvement, the access to Mtb culture
270 in Brazil is still far from ideal. In 2019, only 24% of patients with new cases of TB had cultures
271 performed,²¹ which likely means that many patients treated for TB did not have TB. As expected, our
272 analysis found that the number of positive cultures in children was low compared to the other age
273 groups, which is likely due to the difficulty in collecting sputum²², and that children often have
274 paucibacillary disease, with a higher percentage of nodular lesions and fewer cavitary lung lesions.
275 Another important observation was that children had a higher frequency of EPTB and a higher
276 frequency of both PTB and EPTB, possibly due to immunological immaturity, which can contribute to
277 the hematogenous spread of the disease in children.

278
279 TB is one of the most common opportunistic infections in persons living with HIV (PLWH) and the
280 main cause of death in this population²³. The prevalence of HIV/TB co-infection has declined between
281 2010 and 2019 worldwide, with rates of co-infection decreasing from 1.7 million to about 900 thousand
282 people¹. In Brazil, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has reported an increase in HIV diagnosis, but a
283 reduction in the number of AIDS cases and deaths related to HIV. Our study also found a significant
284 reduction in the cases of HIV/TB co-infection, but HIV infection was significantly associated with a
285 greater number of unfavorable outcomes in all age groups, except for children.

286
287 The decline of HIV/TB follows the reduction in AIDS cases in Brazil, which is a reflection of the
288 expansion in HIV diagnosis, as well as access to treatment. Since 2013, ART has been offered to all
289 PLWH, regardless of CD4 count²⁴. In 2017, Brazil began providing dolutegravir (DTG), a very
290 effective antiretroviral with fewer side effects, as part of the first line scheme. As a result, in 2018,
291 86% of PLWH knew their status, 67% were on ART and 60% were virally suppressed²⁴. The reduction
292 in HIV/TB cases and the higher proportion of people on ART are important factors explaining the
293 decrease in TB mortality rate noted in our analysis and reinforces the essential role of HIV care policies
294 in the control of TB.

295
296 Interestingly there was no difference in treatment outcomes among the age groups, but there were risk
297 factors for unfavorable outcomes specific for each age group; knowing them is essential to guide public
298 health interventions⁴. For example, it was noted in our analysis that, in disagreement with all the other
299 curves evaluated by age that showed a reduction or stabilization, the number of young men with TB
300 significantly increased over recent years. This subpopulation has a social risk behavior associated with
301 a higher prevalence of illicit drug use, and once diagnosed with TB, young people have difficulty
302 staying in care. Thus, the young age group is an important target for public health measures and
303 knowing detailed information about them is key.

304
305 Finally, we have evaluated patient characteristics according to treatment outcomes. Along the years
306 studied there was an increase in unfavorable outcomes, mainly caused by higher rates of treatment
307 failure. After adjustment for confounders alcohol consumption, illicit drug use, tobacco smoking, HIV
308 infection, kidney disease, prior TB and having PTB-EPTB were associated with unfavorable outcomes.
309 First, our results highlight the already known strong connection of TB and social factors, such as race
310 and substance use^{25,26}. It is not within the scope of this work to detail the reasons why these
311 characteristics affect TB outcome, but factors such as adherence to therapy, access to care and time to
312 diagnosis may be related and need to be further investigated. Comorbidities like HIV²⁷ and kidney
313 disease have previously been shown to be associated with worse outcomes^{28,29}. Surprisingly, DM was
314 not found to affect treatment outcomes, and our hypothesis for this was discussed earlier. Having PTB-
315 EPTB and previous episodes have previously been shown to be associated with worse outcomes³⁰.

316 The first may be due to the greater difficulty of treatment³⁰ as well as disease severity, while the second
317 could be due to patient non-adherence, or an increased risk of drug resistance in TB relapse cases.
318

319 This study had some limitations. It is unclear whether reporting of information was uniform throughout
320 the country. There was a high level of under-reporting for several variables in the questionnaire. In
321 addition, when assessing patient outcomes, 2019 was incomplete since some patients were still in
322 follow-up. It is important to know that, with exception of name, ethnicity, age, HIV-infection, and
323 more “clinical” variables, other fields such as consumption habits and literacy presented a considerable
324 number of missing data.
325

326 With the above limitations noted, a study of this magnitude is extremely important to provide a national
327 view of TB in Brazil over the past decade. This allowed us to investigate not only how public policies
328 applied during that time period influenced the rates and treatment outcomes of TB patients in the
329 country, but also to identify interventions that might improve TB treatment outcomes. Increased
330 implementation of DOT in Brazil across all age groups would likely improve TB treatment outcomes
331 in the country.
332
333
334

335 **Conflict of Interest**

336 The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial
337 relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

338 **Author Contributions**

339 BB-D, MA-P, MA, LS, MR, VN, AS and BA contributed to conception and design of the study. BB-
340 D, MA-P, MA, MR, AQ, TS, and BA performed the data curation. BB-D, MA-P, and MA, processed
341 and analyzed the data, and worked on data visualization. BB-D, MA-P, MA, BN, TS and BA wrote the
342 first draft of the manuscript. MC-S and AK revised and contributed to the structuring of the article. TS
343 and BA supervised the research. All authors contributed to manuscript revision, read, and approved the
344 submitted version of the manuscript.
345

346 **Data sharing**

347 This modelling study used published or publicly available data. The data used and the sources are
348 described in this Article and the appendix. No primary data were collected for this study.
349

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364 **Research in context**

365 **Evidence before this study**

366 We searched PubMed in 2020, for studies comparing the age and the treatment outcome in notified TB
367 cases in Brazilian population using the terms “Tuberculosis”, “age”, “treatment”, AND “Brazil”. We
368 did not find any studies reporting the TB burden and determinants of treatment outcomes according to
369 age in Brazil.

370 **Added value of this study**

371 To our knowledge, this is the first ecological study with TB cases notified in Brazilian population
372 stratifying patients according to the age and treatment outcome. Also, the study count with 896,314
373 cases notified by the Brazilian National tuberculosis program, between 2010 and 2019, through the
374 Information System for Notifiable Diseases. Providing an expanded view of the clinical and
375 epidemiological factors that contribute to unfavorable outcomes in tuberculosis in the Brazilian
376 population. Also, the findings recognized the use of the directly observed therapy (DOT) as an
377 important approach to improve treatment outcomes, and a strategy to be encouraged and expanded to
378 combat TB in Brazil. In addition, the stratified analysis by age group allows recognizing where to
379 intervene at each age for promoting better outcomes and what are the risk and protection factors of
380 each group for unfavorable outcomes.

