A Glance at Tuberculosis (TB) in Snohomish County 2018

Reported TB Cases
Crude incidence rates of Tuberculosis (TB) in Snohomish County for the past ten years have remained high: from 3.6 in 2006 to 3.9 per 100,000 in 2016. The County 2017 and 2016 TB rates exceeded state and national rates. 2018 reported 20 cases of TB in the county.

Tuberculosis Incidence Rates 2008-2017

Race and Ethnicity
Over the past three years, Asian groups accounted for 47% of all TB cases reported in Snohomish County, followed by Black (22%), White (14%) Hispanic (10%) Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI, 6%), and mixed race (1%). For 2016-2018, the highest incidence of TB was among NHOPI: 42.2 cases per 100,000, Blacks (26.8), and Asians (15.5).

TB Cases by Race/Ethnicity

Country of Origin
The higher proportion of TB disease burden continues to be among the County foreign-born residents, who accounted for 85.0% of 2018 cases. Of the 3 U.S. born residents counted in 2018, 2 were children who were contacts of an adult who was foreign born.

Age and Gender
In 2018, almost half of TB cases were among residents 25-44 years of age followed by 1 in 4 in the 65+ age group. More males (60%) were affected by the disease than females.

Drug Resistance and Site of Disease
Initial drug-susceptibility testing of 79 specimens over 2016-2018 showed 9 (15.0%) resistant to one or more first-line drugs. In 2018, TB disease was found in bone/joint (1), meninges (1), abdomen (1), pleural (1), lymph nodes (3) and lungs (13).

Homelessness
None of the reported cases in 2018 were homeless.