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School life expectancy and risk for tuberculosis in Europe

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School life expectancy and risk for tuberculosis in Europe

Abstract (180 words)

Objective: This study aims to investigate the effect of country-level school life expectancy on Tuberculosis (TB) incidence to gain further understanding of substantial variation in TB incidence across Europe.

Methods: An ecological study examined the prospective association between baseline country-level education in 2000 measured by school life expectancy and TB incidence in 2000-2010 in 40 countries of the WHO European region using quantile regression. Subsequently, to validate the ecological associations between education and TB incidence, an individual-level analysis was performed using case-based data in 29 EU/EEA countries from the European Surveillance System (TESSy) and simulating a theoretical control group.

Results: The ecological analysis showed that baseline school life expectancy had a negative prospective association with TB incidence. We observed consistent negative effects of school life expectancy on individuals' TB infections prospectively.

Conclusions: These findings suggests that country-level education is an important determinant of individual-level TB infection in the region, and in the absence of a social determinants indicator that is routinely collected for reportable infectious diseases, the adoption of country-level education for reportable infectious diseases would significantly advance the field.

School life expectancy and risk for tuberculosis in Europe

Introduction

Inequalities in health among different socio-economic groups represent a persistent challenge in global health. Among the social determinants of health, a consistent association between education and health is well documented and poor health status is not limited only to groups without formal education. Rather, there are social gradients of health status by level of education,(Adler and Ostrove 1999; Marmot 2006) with higher education leading to better wellbeing and health. Mortality and morbidity differ systematically by level of educational attainment, even in a high-income country, such as Sweden.(Erikson 2001) Education plays a role as an agent which reproduces socioeconomic position across generations, by influencing characteristics and behaviours of individuals.

It is suggested that years of formal education completed is one of the most important determinants of health.(Cutler and Lleras-Muney 2006; Grossman 2005) The mechanism that underlies the association between education and health is often explained with three pathways(World Health Organization 2007): materialist factors, behavioural or lifestyle factors, and psychosocial factors. Education increases individuals' income and therefore their chances for a better living environment and access to health services, but also provides access to information on healthy behaviour. Moreover, education also enhances self-efficacy and self-esteem.(Lundborg 2008; Subramanian et al. 2010) The schooling system is the primary agent of socialisation in societies, provides equitable opportunity and can therefore promote societal cohesion.(Putnam 1993) Studies that investigate the impacts of income inequality consistently report that education is a protective factor (Feinstein et al. 2006) and this pattern is also observed in countries with universal health care systems.(Daniels et al. 2000) A meta-analyses of the effect of education on mortality revealed a causal association even after

1 controlling for the effect of other socio-economic factors (Baker et al. 2011) and a recent study
2 showed a negative association between an individual's education and mortality from TB.(Álvarez
3 et al. 2011) But it is unclear to what extent education is associated with the incidence of
4 infectious diseases. Provision of high-quality equitable education could reduce inequities in other
5 socioeconomic factors and education is less politically contentious than other measures, such as
6 redistribution of income.
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14 While the contribution of infectious diseases to overall mortality is smaller than that
15 of non-communicable diseases,(World Health Organization 2011) a systematic review on
16 infectious diseases and socioeconomic factors found health disparities in infectious diseases
17 in every European state.(Semenza and Giesecke 2008) TB is concentrated in the socially and
18 economically disadvantaged population since its incidence is exacerbated by interrupted or
19 incomplete treatment practices, socio-economic factors, and immigration from countries
20 where the disease is endemic.(Álvarez et al. 2011; Drobniewski et al. 1997; Semenza and
21 Giesecke 2008) Not only individual socioeconomic factors but also macro-level factors may
22 have an impact on risk of TB infection, as abundant evidence from the studies in other health
23 outcomes suggested. The study from Brazil identified independent effects of socio economic
24 factors at individual and area levels on risk of TB.(de Alencar Ximenes et al. 2009)
25 Moreover, country-level differentials in TB incidence by level and distribution of GDP have
26 been reported.(Ploubidis et al. 2012; Suk et al. 2009) An increase in TB incidence rates in the
27 former Soviet Union and some other Eastern European countries led to an increase in TB
28 incidence in the WHO European Region between the early 1990s and the early 2000s. In the
29 UK, the incidence has still been on increase, and London has the highest rate of TB among
30 western European capitals.(Zenner et al. 2013) Although the incidence has declined since
31 2000, the level is still higher than that in 1994,(ECDC/WHO Regional Office for Europe
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2013) reducing inequalities in TB incidence needs to be addressed in Europe as in the rest of the world.

