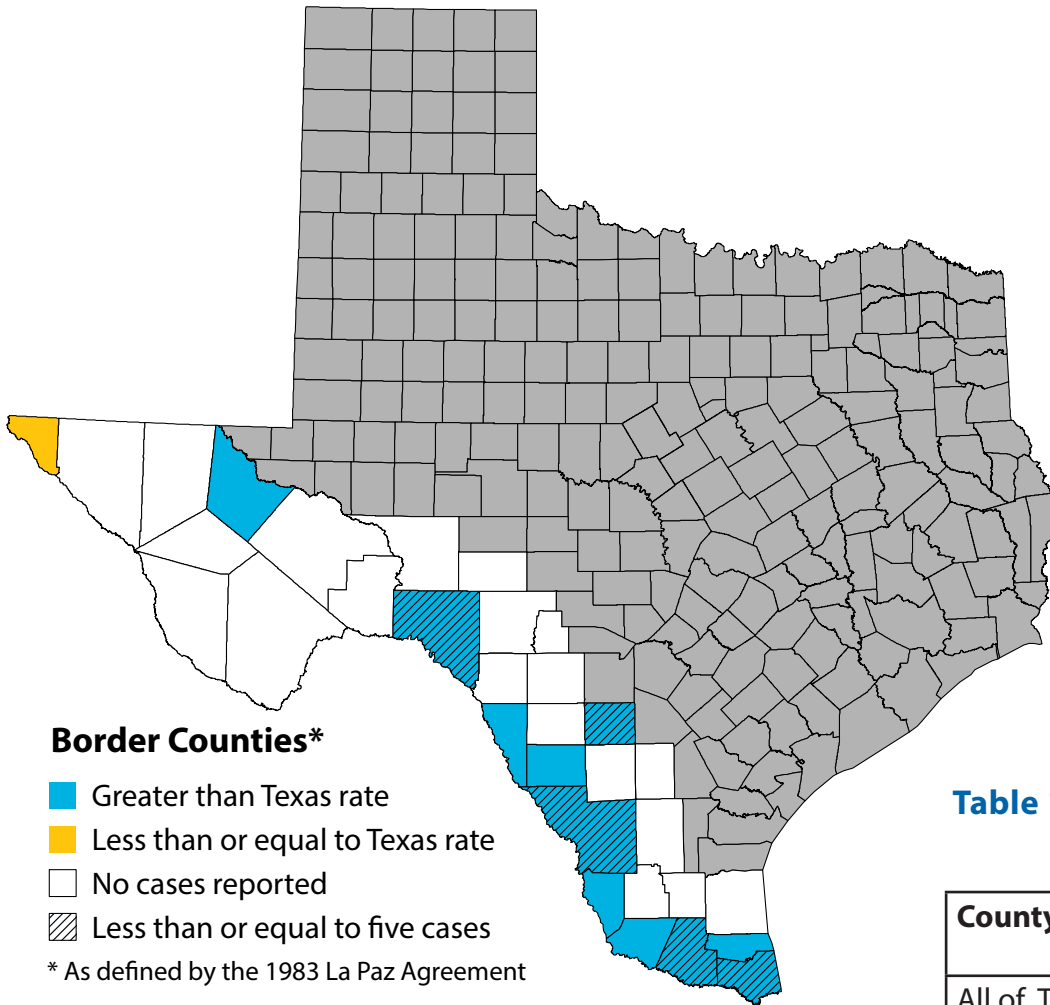


# Tuberculosis Along the Texas-Mexico Border

**Figure 1: Tuberculosis (TB) Case Rate, Texas Border Counties, 2019**



Source: Texas DSHS, 2019

The border between Texas and Mexico is 1,254 miles long. The 1983 La Paz agreement between the United States and Mexican federal governments designated counties within 100 kilometers of the U.S.-Mexico border as border counties. Texas has 32 border counties. Figure 1 illustrates a map of border counties and incident TB rates in relation to the overall rate in Texas.

**Table 1: Top 5 Border Counties by TB Cases, 2019**

County/State	Number of Cases	Case Rate*
All of Texas	1,159	4.0
Hidalgo County	71	8.2
Cameron County	49	11.6
Webb County	34	12.3
Frio County	24	118.2
El Paso County	22	2.6

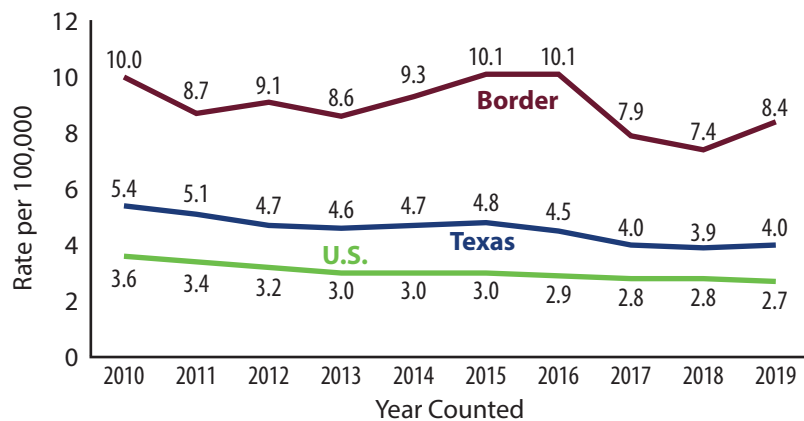
\*Rates are reported per 100,000. Rural counties may have a higher case rate due to relatively lower total population.



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**Figure 2: TB Incident Rate Comparison Among Texas, U.S., and Texas-Mexico Border Counties**



In 2019, the 32 border counties had an average TB incidence rate of 8.4/100,000, which was more than double the Texas TB rate of 4.0/100,000, and nearly triple the national rate 2.7/100,000.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, 69% of people diagnosed in a border county were non-U.S. born, compared to non-border counties (61%). Being non-U.S. born is a known risk factor for TB, since people born outside of the U.S. may be exposed to TB in a high incidence country. The proportion of TB cases in border counties with other risk factors is comparable with that in non-border counties, as shown in Table 2. The behavior risk factors are defined as occurring within in the last year, for example injection drug use within the past year.

**Table 2: Risk Factors Among Persons Diagnosed with TB Along the Border and Non-Border Counties, 2019**

	Border	Non-Border
Alcohol Abuse	10%	10%
Non-Injection Drug Use	10%	9%
Injection Drug Use	1%	1%
Non-U.S. born	69%	61%
Homelessness	2%	4%
HIV	2%	5%
Diabetes	27%	20%
Resistant to Any Drugs	10%	6%

For additional TB data visit [healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/diseases/tuberculosis-in-texas](https://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/diseases/tuberculosis-in-texas). For other data requests please email [tbhivstddata@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:tbhivstddata@dshs.texas.gov).

# FAST FACTS FOR TB ALONG THE TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER

20% of all Texas cases were reported in the border counties, with only 9.5% of the population residing in the border counties.

The average TB incidence rate in border counties (8.4 per 100,000) is more than twice the rate than the state of Texas (4.0/100,000).

Implementation of blood tests screening in 2016 contributed to early detection and management of persons with TB infection. This led to a decrease in the number of TB cases.

## DSHS TB/HIV/STD Section

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Publication No. 13-15777  
 (Revised 1/2021)

1 - CDC. TB Incidence in the United States, 1953-2019 TB Cases and Case Rates per 100,000 Population. 2020. Accessed on 11/1/2020; Available from: [cdc.gov/tb/statistics/reports/2019/table1.htm](https://cdc.gov/tb/statistics/reports/2019/table1.htm).



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