381 **Implications of all the available evidence**

382 After the analysis of the cases reported between 2010 and 2019, we assessed the impact of public health
383 measures carried out over the last decade. Furthermore, it was possible to identify the effectiveness
384 and importance of using the DOT strategy, showing the association with favorable outcomes in the
385 treatment of tuberculosis. In addition, we found that the population of young men with active
386 tuberculosis in Brazil has shown the highest growth in the last 10 years, being a possible target
387 population for public health measures.

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Table 1. Population characteristics by year.

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Characteristics	2010 N=87171	2011 N=89735	2012 N=88229	2013 N=88339	2014 N=86967	2015 N=87105	2016 N=87820	2017 N=82303	2018 N=96292	2019 N=92353	X ² trend p-value
Female. n. (%)	28867 (33.1)	29407 (32.8)	28734 (32.6)	28788 (32.6)	27824 (32.0)	27109 (31.1)	27202 (31.0)	27734 (30.0)	29195 (30.3)	27909 (30.2)	0.46
Age group. n. (%)											0.827
Child	1594 (1.82)	1641 (1.83)	1572 (1.78)	1618 (1.85)	1373 (1.57)	1324 (1.52)	1461 (1.68)	1558 (1.78)	1755 (2.01)	1770 (2.03)	
Young	14894 (17.08)	15454 (17.22)	15391 (17.4)	15195 (17.20)	14871 (17.06)	15442 (17.71)	15822 (18.15)	17127 (19.64)	18838 (21.61)	19555 (22.43)	
Adult	62576 (71.79)	64279 (71.63)	63196 (71.63)	63135 (71.47)	62522 (71.72)	61884 (70.99)	61841 (70.9)	64296 (73.76)	66190 (75.93)	62292 (71.45)	
Elderly	7766 (8.9)	8062 (8.98)	7752 (8.78)	8005 (9.06)	7818 (8.97)	8114 (9.3)	8309 (9.53)	8948 (10.3)	9099 (10.4)	8239 (9.45)	
Ethnicity. n. (%)											0.108
Asian	755 (0.87)	729 (0.81)	729 (0.83)	681 (0.77)	624 (0.72)	592 (0.68)	580 (0.66)	715 (0.77)	729 (0.76)	698 (0.76)	
Black	11681 (13.4)	12169 (13.6)	11985 (13.6)	11407 (12.9)	11345 (13.0)	11041 (12.7)	11182 (12.7)	11552 (12.5)	12364 (12.8)	11922 (12.9)	
Indigenous	889 (1.02)	1009 (1.12)	898 (1.02)	958 (1.08)	893 (1.03)	1017 (1.17)	989 (1.13)	930 (1.01)	951 (0.99)	930 (1.01)	
Pardo	35898 (41.2)	38310 (42.7)	38575 (43.7)	39433 (44.6)	39221 (45.1)	40155 (46.1)	41137 (46.8)	44548 (48.3)	47118 (48.9)	45354 (49.1)	
White	29960 (34.4)	30438 (33.9)	29616 (33.6)	28866 (32.7)	27792 (32.0)	27346 (31.4)	26887 (30.6)	27583 (29.9)	28387 (29.5)	26243 (28.4)	
Literate. n. (%)	38459 (44.1)	49055 (54.7)	48724 (55.2)	48702 (55.1)	47978 (55.2)	48241 (55.4)	48781 (55.5)	51194 (55.5)	54922 (57.0)	51851 (56.1)	0.16
HIV infection. n. (%)	9659 (11.1)	10080 (11.2)	10089 (11.4)	10174 (11.5)	10383 (11.9)	10097 (11.6)	9736 (11.1)	10119 (11.0)	9970 (10.4)	9124 (9.88)	<0.001
ART. n. (%)	23 (0.24)	21 (0.24)	32 (0.32)	128 (1.26)	953 (9.18)	2102 (20.81)	3292 (33.81)	3967 (39.2)	4020 (40.32)	3211 (35.19)	<0.001
Alcohol consumption. n.(%)	12851 (14.7)	13853 (15.4)	13953 (15.8)	14097 (16.0)	14176 (16.3)	15174 (17.4)	15568 (17.7)	16858 (18.3)	18227 (18.9)	17015 (18.4)	0.958
Illicit drug use. n. (%)	334 (0.38)	2098 (2.34)	2687 (3.05)	3269 (3.70)	5579 (6.42)	10342 (11.9)	11423 (13.0)	13467 (14.6)	15165 (15.7)	14522 (15.7)	<0.001
Smoking habits. n. (%)	106 (0.12)	240 (0.27)	1457 (1.65)	2096 (2.37)	5597 (6.44)	15826 (18.2)	18826 (21.4)	21328 (23.1)	23560 (24.5)	22490 (24.4)	<0.001
Diabetes. n. (%)	5101 (5.85)	5593 (6.23)	5727 (6.49)	5922 (6.70)	5707 (6.56)	6117 (7.02)	6385 (7.27)	6785 (7.35)	7356 (7.64)	7318 (7.92)	0.447
Smear positive. n. (%)	47715 (54.9)	48957 (56.5)	47961 (56.2)	47134 (53.4)	46739 (53.8)	45971 (53.9)	45501 (53.8)	45290 (51.1)	46153 (50.0)	42985 (48.8)	0.169
Culture positive. n. (%)	11387 (13.1)	12321 (13.7)	12968 (14.7)	13859 (15.7)	14972 (17.2)	18020 (20.7)	18358 (20.9)	20367 (22.1)	21267 (22.1)	15656 (17.0)	0.03
Abnormal X-ray . n. (%)	69168 (79.3)	71150 (79.3)	68990 (78.2)	68053 (77.0)	65748 (75.6)	63258 (72.6)	63371 (72.2)	64885 (70.3)	67911 (70.5)	64515 (69.9)	0.01
TB Status. n. (%)											0.399
New case	72151 (82.8)	74144 (82.6)	72552 (82.2)	72476 (82.0)	70951 (81.6)	70300 (80.7)	70631 (80.4)	73970 (80.1)	77091 (80.1)	73906 (80.0)	
Prior TB	14687 (16.8)	15330 (17.1)	15354 (17.4)	15550 (17.6)	15729 (18.1)	16518 (19.0)	16874 (19.2)	17996 (19.5)	18874 (19.6)	18004 (19.5)	
Treatment. n. (%)											<0.001 ^a 0.015 ^b
Received DOT	36870 (42.3)	40673 (45.3)	41717 (47.3)	40771 (46.2)	37291 (42.9)	29423 (33.8)	30736 (35.0)	32899 (35.6)	34594 (35.9)	22364 (24.2)	