Our study aims to investigate the effect of country-level education on TB incidence by applying ecological as well as individual level analyses. While attribution of socioeconomic factors at individual and country level as well as level of individual education to TB infection has been studied, there are few studies which investigate country-level educational differentials on TB incidence. We first examine the concurrent and prospective effect of country-level education on the incidence of TB in 2000-2010 in countries in the WHO European Region. Secondly, we aim to validate the observed effects of country-level education using individual TB case data derived from the European Surveillance System (TESSy). Prior to this study, the rich infectious disease cases data has not been used for macro level analysis to examine health inequalities in the WHO European region. Our individual-level analysis using TB cases allows us to reduce the major bias of ecological analysis, i.e. ecological fallacy, and propose a new method for studies of inequalities on the prevalence and incidence of infectious diseases.

Methods

Ecological analysis

Data

In the ecological analysis, TB incidence in 40 countries of the WHO European Region between 2000 and 2010 was used as the dependent variables. With respect to the explanatory variables we selected expected years of schooling, or school life expectancy in 2000 as baseline to assess the prospective effect of educational policy over 11 years, based on the hypothesis that the effect of country-level education may have latency period until making an

1 impact on TB. School life expectancy refers to the expected total number of years which a
2 child at the age of entry in primary education can expect to attend in the future, assuming that
3 the probability of his or her being enrolled in school at any age is equal to the current
4 enrolment ratio for that age based on the UNESCO definition. While only limited countries
5 have data on average year of schooling, the school life expectancy data are available in most
6 of the countries in the world. Therefore, the measure was selected as a proxy for the overall
7 level of national educational system. Due to the wide coverage of the indicator, the measure
8 has been used in previous studies, and the new measure of Human Development Index (HDI)
9 has employed school life expectancy since 2010. The data were downloaded in December
10 2011 from the website of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. In order to have enough
11 countries in the two analyses and as school life expectancy is not normally distributed, we
12 categorised the school life expectancy variable into three by dividing the 29 countries with
13 the TESSy data into tertiles based on the school life expectancy. For the ecological analysis,
14 we used the same categories. The estimates in 2000 were used because school life expectancy
15 is fairly stable over years and in order to assess prospective effects over a long time period.

16
17 In order to reliably estimate the effect of education on TB rates, we controlled for net
18 migration rates. Migration is one of the key factors related to TB outcomes in Europe.
19 Immigration from TB epidemic countries may increase TB incidence and prevalence in
20 recipient countries. In the WHO European Region, 8.7 per cent of notified TB cases were
21 foreign-born in 2010, and only six countries observed a decrease in TB notifications among
22 the foreign-born between 2001 and 2010.(ECDC/WHO Regional Office for Europe 2013)
23 For instance, large numbers of foreign-born nationals from high TB epidemic countries may
24 contribute to the higher incidence of TB in the UK than in other European countries.(Gilbert
25 et al. 2009) The data on net migration in 2000 were extracted from the World Bank's World
26 Development Indicators in March 2012.

1 We did not employ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita into the final model
2 because the association between the level of GDP and education is highly co-linear (Kawachi
3 and Blakely 2001) and arguably can be thought of as bidirectional. A preliminary analysis
4 showed that the correlation between school life expectancy and GDP in our sample was very
5 high (Spearman's rank correlation coefficient 0.82). Level and distribution of wealth, often
6 measured by GDP per capita and the Gini coefficient, have been consistently linked with
7 population health, including TB rates.(Beckfield 2004; Ploubidis et al. 2012) Countries with
8 higher GDP per capita and lower Gini coefficient generally have better population health.
9 High level of education increases individual income as well as leads to economic growth by
10 producing more productive population.(Schultz 1961) It is suggested that labour income
11 growth among tertiary-educated individuals contributed to more than half of the GDP growth
12 in OECD countries over the last decade.(OECD 2012) In turn, countries with high level of
13 GDP per capita are able to spend more on education, but an economic return from education
14 at individual and national level is substantial.(Lutz et al. 2008) This causality and reverse
15 causality imply bidirectional relationship between education and GDP. Thus GDP or Gini
16 was not included in the analysis.

