



## Tuberculosis FACT SHEET

### Tuberculosis Prevention and Control

# TB infection progressing to TB disease

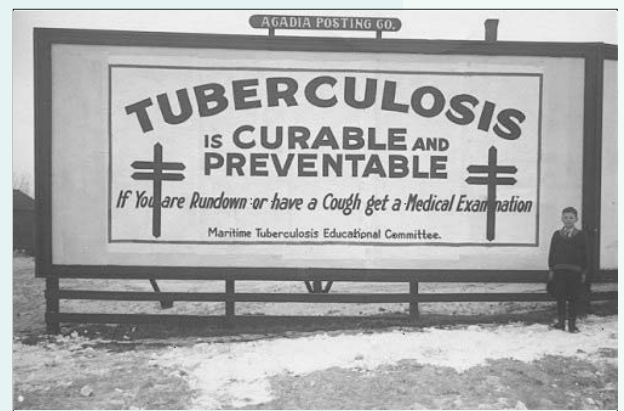
## Why does TB infection progress to TB disease?

A person with *TB infection* may develop *TB disease* if their immune system can't stop the bacteria from growing. The highest risk of *TB disease* is within the first 2 years of becoming infected. After the first 2 years, there is about a 10% chance of developing TB disease in a person's lifetime. This often happens when their immune system weakens.

## Who is more likely to get TB disease?

People with weakened immune systems are more likely to get TB disease. Babies, preschool children and the elderly have weaker immune systems than healthy adults. People with *TB and HIV infection* have very weak immune systems. The following conditions also weaken the immune system:

- organ transplants
- silicosis
- end stage kidney disease
- cancer of the head or neck
- diabetes
- cancer
- low body weight
- abuse of alcohol or drugs
- leukemia or Hodgkin's disease
- abnormal chest x-ray
- corticosteroids, radiation
- chemotherapy



## What can I do to prevent progression to TB disease?

If you have *TB infection*, it is important to protect your immune system from becoming weak. *Treatment of TB infection* with antibiotic(s) will help your immune system fight the TB bacteria and prevent *TB disease*. Knowing your HIV status will help you take special precautions if you have both *TB and HIV infection*.

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