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No received DOT	38266 (43·9)	37247 (41·5)	34682 (39·3)	38073 (43·1)	35459 (40·8)	30986 (35·6)	32387 (36·9)	33580 (36·4)	33868 (35·2)	26953 (29·2)	
Type of TB. n. (%)											0·684
EPTB	11580 (13·3)	12058 (13·4)	11906 (13·5)	11893 (13·5)	11172 (12·8)	10747 (12·3)	11096 (12·6)	11477 (12·4)	12177 (12·6)	11804 (12·8)	
PTB	72567 (83·2)	74650 (83·2)	73181 (82·9)	73431 (83·1)	72871 (83·8)	73549 (84·4)	74023 (84·3)	78103 (84·6)	81120 (84·2)	77914 (84·4)	
PTB and EPTB	2996 (3·44)	3005 (3·35)	3123 (3·54)	2889 (3·27)	2854 (3·28)	2764 (3·17)	2665 (3·03)	2674 (2·90)	2958 (3·07)	2568 (2·78)	
Comorbidity. n. (%)											0·56
Cancer	805 (0·92)	802 (0·89)	877 (0·99)	758 (0·86)	744 (0·86)	755 (0·87)	787 (0·90)	770 (0·83)	851 (0·88)	770 (0·83)	
COPD	161 (0·18)	165 (0·18)	197 (0·22)	109 (0·12)	109 (0·13)	112 (0·13)	117 (0·13)	125 (0·14)	153 (0·16)	143 (0·15)	
Hypertension	7885 (9·05)	8301 (9·25)	8091 (9·17)	8576 (9·71)	8573 (9·86)	8796 (10·1)	9030 (10·3)	9706 (10·5)	9867 (10·2)	9269 (10·0)	
Renal disease	78 (0·09)	80 (0·09)	77 (0·09)	69 (0·08)	80 (0·09)	59 (0·07)	73 (0·08)	74 (0·08)	60 (0·06)	62 (0·07)	
Others	11850 (13·6)	12640 (14·1)	12529 (14·2)	11944 (13·5)	11710 (13·5)	12359 (14·2)	12543 (14·3)	13621 (14·8)	13844 (14·4)	14201 (15·4)	
No condition	66390 (76·2)	67745 (75·5)	66451 (75·3)	66878 (75·7)	65750 (75·6)	65017 (74·6)	65270 (74·3)	68007 (73·7)	71517 (74·3)	67904 (73·5)	
Outcome description. n. (%)											<0·001 ^a 0·366 ^b
Cure	59870 (68·7)	62367 (69·5)	59817 (67·8)	60694 (68·7)	59521 (68·4)	57977 (66·6)	59388 (67·6)	61493 (66·6)	60981 (63·3)	18516 (20·0)	
Death	6635 (7·61)	6686 (7·45)	6560 (7·44)	6702 (7·59)	6833 (7·86)	7019 (8·06)	6881 (7·84)	7152 (7·75)	7003 (7·27)	4917 (5·32)	
Failure	668 (0·77)	681 (0·76)	694 (0·79)	735 (0·83)	1070 (1·23)	1473 (1·69)	1480 (1·69)	1587 (1·72)	1683 (1·75)	1120 (1·21)	
Loss follow up	10643 (12·2)	10683 (11·9)	11017 (12·5)	11653 (13·2)	11395 (13·1)	10731 (12·3)	10991 (12·5)	11644 (12·6)	12021 (12·5)	4841 (5·24)	
Relapse	1860 (2·13)	1992 (2·22)	2116 (2·40)	2193 (2·48)	1755 (2·02)	1668 (1·91)	1872 (2·13)	2063 (2·24)	2075 (2·15)	1361 (1·47)	
Transferred out	5804 (6·66)	5954 (6·64)	5932 (6·72)	4708 (5·33)	4837 (5·56)	4905 (5·63)	4759 (5·42)	5194 (5·63)	6202 (6·44)	7138 (7·73)	
Outcome. n. (%)											0·012 ^a 0·694 ^b
Unfavorable	25610 (30·0)	25996 (29·4)	26319 (30·6)	25991 (30·0)	25890 (30·3)	25796 (30·8)	25983 (30·4)	27640 (31·0)	28984 (32·2)	19377 (51·1)	
Favorable	59870 (70·0)	62367 (70·6)	59817 (69·4)	60694 (70·0)	59521 (69·7)	57977 (69·2)	59388 (69·6)	61493 (69·0)	60981 (67·8)	18516 (48·9)	

465 **Table note:** Bold font indicates statistical significance. Data are shown as number and frequency (percentage). Data were compared between years using the Pearson's

466 χ^2 trend test. Age Groups: Children (0-9·9 years); young (10-24·9 years); Adults (25-64·9 years); Elderly (≥ 65 years).

467 ^a Comparison between 2010 and 2010.

468 ^b Comparisons between 2010 and 2018

469 Abbreviations: DOT: directly observed treatment; COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; TB: Tuberculosis; PTB: Pulmonary Tuberculosis; EPTB:

470 Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis.

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Table 2. Population characteristics by age categories