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19 In the ecological models we included the countries of the WHO European Region
20 which covers all European countries as well as Central Asian countries. The region includes
21 53 countries, but 13 countries, such as Liechtenstein, San Marino, Monaco, Kosovo, do not
22 have data on School life expectancy or other variables. Therefore, complete information on
23 all predictors were only available for 40 countries.

24 *Statistical modeling*

25 We performed multivariable quantile regression models, adjusting for net migration and
26 country. Country-level aggregated TB data follow a skewed distribution, so the distributional

1 assumptions of linear regression are invalid. Quantile regression relaxes this assumption, and
2 no parametric distributional form is assumed for the error. Thus it can be used for skewed
3 distributions since the median or quantiles of the dependent variable are modelled instead of
4 the mean.
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10 Individual level analysis 11 12

13 *Data* 14

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17 Since 2008, the surveillance activities in the WHO European Region and Liechtenstein have
18 been jointly coordinated by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
19 and the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Designated national disease surveillance
20 institutions are responsible for reporting the data to the European level through a joint data
21 collection entry point. For the 27 European Union (EU) Member States and 3 European
22 Economic Area (EEA) countries, case-based data are submitted, processed and validated
23 through TESSy database hosted by ECDC (ECDC/WHO Regional Office for Europe 2013).
24 Case-based TB surveillance data submitted until 2 February 2012 for the years 2000-2010
25 were extracted from TESSy.
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41 10-year age group and sex of each case were controlled for in each model. Older
42 individuals are susceptible to reactivation of latent TB because of immune dysregulation, and
43 the TB incidence in the population over 60 years old in high-income countries is
44 higher.(Dolin et al. 1994) Considering also the difference in age structure in the countries
45 studied, any country level analysis needs to be adjusted for age.(World Health Organization
46 2011) There is also consistent evidence that males are more likely to be infected with
47 TB.(World Health Organization 2011) For this analysis, 895,109 TB cases with age and sex
48 data collected between 2000 and 2010 in the 29 countries were used. Liechtenstein was
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1 excluded for this analysis since the country had only 5 cases in 2007. In addition, 2,893 cases
2 were excluded because either their age or sex data were missing.
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4 The TESSy data have only cases, that is, no control group. We thus considered
5 control populations which were defined based on the mid-year population in 2000 for all the
6 countries, available at Eurostat. The data are aggregated by sex and 5-year age group. After
7 combining the data into 10-year age groups, a 'theoretical' control group was obtained by
8 subtracting the number of TB cases in each sex-age stratum from the population figure for the
9 corresponding sex-age stratum within each country.
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22 *Statistical modelling*

23 Logit model was performed by adjusting for age group and sex as well as country-level net
24 migration, and country. The analysis allowed us to examine the effects of country-level
25 school life expectancy on individual level likelihood of having TB. All models were
26 estimated with Stata 12.
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1 Results

