

# Persistent risk of tuberculosis in migrants a decade after arrival in Australia

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## **Reference:**

### **Key Words:**

Tuberculosis, years since arrival, diagnosis

### **Research aim:**

To examine the risk of tuberculosis (TB) in migrants a decade after their arrival in Australia.

### **Results/Conclusion:**

A third of migrants (734/1924) were diagnosed with TB 10 or more years after arrival in Australia. This group was more likely to be European-born (adjusted odds ratio [AOR], 3.4; 95% CI, 2.4-5.0) and older than 34 years (35-49 years: AOR, 3.8; 95% CI, 2.0-7.0), reflecting the longer time European migrants have been in Australia. There were two distinct European groups: European Union (EU)/Western and Central/Eastern. The Central/Eastern group were from countries with current high TB rates and, compared with the EU/Western group, were younger (mean age, 50 v 64 years) and more likely to be diagnosed within 10 years of arrival (47% v 14%; P

### **Implications:**

Once migrants from the currently high TB incidence areas of Asia and Africa have been in Australia for a similar period of time, their timing of diagnosis may resemble that for migrants from Europe. The current screening policy should be complemented with more sensitive techniques to detect latent TB.

### **Cultural Group(s):**

Europeans

### **Location of study:**

Victoria

### **Age group:**

not specific to older people

### **Number included in study:**

1,924

### **Type of participants:**

migrants to Australia diagnosed with TB

### **Research approach:**

Quantitative

### **Type of data:**

Secondary

### **Secondary data sources used:**

### **Specific scales or analytical techniques used:**

### **Implications/ Recommendations:**

### **Notes:**