Characteristics	Child N=15666	Young N=162589	Adult N=632211	Elderly N=82112	p-value
Female n. (%)	7434 (47.5)	56772 (34.9)	187995 (29.7)	29269 (35.6)	0.063
Ethnicity n. (%)					0.793
Asian	78 (0.50)	1252 (0.77)	4548 (0.72)	924 (1.13)	
Black	1412 (9.01)	20271 (12.5)	86369 (13.7)	8173 (9.95)	
Indigenous	1099 (7.02)	2101 (1.29)	4952 (0.78)	1181 (1.44)	
Pardo	7180 (45.8)	78417 (48.2)	288677 (45.7)	33797 (41.2)	
White	4566 (29.1)	48387 (29.8)	197042 (31.2)	32087 (39.1)	
Literate n. (%)	2199 (14.0)	111724 (68.7)	347495 (55.0)	26372 (32.1)	<0.001
HIV infection n. (%)	556 (3.55)	8976 (5.52)	87800 (13.9)	1804 (2.20)	0.002
ART n. (%)	108 (0.69)	2245 (1.38)	14933 (2.36)	413 (0.50)	0.624
Alcohol consumption n. (%)	0 (0.00)	12728 (7.83)	130850 (20.7)	7726 (9.41)	<0.001
Illicit drug use n. (%)	0 (0.00)	17962 (11.0)	60237 (9.53)	493 (0.60)	0.002
Smoking habits n. (%)	0 (0.00)	15320 (9.42)	87890 (13.9)	7988 (9.73)	0.003
Diabetes n. (%)	49 (0.31)	1563 (0.96)	46480 (7.35)	13742 (16.7)	<0.001
Smear positive n. (%)	1557 (10.7)	91707 (57.8)	333002 (54.0)	36669 (45.9)	<0.001
Culture positive n. (%)	656 (4.19)	30014 (18.5)	117133 (18.5)	10992 (13.4)	0.008
Abnormal X-ray n. (%)	11096 (70.8)	119658 (73.6)	469800 (74.3)	63793 (77.7)	0.739
TB Status n. (%)					0.09
New case	14378 (91.8)	140149 (86.2)	500527 (79.2)	69958 (85.2)	
Prior TB	1227 (7.83)	22057 (13.6)	129414 (20.5)	11672 (14.2)	
Supervised treatment n. (%)					0.958
Received DOT	5839 (37.3)	65867 (40.5)	243834 (38.6)	30481 (37.1)	
No received DOT	5492 (35.1)	61134 (37.6)	242838 (38.4)	30681 (37.4)	
Type of TB n. (%)					0.004
EPTB	4276 (27.3)	18174 (11.2)	82180 (13.0)	10712 (13.0)	
PTB	10700 (68.3)	140432 (86.4)	528018 (83.5)	69258 (84.3)	
PTB+EPTB	688 (4.39)	3904 (2.40)	21659 (3.43)	2083 (2.54)	
Comorbidity n. (%)					<0.001
Cancer	33 (0.21)	948 (0.58)	5059 (0.80)	1854 (2.26)	
COPD	6 (0.04)	25 (0.02)	492 (0.08)	868 (1.06)	
Hypertension	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	34245 (5.42)	53849 (65.6)	
Renal disease	1 (0.01)	80 (0.05)	295 (0.05)	336 (0.41)	
Others	2103 (13.4)	79727 (49.0)	41834 (6.62)	3485 (4.24)	
No condition	13523 (86.3)	81798 (50.3)	550279 (87.0)	21712 (26.4)	
Outcome description n. (%)					0.343
Cure	10842 (69.2)	107159 (65.9)	393360 (62.2)	47141 (57.4)	
Death	412 (2.63)	3542 (2.18)	46871 (7.41)	15256 (18.6)	
Failure	60 (0.38)	1652 (1.02)	8619 (1.36)	832 (1.01)	
Loss follow up	899 (5.74)	21985 (13.5)	78524 (12.4)	3932 (4.79)	
Relapse	591 (3.77)	1708 (1.05)	12801 (2.02)	3718 (4.53)	
Transferred out	1220 (7.79)	10143 (6.24)	39130 (6.19)	4558 (5.55)	
Outcome n. (%)					0.113
Unfavorable	3182 (22.7)	39030 (26.7)	185945 (32.1)	28296 (37.5)	

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Favorable 10842 (77.3) 107159 (73.3) 393360 (67.9) 47141 (62.5)

Table note: Bold font indicates statistical significance. Data are shown as number and frequency (percentage). Data were compared between years using the Pearson's χ^2 trend test. Age Groups: Children (0-9.9 years); young (10-24.9 years); Adults (25-64.9 years); Elderly (≥ 65 years). Abbreviations: DOT: directly observed treatment; COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; TB: Tuberculosis; PTB: Pulmonary Tuberculosis; EPTB: Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis. Others comorbidities: It did not include hypertension, kidney disease, cancer and COPD.

Table 3. Population characteristics by categorical outcome.

Characteristics	All N=818210	Unfavorable N=257586	Favorable N=560624	p-Value	p δ -Value
Female, n. (%)	259110 (31.7)	72269 (28.1)	186841 (33.3)		1
Age group, n. (%)				0.241	0.5
Child	14024 (1.71)	3182 (1.23)	10842 (1.93)		
Young	146189 (17.87)	39030 (12.15)	107159 (19.11)		
Adult	559305 (68.35)	185945 (72.18)	373360 (66.6)		
Elderly	75437 (9.22)	28296 (10.9)	47141 (8.4)		
Ethnicity n. (%)				0.593	1
Asian	6223 (0.76)	1802 (0.70)	4421 (0.79)		
Black	106135 (13.0)	37494 (14.6)	68641 (12.2)		
Indigenous	8708 (1.06)	2149 (0.83)	6559 (1.17)		
Pardo	371627 (45.4)	120177 (46.7)	251450 (44.9)		
White	262253 (32.1)	74681 (29.0)	187572 (33.5)		
Literate, n. (%)	445662 (54.5)	125377 (48.7)	320285 (57.1)	0.294	0 ($\Delta = 0.14$)
HIV infection, n. (%)	91882 (11.2)	49642 (19.3)	42240 (7.53)	0.004	0 ($\Delta = 1.38$)
ART, n. (%)	15527 (16.9)	7650 (15.41)	7877 (18.64)	0.89	1
Alcohol consumption, n. (%)	131687 (16.0)	57421 (22.3)	74266 (13.2)	0.065	0 ($\Delta = 0.67$)
Illicit drug use, n. (%)	68557 (8.37)	32511 (12.6)	36046 (6.42)	0.3	0 ($\Delta = 0.08$)
Smoking habits, n. (%)	88922 (10.87)	34522 (13.4)	54396 (9.7)	0.449	1
Diabetes, n. (%)	56282 (6.88)	16557 (6.43)	39725 (7.09)	0.786	1
Smear positive, n. (%)	428296 (53.6)	123759 (49.3)	304537 (55.6)	0.453	1
Culture positive, n. (%)	148436 (18.1)	44187 (17.2)	104249 (18.6)	0.748	1
Abnormal X-ray, n. (%)	612756 (74.9)	194509 (75.5)	418247 (74.6)	1	1
TB Status, n. (%)				0.014	0 ($\Delta = 1.02$)
New case	665236 (81.3)	181561 (70.5)	483675 (86.3)		
Prior TB	150310 (18.4)	74248 (28.8)	76062 (13.6)		
Treatment, n. (%)				0.012	0 ($\Delta = 0.96$)
Received DOT	333100 (40.7)	73073 (28.4)	260027 (46.4)		
No received DOT	320530 (39.2)	108547 (42.1)	211983 (37.8)		
Type of TB				0.697	1
EPTB	105523 (12.9)	31243 (12.1)	74280 (13.2)		
PTB	686346 (83.9)	214434 (83.2)	471912 (84.2)		
PTB and EPTB	26234 (3.21)	11812 (4.59)	14422 (2.57)		
Comorbidity n. (%)				0.88	1
Cancer	7320 (0.89)	2565 (1.00)	4755 (0.85)		
COPD	1301 (0.16)	640 (0.25)	661 (0.12)		
Hypertension	80806 (9.88)	27707 (10.8)	53099 (9.47)		
Kidney disease	659 (0.08)	371 (0.14)	288 (0.05)		