2
3 Table 1 and 2 present descriptive statistics of the TB incidence in the 40 countries for the
4 ecological analysis. There is considerable country-level variation with respect to TB
5 incidence (4.3 to 167.0 per 100,000 population in 2000) in Europe (Table 1). The median TB
6 incidence across the 40 countries decreased from 21.5 per 100,000 in 2000 to 12.5 per
7 100,000 in 2010 (Table 2).
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11 Table 3 provides descriptive statistics from the TESSy data for the individual-level
12 analysis. Several countries joined TESSy after 2000, thus there were fewer than 29 countries
13 before 2007.
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16 Table 4 presents 75th quantile regression parameter estimates, their respective
17 confidence intervals, and p-values derived from bootstrapped standard errors (1,000
18 replications). We modelled quantile regression at 25th and 50th quantiles (results not shown),
19 but the associations with education were weak. This implies that the effect of country-level
20 school life expectancy on TB is stronger in the countries with high TB incidence while the
21 association is weaker in the countries with low TB incidence. In other words, the educational
22 indicator has larger negative impact on the countries at the 75th quantile, i.e. Ukraine,
23 Lithuania, Latvia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan and
24 Romania. Low country-level school life expectancy measured at baseline (2000) was, relative
25 to high country-level school life expectancy, negatively associated with the national
26 incidence of TB prospectively in 2002-2006 at the 5 per cent significance level. The
27 estimated coefficients were very similar for all years between 2001 and 2010. The strongest
28 effect was observed in 2005 where low relative to high country-level school life expectancy
29 was associated with a difference in incidence at the 75th percentile of 91 (95% CI: 11.9,
30 170.1) per 100,000.
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Table 5 shows results derived from the individual-level analysis. Strong associations between country-level school life expectancy at baseline and individuals' odds of having TB were observed between 2000 and 2010. People living in countries with a low level of school life expectancy (<14.0 years) had 3.40 (95% CI: 3.02- 5.73) times the odds of being notified as a TB case in 2000, compared with people in countries with a high level of school life expectancy (≥ 16.0 years). This OR increased to a maximum of 3.56 (95% CI: 1.99-6.39) in 2002 before decreasing to 2.13 (95% CI: 1.09- 4.16) in 2010.

Discussion

Our results derived from two methodological approaches suggest that school life expectancy is negatively associated with the incidence of TB. Both the ecological and individual-level analyses showed higher levels of country-level school life expectancy to be associated with lower TB incidence. The impact of school life expectancy in 2000 increases for the first few years and gradually diminishes over time while the timing of the peak in the two models differed. This may be interpreted as a lagged effect of school life expectancy on TB rates, since the school life expectancy measured at baseline had a prospective negative association with TB. One possible explanation for the effect of school life expectancy is that it is mediated by individual educational level. As a country has longer school life expectancy, more educated individuals follow a healthy lifestyle, purchase more nutritious food, live in more hygienic housing and safer environments, and have better access to health services (Lynch et al. 2000) compared to individuals in countries with lower school life expectancy. The far-reaching impacts of education on TB notification in Europe have direct policy implications. Educational attainment is an important health determinant in need of strengthening, even in Europe.

1 We found that the effect of education peaked in 2002 and diminished over time in the
2 individual-level analysis among the countries with TESSy data, while the peak was in 2005
3
4 in the ecological analyses among 40 countries. This suggests that the baseline country-level
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6 education in 2000 had prospective latency effects on TB incidence. The decline of effect was
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8 also found even when stratifying the countries by eastern and western/southern regions
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10 (results are not presented here, available from corresponding author). However, this finding
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12 does not necessarily suggest that health differentials due to education disappeared over time.
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14 While the effect of the baseline education disappears, it is possible that data relating to more
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16 recent education might become a more important predictor of TB in later periods. It is also
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18 possible that school life expectancy has a cross-sectional effect as observed in the results
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20 from the individual-level analyses, but this is likely to be confounded by previous years'
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22 school life expectancy. Nevertheless, our results consistently document level of education to
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24 be an important determinant of notified TB cases. These findings highlight the need for an
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26 individual-level indicator of social determinants that is routinely collected for reportable
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28 infectious diseases, along with date of diagnosis, age and sex. Thus, public health policy
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30 should consider adding level of education to the list of variables collected for notifiable
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32 infectious diseases. Such an indicator is essential for the assessment of social determinants of
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34 infectious diseases at the individual level. Moreover, a social determinant indicator can also
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36 help elucidate the causal pathways underlying the association we describe here between the
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38 level of education at individual and macro-level and disease notification.
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48 It should also be noted while interpreting these results that TB case management has
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50 improved during this period in Europe in response to the TB control programme DOTS
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52 (directly observe treatment, short-course) launched by WHO in 1995. For instance, Romania,
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54 the country with the highest TB incidence in EU, started to implement the WHO-
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56 recommended DOTS strategy gradually since 1997 which was subsequently expanded to the
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entire country by 2005. The DOTS coverage increased from four per cent in 2000 to 54 per cent in 2003 (Marica et al. 2009). The case detection rate also improved from 46 per cent in 2002 to 75 per cent in 2006. Incidence reached a peak of 175 cases per 100,000 population in 2002 and declined to 116 in 2010.(World Health Organization 2011) Similar trends were found in the other countries with the high TB incidence in EU, i.e. Baltic regions.(ECDC/WHO Regional Office for Europe 2013) The improvement in TB case management also may have contributed to reduce the effect of the baseline school life expectancy over time.

