

Kentucky Has Second Highest TB Rate In America

Kentucky has one of the nation's worst tuberculosis problems. With the second highest TB death rate and the third highest state case rate, close to 12,000 Kentuckians are suffering from active tuberculosis today. Here are some facts:

1. Each year about 2,000 more

Kentuckians learn for the first time that they have active TB. 2. Although there was a slight decline in the number of new TB cases found here last year, the first quarter of 1957 shows the case rate to be running 10 per cent higher than in 1956.

3. About 425 Kentuckians died of TB last year. This is consistent with the steady decline of about 12 per cent a year in the TB death rate since the advent of drug therapy, and the almost static case rate. 4. Of the 12,000 people with

active TB in Kentucky, not quite 7,000 are known to health authorities. Thus 5,000 are estimated to have the disease without knowing it. 5. Tuberculosis is still the giant among infectious-disease killers, killing more Kentuckians than all

other infectious diseases combined. 6. Modern drugs and surgery are keeping alive TB patients who formerly would have died. This is creating new problems, as there are more people living with tuberculosis in our midst than ever before.

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