Others	115928 (14.2)	33592 (13.0)	82336 (14.7)
No condition	612173 (74.8)	192703 (74.8)	419470 (74.8)

481 **Table note:** Bold font indicates statistical significance. Data are shown as number and frequency (percentage). Data were
482 compared between years using the Pearson's χ^2 trend test. Age Groups: Children (0-9·9 years); young(10-24·9 years);
483 Adults (25-64·9 years); Elderly(≥ 65 years).

484 Abbreviations: DOT: directly observed treatment; COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; TB: Tuberculosis; PTB:
485 Pulmonary Tuberculosis; EPTB: Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis. Other comorbidities: did not include hypertension, kidney
486 disease, cancer and COPD.

487

488 **Figure Legends:**

489 **Figure 1.** General population TB rates by sex (A) and age group (B) between 2010 and 2019. Mann-
490 Kendal trend test was used to calculate changes in incidence among years. according to sex and/or
491 age group. On A panel it is possible to observe that there was a small decrease in the incidence of
492 women with tuberculosis (purple). In age stratification (B panel). only the incidence in children has
493 not changed over the years. Age Groups: Children (0-9·9 years); young (10-24·9 years); Adults (25-
494 64·9 years); Elderly (≥ 65 years).

495 **Figure 2:** Characteristics of each age group (A, B, C) and outcome category (D, E, F).

496 (A) Consumption habits. we observed that young people and adults have greater consumption habits
497 of alcohol, cigarettes and illegal drugs than children and the elderly. (B) Comorbidities. While adults
498 have a higher prevalence of HIV. The elderly has a higher prevalence of diabetes and hypertension.
499 (C) Outcome description. The frequency of favorable outcome (cure) decreases according to age, being
500 higher in children and lower in the elderly. (D) HIV status. Positive serology for HIV infection is
501 correlated with an unfavorable treatment outcome in young, adults and elderly. (E) TB Status. Relapse
502 cases of TB are correlated with an unfavorable treatment outcome in young and adults. (F) Observed
503 Treatment. In all age groups, receive a DOT is correlated with a favorable treatment outcome. Age
504 Groups: Children (0-9·9 years); young (10-24·9 years); Adults (25-64·9 years); Elderly(≥ 65 years).