It is also possible that the effect of country-level education is underestimated, particularly in the late 2000s, due to any degree of internal heterogeneity of individual educational attainment within countries. Migrants originating from lower school life expectancy countries may be likely to contribute to a good proportion of TB cases in countries with higher level of school life expectancy. For example, between 2001 and 2010, eleven EU Member States experienced rising trends of cases of foreign origin.(ECDC/WHO Regional Office for Europe 2013) Such a trend could contribute to exposure misclassification and bias the results towards the Null.

There are also further potential confounders apart from age and sex which we were unable to take into account. In the individual-level analysis for instance, we could not control for immigration status because a substantial amount of the data were incomplete and so, this variable could not be included in the analysis.

Ecological analysis showed that the school life expectancy is negatively associated with TB rates in the WHO European region. This effect was confirmed by an individual-level study where individual TB cases were used and a theoretical control group constructed. Further research is needed to identify country-level predictors that account for the TB variance remaining unexplained by our models, but also to disentangle the relative

1 contribution of school life expectancy on the individual level pathways that lead to TB.
2 Despite these limitations, this study introduced a new opportunity to utilise TB case-based
3 data by creating theoretical control groups for study of health inequalities. Our findings
4 suggest that assessment of the impact of country-level education could be used for more
5 equitable health policy planning for TB control.
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TABLES:

Table 1. Estimated TB incidence (all forms) per 100,000 population in 2000, 40 countries in WHO Europe Region

Country	Incidence	Country	Incidence
Albania	23.0	Latvia	92.0
Austria	16.0	Lithuania	86.0
Azerbaijan	110.0	Luxembourg	10.0
Belarus	74.0	Malta	5.0
Belgium	14.0	Netherlands	9.6
Bulgaria	46.0	Norway	6.2
Cyprus	4.3	Poland	33.0
Czech Republic	16.0	Portugal	47.0
Denmark	12.0	Republic of Moldova	136.0
Estonia	64.0	Romania	167.0
Finland	12.0	Slovakia	22.0
France	13.0	Slovenia	21.0
Georgia	107.0	Spain	23.0
Germany	13.0	Sweden	5.5
Greece	7.6	Switzerland	9.2
Hungary	35.0	Tajikistan	125.0
Iceland	4.4	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	41.0
Ireland	12.0	Ukraine	84.0
Italy	8.9	United Kingdom	12.0
Kyrgyzstan	151.0	Uzbekistan	128.0

Note: The countries of which life expectancy data in 2000 are unavailable were excluded from the analysis (Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Monaco, Montenegro, San Marino, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey, Turkmenistan).

Source: WHO for Global Tuberculosis Control (2011).

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of national TB incidence, WHO Europe Region, 2000-2010

TB Incidence ¹						
Year	No of countries	Mean	Median	Std. Dev	Min	Max
2000	40	45.1	21.5	47.553	4.3	167
2001	40	45.3	20.0	49.335	4.2	172
2002	40	45.2	20.0	50.777	4.1	175
2003	40	44.7	17.0	52.106	4.0	175
2004	40	44.3	15.0	52.951	4.0	178
2005	40	44.1	15.0	53.432	4.0	187
2006	40	43.5	14.5	53.810	4.0	193
2007	40	42.8	13.5	53.931	4.1	198
2008	40	42.1	12.5	54.145	4.2	202
2009	40	41.4	12.5	54.147	4.3	204
2010	40	40.6	12.5	54.441	4.4	206

1. Estimated tuberculosis incidence/100,000 population.

Source: WHO for Global Tuberculosis Control (2011).

