

# *10 facts about*

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# tuberculosis

- Almost **2 million** people died of tuberculosis in 2000.
- More than **8 million** people become sick with TB each year.
- **One-third** of the world's population is currently infected with the TB bacillus.
- TB kills **more youth and adults** than any other infectious disease.
- Someone gets sick from TB **every 4 seconds**.
- Someone dies of TB **every 10 seconds**.
- TB is a contagious disease but only people that are sick with **pulmonary tuberculosis** are infectious.
- Like the common cold, TB spreads **through the air** when infectious people cough, spit, talk or sneeze.
- Left untreated, a person with active TB can infect between **10 and 15 people every year**.
- TB usually kills a person by gradually eating holes in the lungs.

Source: **TB Advocacy, A Practical Guide 1999**, *WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme*  
WHO Fact sheet N° 104, August 2002