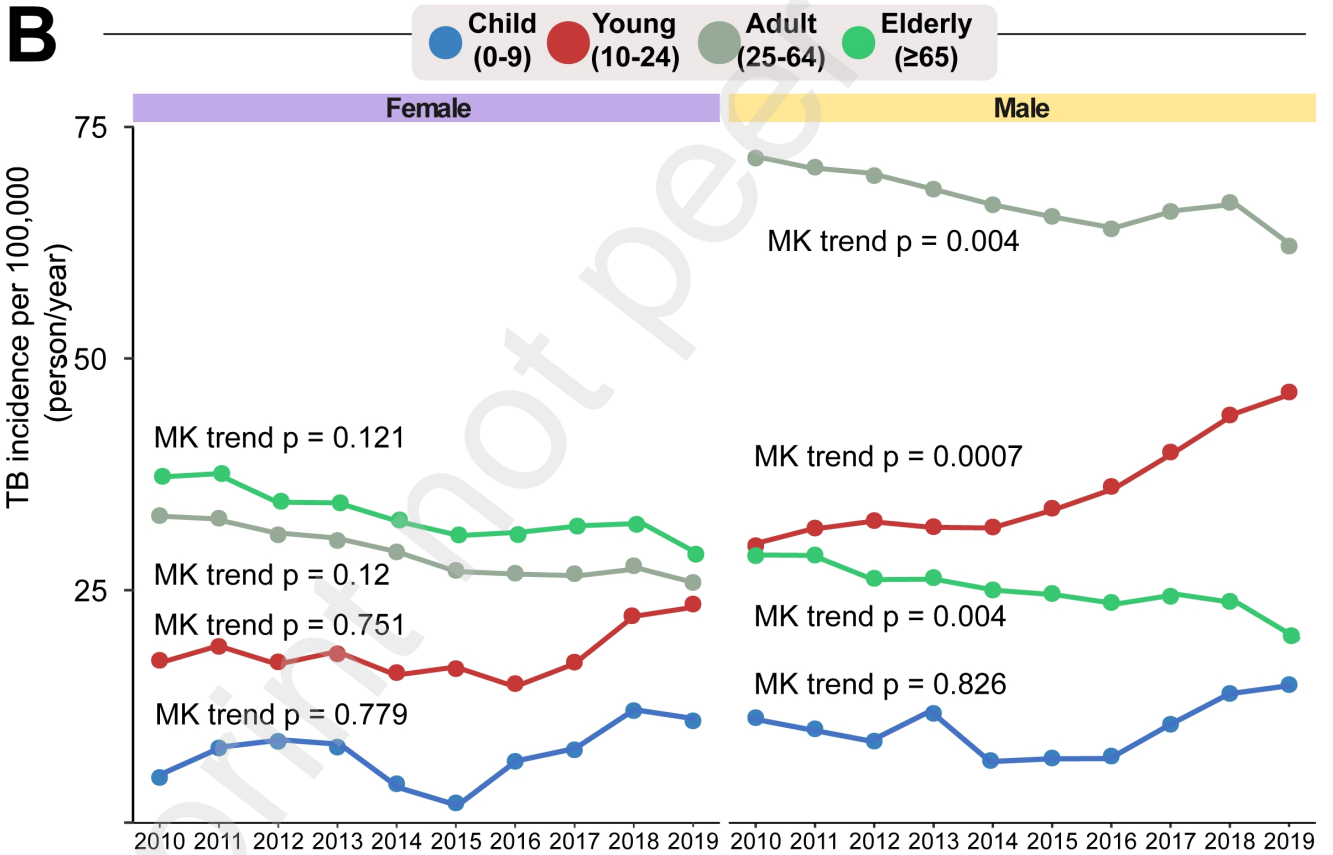
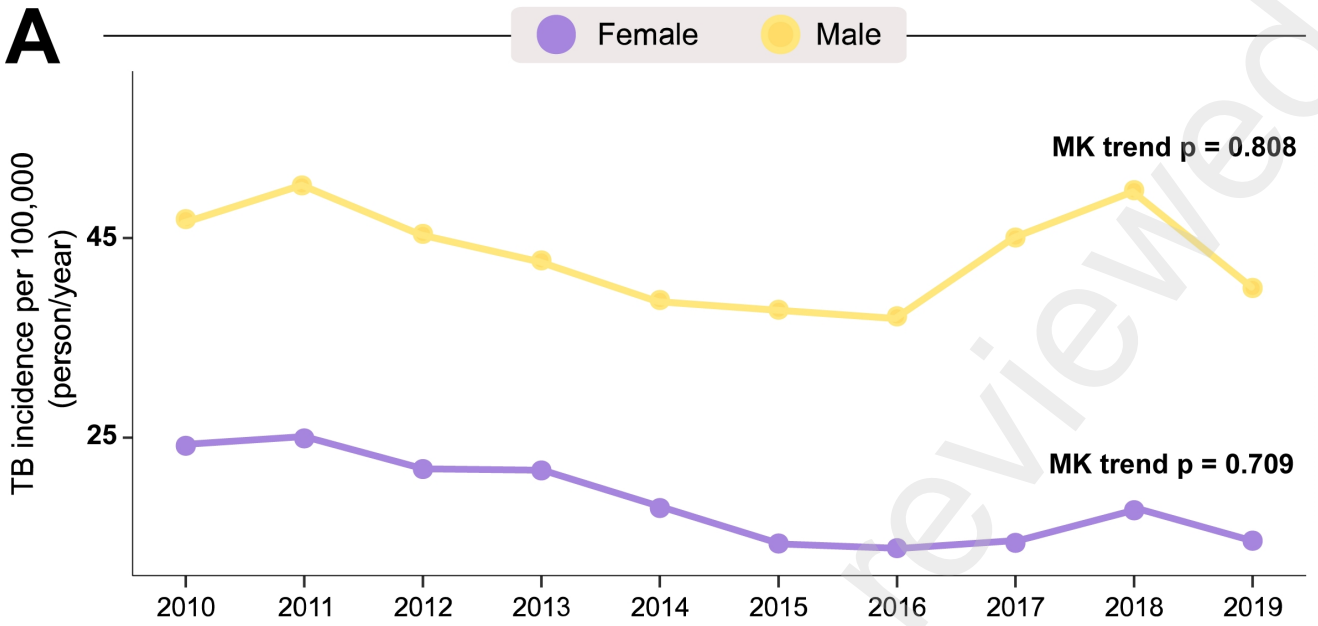
505 **Figure 3:** Backward stepwise logistic regression model test independent associations between all the
506 relevant clinical and epidemiological parameters and treatment outcome in children (0-9 years). The
507 unfavorable outcome was used as reference to test associations. Only parameters which remained with
508 $p < 0.05$ in in the adjusted model (95%CI, 95% confidence interval) were plotted. Adjustment was
509 performed for each parameter: race (reference: indigenous); male (reference: female);
510 illiterate(reference: literate); prior TB (reference: new case); no DOT (reference: Received
511 DOT).Pulmonary TB (reference: Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB); Extrapulmonary TB
512 (Reference: Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB); Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB (reference:
513 Pulmonary TB); HIV infection (reference: without HIV infection); Alcohol Consumption (reference:
514 no alcohol consumption); Diabetes (reference: no diabetes); Illicit drug use (reference: no illicit drug
515 use); Smoking habit (reference: no smoking). Cancer (reference: no condition); COPD (reference: no
516 condition); Kidney disease (reference: no condition); Hypertension (reference: no condition); Other
517 comorbidities (reference: no condition); Abnormal chest x-ray (reference: normal chest x-ray).
518 Abbreviations: TB: tuberculosis; DOT: directly observed treatment; COPD: chronic obstructive
519 pulmonary disease.

