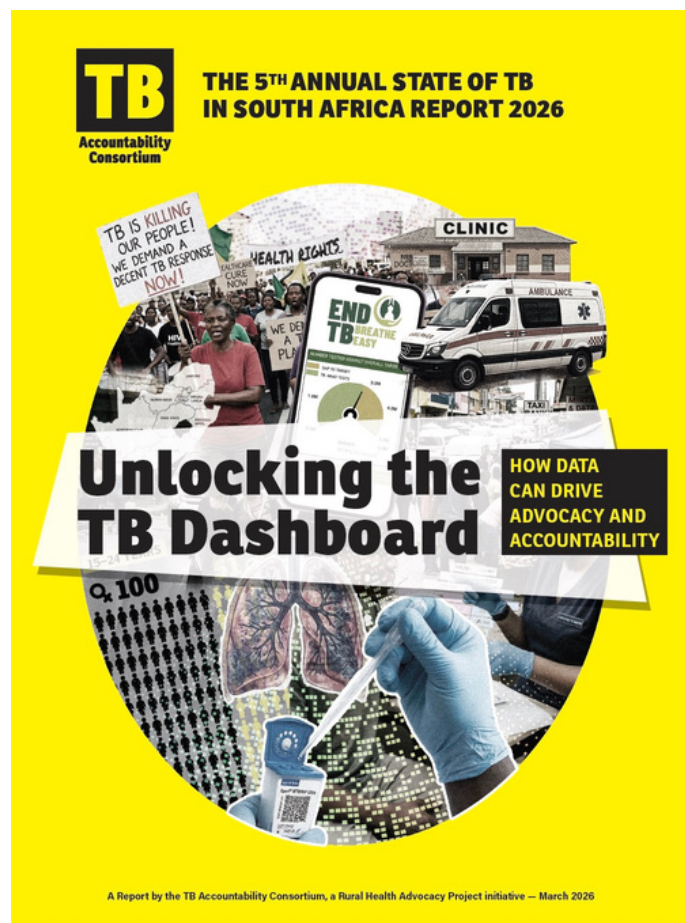




Fifth State of TB in SA report focuses on TB public-facing dashboard

Analysis shows that between April 2025 and January 2026 about 2.53 million people were tested for TB, reaching 60.8% of the national testing target for that period. More than 135,000 people were diagnosed with TB, showing the continued burden of the disease and the need for sustained case finding.

It also finds that the highest positivity rates are among men aged 25 to 34, suggesting that the groups most affected by TB are still not being reached by testing services.

The report argues that the TB dashboard marks an important shift in the country's TB response by making data more accessible to communities, researchers and policymakers but its real impact will depend on how the data is used to guide action.

This year's World TB Day 2026 comes at a time when data puts emphasis on TB. As part of the commemoration, the TB Accountability Consortium once again launched its annual report. In line with National focus, the report also looks at the country's End TB public-facing dashboard and how better access to data can improve advocacy, accountability and decision-making across the health system.

Titled "Deep diving into the TB dashboard: How data can drive our advocacy and accountability", the report looks at the first ten months of the dashboard and what it reveals about testing progress and gaps in the country's TB response.

[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT HERE](#)

The country commemorate World TB Day across provinces...

National World TB Day in the Western Cape



Deputy President, Paul Mashatile, at the World TB Day in Caledon, Western Cape

Over 700 people tested for TB and HIV during the national World TB Day commemoration held in Caledon in the Western Cape. The country marked the day under the theme “Yes! You and I Can End TB, with Deputy President Paul Mashatile pointing to the shift from the global “we” to “you and I”, a call for personal responsibility in ending TB.

Communities, advocates, policymakers, health workers and TB survivors who shared their stories, gathered to mark the day and strengthen efforts to tackle TB in the country.

[FIND THE FULL STATEMENT HERE](#)



Angela Hondo, chairperson of sex workers sector at Sisonke (middle-right) and Community Health Workers, Katlehong, Gauteng

Gauteng marks the day

Ekurhuleni, one of Gauteng's districts most affected by TB, marked World TB Day in Katlehong, bringing together survivors, health officials, community leaders and private sector representatives.

The event gave communities a chance to hear firsthand stories from those affected, it encouraged early testing and treatment and called on everyone to play a part in the fight against the disease.

[Read the story here](#)



Eastern Cape marks the day

Communities in the Chris Hani District came together in a powerful show of unity to mark World TB Day 2026, transforming the Cala Indoor Sports Centre into a hub of action, dialogue and hope.



Lulama Nomxego(far-left), Akhona Ntsaluba(left), Masivelane Sweleka(middle), Thembakzi Sanda(right) and Zimbini Madikiza(far-right) at the World TB Day in Cala, Eastern Cape

More than a commemoration, the event highlighted the lived realities of those affected by TB—from stigma and fear of job loss to barriers in accessing care—while showcasing practical, people-centred solutions.

[Read more here](#)

Gauteng Legislature takes action on TB.

