



## WHY THE STUDY?

- TB case detection rates are unacceptably low for men, the elderly and children
- Disruptions in TB services due to the COVID-19 pandemic may have exacerbated these and other inequalities

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## WHAT WE DID

We modelled trends in age- and sex-disaggregated notifications for TB from 2013-2019, then compared trend predicted notifications to observed notifications in 2020 to estimate the number of people with TB likely to have missed or delayed diagnosis

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## HOW WE ANALYSED

We estimated the risk ratio of missed or delayed TB diagnosis for children or the elderly compared to adults and women compared to men using random-effects meta-analysis

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## WHAT WE FOUND

- There was no evidence globally that the risk of having TB diagnosis missed or delayed was different for children and adults, the elderly and adults, or men and women.
- However, there was evidence of disparities in risk by age and/or sex in some WHO regions and in most countries.

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## WHAT THIS MEANS

There is no evidence at an aggregate global level of any difference by age or sex in the risk of disruption to TB diagnosis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in many countries disruptions in TB services have been greater for some groups than others. It is important to recognise these context-specific inequalities when prioritising key populations for catch-up campaigns.

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SCAN TO  
VIEW