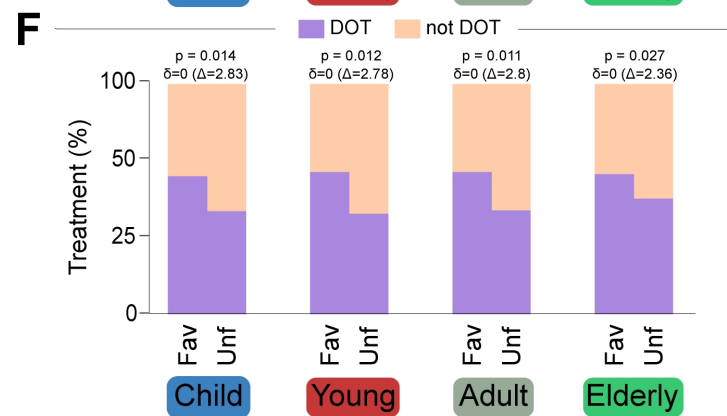
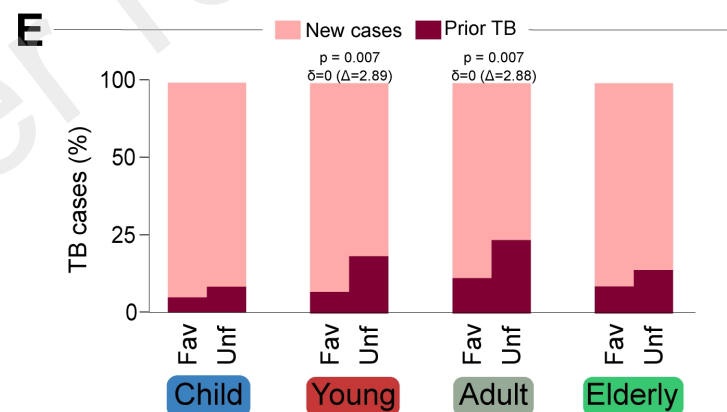
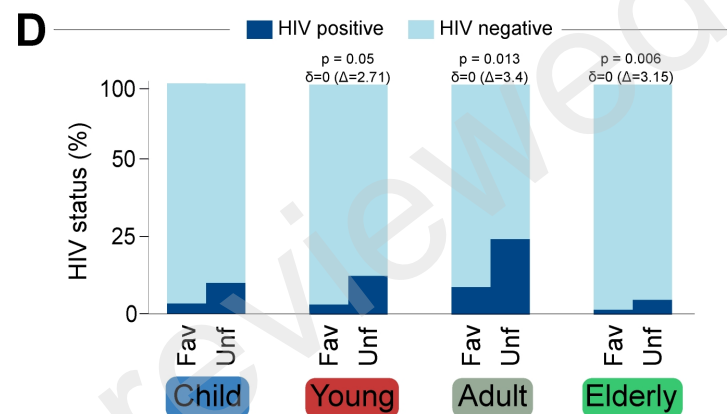
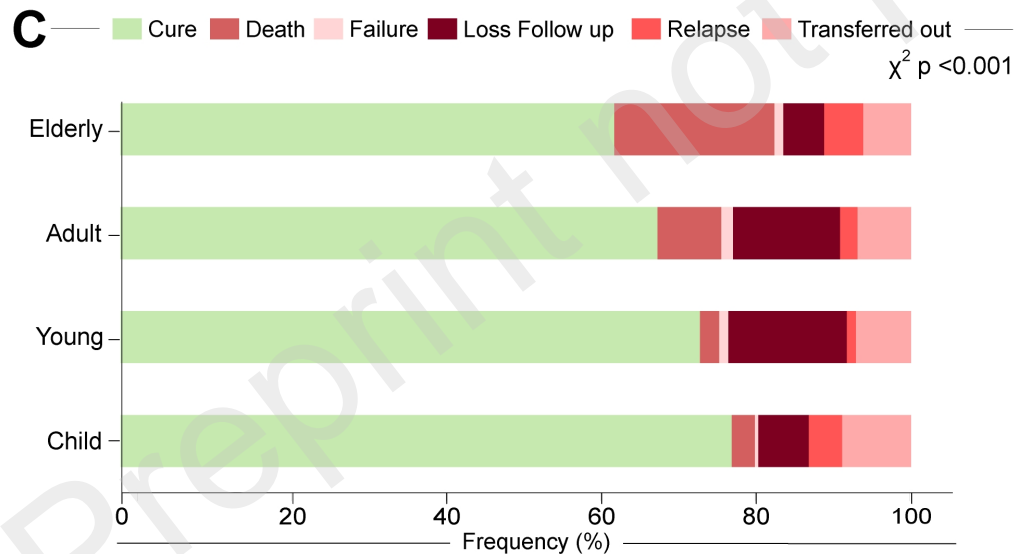
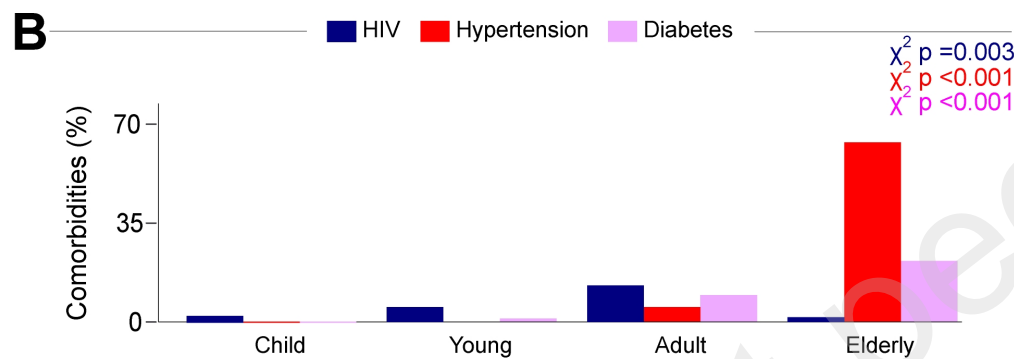
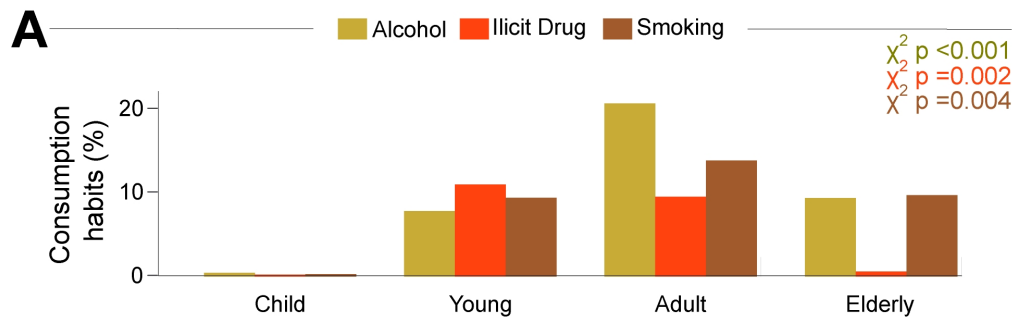
520 **Figure 4:** Backward stepwise logistic regression model test independent associations between all the
521 relevant clinical and epidemiological parameters and treatment outcome in young group (10-24 years).
522 The unfavorable outcome was used as reference to test associations. Only parameters which remained
523 with $p < 0.05$ in in the adjusted model (95%CI, 95% confidence interval) were plotted. Adjustment
524 was performed for each parameter: race (reference: indigenous); male (reference: female);
525 illiterate(reference: literate); prior TB (reference: new case); no DOT (reference: Received DOT).