Gauteng's fight against TB is under renewed scrutiny as TBAC's 2026 State of TB in South Africa's report exposes critical gaps in testing, diagnosis and access to care. At a high-level engagement with the Gauteng TB Caucus, legislators, civil society and health stakeholders were

urged to move beyond broad commitments and engage directly with district-level data to strengthen oversight and accountability. With concerns over patients disengaging from care and men remaining under-tested, the dialogue underscored the urgent need for targeted, community-based interventions.

[Read more here](#)



TB in children gets more attention

Children are often the most overlooked victims of TB in South Africa. New updated paediatric TB guidelines are helping healthcare workers diagnose and treat TB more effectively at primary healthcare level. With tools like a treatment decision algorithm, shortened treatment for non-severe cases and support resources for families, the guidelines aim to ensure more children are diagnosed, treated and protected from TB.

[Read more here](#)



"We believe it is important for the legislature to be actively involved in the TB response, particularly through public participation and advocacy."

Matshidiso Mfjokoe, a member of the Gauteng Legislature

Gauteng's TB caucus visits TB hotspots in the province ahead of World TB Day



Health worker outside Makawosi informal settlement, Germiston

Gauteng's TB Caucus visited Makawosi informal settlement in Ekurhuleni ahead of World TB Day, witnessing firsthand the challenges residents face in cramped, high-risk environments. The engagement focused on raising TB awareness, encouraging testing, encouraging treatment

adherence and addressing stigma. Mobile clinics provided on-site TB and HIV testing, while discussions highlighted the importance of community health workers, prevention, and broader social support, such as food security, in strengthening the province's TB response.

[Read the full story on the TBAC site.](#)

TB advocacy gains momentum in Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain

Community members in Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain are stepping up efforts to strengthen grassroots TB advocacy. Through community mobilisation sessions, residents and local leaders are working together to encourage testing, treatment adherence and reduce stigma.



Jessica Booyen, TB Forum member (left), Sindiso Tutu (middle) and Elia Jonas (right)

The engagements are also helping to build stronger community networks that can support people affected by TB and HIV. Organisers say local advocacy and shared experiences are key to sustaining momentum and improving access to care.

[FIND THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Roll out of HIV prevention tools will help fight the pandemic but integration is key

During the State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced plans to roll out the six-monthly HIV prevention injection, Lenacapavir.

The TB Accountability Consortium says the move is important but drew attention to the fact that HIV and TB services must be better integrated at district level, noting the strong links between the two epidemics.

[Read the full SONA statement here](#)



Photo by: Bloomberg/Bloomberg via Getty Images



Photo by: Engeneering News

The TB Accountability Consortium has noted that improved efficiency in the health system could only work if services were integrated and resources like the District Health Programme Grant were used to strengthen districts.

This follows Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana's call for health departments to manage finances more effectively.

Health departments urged to tackle district funding inefficiencies

We recognise that running and maintaining health services is complex. But these allocations will serve as a vehicle to sever inefficiencies.

-Russell Rensburg

[Access the full statement here](#)

Funding fragmentation threatens South Africa's district health system

Modern public health innovations have the potential to transform lives, but without integrated and predictable funding for South Africa's district health system, their impact will remain limited.

Russell Rensburg warns that South Africa's district health system struggles to deliver



Russell Rensburg, Project Director for TB Accountability Consortium

integrated care under fragmented funding, calling for a consolidated District Health Programme Grant to give districts the resources and accountability they need to provide coordinated, people-centered healthcare.

[ACCESS THE ARTICLE BY SPOTLIGHT HERE](#)

#SITSHELE #SPIEG #THETHA

Our #SITSHELE campaign is back and ongoing, inviting people to share their TB stories and show how the disease affects families across South Africa.

We continue to invite people to tell their stories in their own language, through #Thetha for isiXhosa, #Sitshele for isiZulu, #Speig for Afrikaans and #TellUs for English.

This year, the focus is more on men, their testing experiences and treatment journey. Sharing these stories helps de-stigmatise TB, encourage more people to go test for TB and highlights why urgent action is needed to reach those at the highest risk.

Hope Kubeka, a 26-year-old from Duduza in Ekurhuleni district, is one of the TB survivors who shared his TB story with us on how he was diagnosed with the disease. These stories highlight the everyday realities of people living with TB and the social impact of the disease.

Our #SITSHELE campaign amplifies these voices, encouraging people to tell their TB stories and push government to take action and make TB national a priority. The stories where people experience challenges will help us zone in on the problem areas and help us keep government to account.



Hope Kubeka (26), TB Survivor from Duduza, Gauteng

Research shows that testing leads to early detection and treatment which results in lower levels of transmission.

So, share your TB testing story on our TB wall, including the success and challenges you faced.

Share your TB story, by scanning this QR code and telling us your TB experience.



Reach out to us - share your thoughts

At TBAC, we would love to hear from you. Tell us what you thought of our 2025 State of TB in SA report or share your ideas on TB initiatives that we should cover.

Continue the conversation by visiting our social media platforms or dropping us an email.

And if you want this newsletter again, sign up by sending us an email to info@tbac.org.za

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TB Accountability Consortium