



Challenges of TB control in Papua New Guinea

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PNG ranks second in the Western Pacific Region, next to Cambodia, in terms of estimated TB prevalence, incidence and mortality.

Among all the provinces, National Capital District has been identified as the hot spot, which contributes to 25% of the country's TB burden, despite being home to only 5% of the country's population.

While the majority of the PNG population lives in rural areas, the urban areas bear the higher burden of TB.

Several factors contribute to the spread of TB in PNG. Health system weaknesses are cross cutting factors contributing to the spread of TB. Overcrowding in settlements, poor hygiene and poor nutrition makes TB transmission easier.

In order to address TB, in addition to guaranteeing optimal TB care to all those who need it, parallel actions are required on multiple fronts aimed at improving health care system, mitigating risk factors and addressing socioeconomic determinants.