

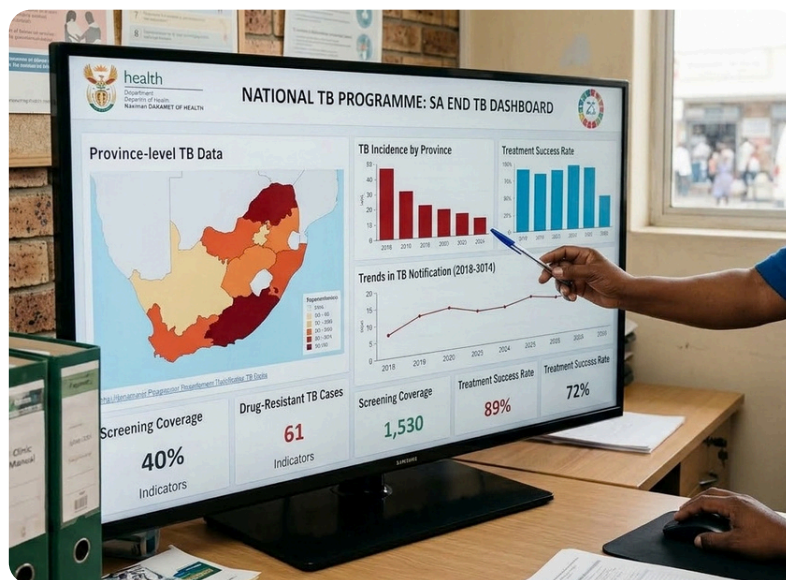
Upcoming TBAC report looks at South Africa's TB testing gaps

Over the past year, the National End TB Dashboard has made it easier to track how TB testing is being delivered across South Africa.

The publicly available data allows researchers, advocates, programme managers and communities to examine who is being tested, where services are reaching people and where gaps remain. With 56 000 people dying from TB each year, understanding who is being missed is important to improving early detection.

Looking beyond national figures can help identify differences in testing across provinces, districts, age groups and sex, and raise questions about whether current services are reaching the people who need them.

TBAC has analysed the full year of the dashboard data, from April 2025 to March 2026, to paint a clearer picture of the campaign's reach and the gaps that need attention.



The analysis found that testing remained below the national target throughout the campaign's first year, with substantial differences between districts. One of the clearest findings was among boys and men, who were tested less often than girls and women, despite having higher rates of laboratory-confirmed TB detection. This raises questions about whether current testing services are reaching the populations most likely to have TB.

The report builds on TBAC's earlier analysis in the State of TB report, using the full year of data to examine testing patterns across all

provinces and campaign's first year, with substantial differences between districts.

"One of the clearest findings concerned boys and men. Their testing rate was approximately one-third lower than that of girls and women."

Ahead of the report's release, TBAC sat down with its lead Data Driven Advocacy analyst, Dr Andrew Medina-Marino, to discuss what the findings show about who is being reached and what could strengthen TB testing services.

[Read the full interview here](#)

Efforts to tackle TB across provinces

EASTERN CAPE FOCUS

Eastern Cape legislators and health stakeholders strengthened their understanding of TB and legislative oversight through a Basic TB Management Training Programme in September.

The training used TB data to identify gaps in testing and case finding, while considering how the province's TB Caucus could strengthen its oversight of the provincial response.



Eastern Cape legislators, health stakeholders, EC AIDS Council, ex-miners and TBAC.

The session also provided an opportunity to discuss how legislators can use evidence to hold government accountable for its TB commitments and identify areas where services need to improve.

[Read more here](#)

TB champions turn advocacy into community action

TB champions took advocacy into communities across Khayelitsha, Western Cape, engaging residents on TB awareness, testing and treatment. The outreach showed how people with lived experience can help take TB advocacy beyond policy discussions and into the communities most affected by the disease.

[Find the full story here](#)



TB champions, TBAC and TB Proof at Isivivana Centre

Gauteng's TB Caucus joins global HIV and TB discussions

The Gauteng TB Caucus joined the global discussions on HIV and TB at the International AIDS Conference 2026 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. TB Caucus chair DR Bandile Masuku says the conference created a space to reflect on South Africa's TB response and the role of political leadership in shaping the country's approach to the epidemic. [Read the full story on the TBAC site](#)



Dr Bandile Masuku, chairperson of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature's TB Caucus

Understanding TB through lived experiences and research

Challenging the stereotypes around TB

Neal Anthony Stacey never imagined that TB could affect someone like him. A fit and active runner, he was treated for several other conditions before finally being diagnosed with TB. His experience challenged his own assumptions about the disease and later inspired him to use running and cycling to raise awareness and challenge the stereotypes surrounding TB.



Neal Anthony Stacey, TB survivor and advocate from the Western Cape

[Read the full article here](#)



Patricia Bond, TB survivor and advocate from the Western Cape

The long-term impact of surviving MDR-TB

Patricia Bond, a retired nurse, reflects on the long-term impact of surviving MDR-TB, more than 13 years after she completed treatment. Bond continues to live with lasting effects of the disease, including vision loss and hearing problems that affected her ability to return to work. Her story looks at what life can look like long after TB treatment ends. She tells us how contracting MDR TB robbed her of her health and her profession.

[Read Bond's full story here](#)

New approaches to finding TB

Dr Sharon Olifant, a researcher at the University of Pretoria and part of the research team, talks about her research into tongue swabs as a possible tool for improving TB screening and reaching people who may be missed by conventional testing.

The approach could make screening easier to deliver in community settings, while raising important questions about how new diagnostic tools can help close gaps in South Africa's TB response.

[Read the full article here](#)



Sharon Olifant, researcher in Medical Microbiology at the University of Pretoria

Keep reaching out

Your feedback continues to help us understand how our work is being received and where it is making a difference.

Here's a message we received this quarter:

"I really appreciate the work TBAC is doing to keep TB on the public health agenda and to make information around the disease more accessible. The events and discussions gives us a better understanding of the challenges communities face and show why TB cannot be addressed through the health sector alone.

TB continues to affect people in different ways, especially those living in informal settlements, so there is a need for stronger public health interventions, better access to services and continued community involvement.

TBAC's work is important because it gives communities and health advocates a platform to raise concerns, engage with decision-makers and push for better responses to TB. We need more work like this to ensure that progress against TB reaches the people and communities who need it most."

~Poppy Motha, a community member

CONNECT WITH US

-  info@tbac.org.za
-  tbac.org.za
-  [@TBAC_sa](https://twitter.com/TBAC_sa)
-  [TB Accountability Consortium](https://www.facebook.com/TBACAccountabilityConsortium)

We would love to hear from you to continue the conversation. Visit our social media platforms or drop us an email to info@tbac.org.za

#SITSHELE! TELL US!



Makabongwe Tyiwani, Committee Coordinator at the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature

For the past **THREE** years, our #Sitshele campaign has been a space for people across South Africa to tell us how TB has affected them and their loved ones. This year, the campaign has placed a stronger focus on men, encouraging more men to get tested and helping bring TB testing and services closer to where men are, in places where they can easily reach them.

Makabongwe Tyiwani was one of the people who shared his TB journey with us, speaking openly about his experience and the impact TB had on his life. These voices help us understand the realities of the disease and the importance of making testing, treatment and support accessible to everyone.



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