



WHY THE STUDY?

Previous studies, including a 2016 systematic review and meta-analysis, have identified substantial sex differences in TB burden. More recent TB prevalence surveys offer an opportunity to re-examine sex differences and estimate changes over time.

01



WHAT WE DID

We conducted a systematic review of surveys reporting community-representative, sex-stratified estimates of pulmonary TB prevalence in low- and middle-income countries between 1993 and 2025.

02



HOW WE ANALYSED

We used Bayesian meta-regression models to estimate male-to-female TB prevalence risk ratios. We also estimated how prevalence ratios varied over time and according to known TB risk factors and TB case definitions.

03



WHAT WE FOUND

We found TB prevalence was 2.02 (1.71–2.34) times higher among men, compared to women, across 102 national and sub-national TB prevalence surveys, and disparities have likely increased over time.

04



WHAT THIS MEANS

Despite global commitments to gender equity in health, men continue to bear a disproportionate burden of TB. Developing effective strategies to reduce men’s risk of TB and to engage men in TB prevention and care remain essential to end TB.

05

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