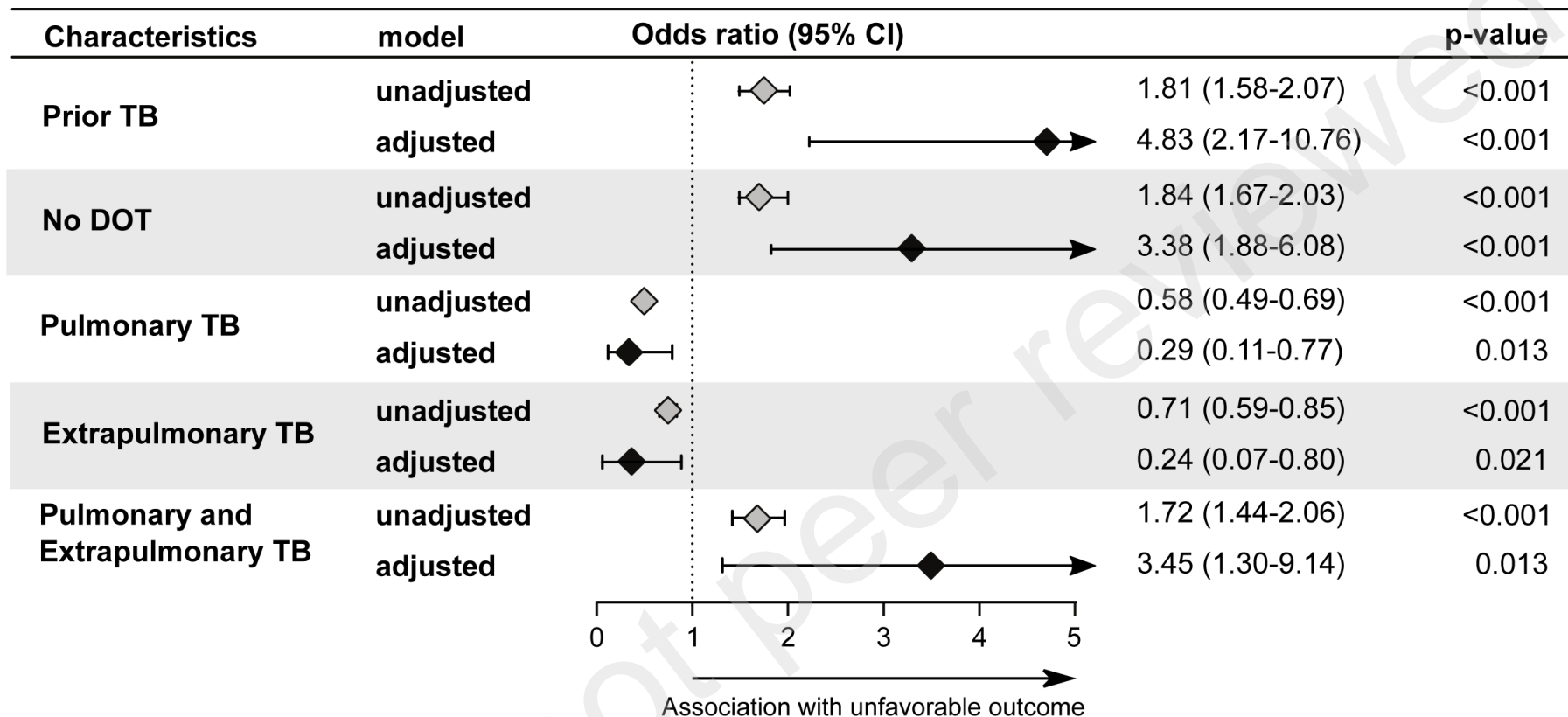
526 Pulmonary TB (reference: Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB); Extrapulmonary TB (Reference:
527 Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB); Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB (reference: Pulmonary TB);
528 HIV infection (reference: without HIV infection); Alcohol Consumption (reference: no alcohol
529 consumption); Diabetes (reference: no diabetes); Illicit drug use (reference: no illicit drug use);
530 Smoking habit (reference: no smoking). Cancer (reference: no condition); COPD (reference: no
531 condition); Kidney disease (reference: no condition); Hypertension (reference: no condition); Other
532 comorbidities(reference: no condition); Abnormal chest x-ray (reference: normal chest x-
533 ray).Abbreviations: TB: tuberculosis; DOT: directly observed treatment; COPD: chronic obstructive
534 pulmonary disease; Other comorbidities: did not include HAS, kidney disease, cancer and COPD.
535

536 **Figure 5:** Backward stepwise logistic regression model test independent associations between all the
537 relevant clinical and epidemiological parameters and treatment outcome in adult group (25-64). The
538 unfavorable outcome was used as reference to test associations. Only parameters which remained with
539 $p < 0.05$ in in the adjusted model (95%CI. 95% confidence interval) were plotted. Adjustment was
540 performed for each parameter: race (reference: indigenous); male (reference: female);
541 illiterate(reference: literate); prior TB (reference: new case); no DOT (reference: DOT
542 indication).Pulmonary TB (reference: Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB); Extrapulmonary TB
543 (Reference: Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB); Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB (reference:
544 Pulmonary TB); HIV infection (reference: without HIV infection); Alcohol Consumption (reference:
545 no alcohol consumption); Diabetes (reference: no diabetes); Illicit drug use (reference: no illicit drug
546 use); Smoking habit (reference: no smoking). Cancer (reference: no condition); COPD (reference: no
547 condition); Kidney disease (reference: no condition); Hypertension (reference: no condition); Other
548 comorbidities (reference: no condition); Abnormal chest x-ray (reference: normal chest x-ray).
549 Abbreviations: TB: tuberculosis; DOT: directly observed treatment; COPD: chronic obstructive
550 pulmonary disease.
551

552 **Figure 6:** Backward stepwise logistic regression model test independent associations between all the
553 relevant clinical and epidemiological parameters and treatment outcome in elderly group (≥ 65 years).
554 The unfavorable outcome was used as reference to test associations. Only parameters which remained
555 with $p < 0.05$ in in the adjusted model (95%CI. 95% confidence interval) were plotted. Adjustment
556 was performed for each parameter: race (reference: indigenous); male (reference: female);
557 illiterate(reference: literate); prior TB (reference: new case); no DOT (reference: DOT
558 indication).Pulmonary TB (reference: Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB); Extrapulmonary TB
559 (Reference: Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB); Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary TB (reference:
560 Pulmonary TB); HIV infection (reference: without HIV infection); Alcohol Consumption (reference:
561 no alcohol consumption); Diabetes (reference: no diabetes); Illicit drug use (reference: no illicit drug
562 use); Smoking habit (reference: no smoking). Cancer (reference: no condition); COPD (reference: no
563 condition); Kidney disease (reference: no condition); Hypertension (reference: no condition); Other
564 comorbidities (reference: no condition); Abnormal chest x-ray (reference: normal chest x-ray).
565 Abbreviations: TB: tuberculosis; DOT: directly observed treatment; COPD: chronic obstructive
566 pulmonary disease; Other comorbidities: It did not include HAS. kidney disease. cancer and COPD.







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