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of TB data extracted from European Surveillance System (TESSy), European Union and European Economic Area, 2000-2010

	Year	No of countries	Mean	Median	Std. Dev	Min	Max	Total cases
TB cases	2000	22	3,426	1,168	6,154	13	27,667	75,366
by								
country	2001	24	3,573	1,199	6,405	13	30,440	85,752
	2002	26	3,405	1,064	6,778	8	33,595	88,542
	2003	27	3,210	990	6,178	5	31,039	86,658
	2004	27	3,106	1,057	6,140	12	31,034	83,853
	2005	27	2,992	984	5,839	11	29,288	80,794
	2006	27	2,818	906	5,350	13	26,600	76,094
	2007	29	2,899	874	4,958	14	24,837	84,076
	2008	29	2,869	864	4,941	6	24,680	83,192
	2009	29	2,747	698	4,695	9	23,164	79,676
	2010	29	2,552	688	4,293	22	21,078	73,994

Source: The European Surveillance System (TESSy)

Table 4. Educational attainment and risk of TB in the European Union and European Economic Area; 75th quantile regression

	2000			2001			2002					
	Coeff.	95% CI		Coeff.	95% CI		Coeff.	95% CI				
School life expectancy												
Low	45	[-8.7	98.7]	57	[-3.6	117.6]	71	[3.7	138.3]	*		
Medium	9	[-9.9	27.9]	7	[-12.2	26.2]	8	[-9.3	25.3]			
High	ref.			ref.			ref.					
Net migration rate <0%	71	[22.4	119.6]	**	72	[15.5	128.5]	*	68.1	[6.1	130.1]	*
0-3%	ref.			ref.			ref.					
>=3%	1	[-14.9	14.9]		1	[-16.2	18.2]		2.1	[-12.9	17.1]	
N (countries)	40			40			40					
Pseudo R2	0.5823			0.5825			0.5779					
	2003			2004			2005					
School life expectancy												
Low	81.3	[8.0	154.6]	*	85	[8.0	162.0]	*	91	[11.9	170.1]	*
Medium	7.3	[-8.2	22.8]		3	[-13.3	19.3]		7	[-7.4	21.4]	
High	ref.			ref.			ref.					
Net migration rate <0%	65	[-3.3	133.3]		64.2	[-8.5	136.9]		59	[-16.8	134.8]	
0-3%	ref.			ref.			ref.					
>=3%	4	[-8.2	16.2]		4.2	[-10.6	19.0]		4	[-9.4	17.4]	
N (countries)	40			40			40					
Pseudo R2	0.5797			0.5776			0.579					

*School life expectancy: Low(<14.0 years), Medium (14.0-15.9 years), High(>=16.0 years).

* 0.01 ≤ p < 0.05, ** 0.001 ≤ p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

	2006			2007			2008		
School life expectancy									
Low	86.8	[7.0	166.6] *	78.2	[-2.9	159.3]	68.1	[-14.3	150.5]
Medium	4.8	[-6.4	16.0]	5.2	[-5.9	16.3]	5.1	[-3.9	14.1]
High	ref.			ref.			ref.		
Net migration rate <0%	61	[-18.1	140.1]	60	[-15.0	135.0]	59	[-22.0	140.0]
0-3%	ref.			ref.			ref.		
>=3%	3.8	[-5.5	13.1]	4.2	[-6.3	14.7]	2.7	[-4.9	10.3]
N (countries)	40			40			40		
Pseudo R2	0.5797			0.5776			0.579		
	2009			2010					
School life expectancy									
Low	61.8	[-20.5	144.1]	63.3	[-20.6	147.2]			
Medium	3.8	[-8.5	16.1]	4.3	[-8.1	16.7]			
High	ref.			ref.					
Net migration rate <0%	59	[-23.3	141.3]	58	[-24.0	140.0]			
0-3%	ref.			ref.					
>=3%	1.6	[-7.6	10.8]	2	[-8.7	12.7]			
N (countries)	40			40					
Pseudo R2	0.5519			0.5429					

*School life expectancy: Low(<14.0 years), Medium (14.0-15.9 years), High(>=16.0 years).

* 0.01 ≤ p < 0.05, ** 0.001 ≤ p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

Table 5: Individual-level analysis: Logistic regression of TB and school life expectancy, European Union and European Economic Area, 2000-2010

	2000				2001				2002				2003											
	Adjusted OR	[	95% CI	]	Adjusted OR	[	96% CI	]	Adjusted OR	[	97% CI	]	Adjusted OR	[	97% CI]								
School life expectancy																								
Low	3.40	[	2.02	5.73	]	***	3.43	[	1.96	6.02	]	***	3.56	[	1.99	6.39	]	***	3.24	[	1.82	5.79]	***
Medium	1.16	[	0.70	1.92	]		1.06	[	0.70	1.58	]		0.99	[	0.64	1.53	]		0.99	[	0.66	1.48]	
High	1.00						1.00						1.00					1.00						
Age group																								
0-9	0.22	[	0.16	0.29	]	***	0.24	[	0.19	0.30	]	***	0.22	[	0.18	0.28	]	***	0.21	[	0.16	0.27]	***
10-19	0.37	[	0.31	0.43	]	***	0.38	[	0.32	0.46	]	***	0.36	[	0.30	0.43	]	***	0.36	[	0.29	0.45]	***
20-29	1.00						1.00						1.00					1.00						
30-39	1.14	[	0.98	1.34	]		1.16	[	1.00	1.35	]	*	1.16	[	0.99	1.36	]		1.14	[	0.96	1.35]	
40-49	1.29	[	0.97	1.71	]		1.30	[	1.00	1.69	]	*	1.30	[	0.95	1.78	]		1.25	[	0.94	1.66]	
50-59	1.16	[	0.83	1.61	]		1.18	[	0.87	1.61	]		1.23	[	0.85	1.77	]		1.21	[	0.84	1.74]	
60-69	1.16	[	0.78	1.74	]		1.11	[	0.82	1.51	]		1.05	[	0.77	1.43	]		1.01	[	0.74	1.38]	
70+	1.50	[	0.84	2.70	]		1.48	[	0.91	2.42	]		1.45	[	0.88	2.37	]		1.41	[	0.88	2.27]	
Gender																								
Female	1.00						1.00						1.00					1.00						
Male	2.04	[	1.80	2.31	]	***	2.00	[	1.76	2.27	]	***	2.06	[	1.78	2.39	]	***	2.02	[	1.80	2.28]	***
Net migration rate																								
<0%	3.55	[	1.61	7.84	]	**	4.31	[	2.62	7.07	]	***	4.70	[	2.84	7.79	]	***	5.01	[	3.03	8.28]	***
0-3%	1.00						1.00						1.00					1.00						
>=3%	1.13	[	0.48	2.63	]		1.28	[	0.76	2.16	]		1.37	[	0.80	2.34	]		1.39	[	0.86	2.25]	
N (countries)	22				24				26				27											
N (cases and controls)	338,985,551				423,867,445				435,213,993				438,126,931											

*School life expectancy: Low(<14.0 years), Medium (14.0-15.9 years), High(>=16.0 years).

*The results were adjusted for individual-level age and sex, and country-level net migration rate.

* 0.01 ≤ p < 0.05, ** 0.001 ≤ p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

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Notes: The 29 countries included in this analysis were: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain Sweden and United Kingdom. Germany and Latvia have been included since 2001, Cyprus and Greece since 2002, Lithuania since 2003 and Bulgaria and Spain since 2007.

	2004				2005				2006				2007											
	Adjusted OR	[	97% CI	]	Adjusted OR	[	97% CI	]	Adjusted OR	[	97% CI	]	Adjusted OR	[	97% CI]								
School life expectancy																								
Low	3.06	[	1.70	5.52	]	***	2.79	[	1.57	4.96	]	***	2.78	[	1.58	4.90	]	***	2.59	[	1.33	5.05]	**
Medium	0.89	[	0.59	1.33	]		0.81	[	0.55	1.21	]		0.82	[	0.56	1.21	]		0.94	[	0.64	1.38]	
High	1.00						1.00						1.00					1.00						
Age group																								
0-9	0.23	[	0.19	0.27	]	***	0.21	[	0.17	0.25	]	***	0.21	[	0.16	0.27	]	***	0.24	[	0.19	0.29]	***
10-19	0.35	[	0.28	0.44	]	***	0.37	[	0.28	0.48	]	***	0.40	[	0.29	0.55	]	***	0.37	[	0.27	0.52]	***
20-29	1.00						1.00						1.00					1.00						
30-39	1.18	[	0.97	1.43	]		1.20	[	0.95	1.52	]		1.23	[	0.96	1.57	]		1.17	[	0.91	1.50]	
40-49	1.23	[	0.93	1.63	]		1.21	[	0.89	1.64	]		1.18	[	0.88	1.59	]		1.12	[	0.85	1.50]	
50-59	1.26	[	0.85	1.86	]		1.29	[	0.84	1.97	]		1.33	[	0.85	2.07	]		1.29	[	0.80	2.08]	
60-69	0.98	[	0.72	1.35	]		0.95	[	0.69	1.32	]		0.93	[	0.66	1.29	]		0.90	[	0.65	1.24]	
70+	1.40	[	0.89	2.19	]		1.39	[	0.88	2.20	]		1.40	[	0.91	2.17	]		1.32	[	0.92	1.89]	
gender																								
Female	1.00						1.00						1.00					1.00						
Male	2.01	[	1.75	2.31	]	***	2.01	[	1.70	2.37	]	***	1.94	[	1.65	2.28	]	***	1.97	[	1.70	2.28]	***
Net migration rate																								
<0%	5.36	[	3.20	8.97	]	***	5.60	[	3.43	9.13	]	***	5.64	[	3.48	9.12	]	***	5.29	[	3.33	8.41]	***
0-3%	1.00						1.00						1.00					1.00						
>=3%	1.48	[	0.91	2.40	]		1.57	[	1.00	2.46	]	*	1.72	[	1.12	2.64	]	*	1.97	[	1.29	2.99]	**
N (countries)	27						27						27					27						
N (cases and controls)	438,211,838						437,851,917						437,927,335					486,173,248						

*School life expectancy: Low(<14.0 years), Medium (14.0-15.9 years), High(>=16.0 years).

*The results were adjusted for individual-level age and sex, and country-level net migration rate.

* 0.01 ≤ p < 0.05, ** 0.001 ≤ p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

	2008			2009			2010		
	Adjusted OR	[97% CI]		Adjusted OR	[97% CI]		Adjusted OR	[97% CI]	
School life expectancy									
Low	2.70	[1.38 5.28]	**	2.25	[1.16 4.34]	*	2.13	[1.09 4.16]	*
Medium	0.93	[0.61 1.39]		0.82	[0.55 1.22]		0.79	[0.52 1.19]	
High	1.00			1.00			1.00		
Age group									
0-9	0.25	[0.19 0.32]	***	0.24	[0.18 0.32]	***	0.23	[0.17 0.32]	***
10-19	0.38	[0.29 0.49]	***	0.36	[0.28 0.45]	***	0.35	[0.27 0.44]	***
20-29	1.00			1.00			1.00		
30-39	1.19	[0.96 1.48]		1.12	[0.91 1.39]		1.16	[0.96 1.40]	
40-49	1.18	[0.88 1.59]		1.13	[0.84 1.51]		1.11	[0.83 1.48]	
50-59	1.34	[0.82 2.22]		1.33	[0.80 2.22]		1.32	[0.82 2.12]	
60-69	0.91	[0.65 1.28]		0.92	[0.65 1.29]		0.95	[0.66 1.35]	
70+	1.37	[0.94 1.99]		1.36	[0.93 1.98]		1.36	[0.95 1.94]	
gender									
Female	1.00			1.00			1.00		
Male	1.99	[1.69 2.36]	***	1.96	[1.64 2.33]	***	1.99	[1.71 2.33]	***
Net migration rate									
<0%	5.33	[3.33 8.52]	***	5.60	[3.57 8.77]	***	5.23	[3.23 8.48]	***
0-3%	1.00			1.00			1.00		
>=3%	2.15	[1.38 3.36]	**	2.10	[1.38 3.20]	**	1.96	[1.22 3.13]	**
N (countries)	27			27			27		
N (cases and controls)	486,606,697			486,895,273			486,036,813		

*School life expectancy: Low(<14.0 years), Medium (14.0-15.9 years), High(>=16.0 years).

*The results were adjusted for net migration, age and sex, and country-level net migration rate.

* 0.01 ≤ p < 0.05, ** 0.001 ≤ p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001