

Epidemiological situation regarding tuberculosis incidence among children of various ages during martial law

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Conflict of interest: none

OBJECTIVE. To analyze the epidemiological situation regarding tuberculosis (TB) in children and adolescents in Ukraine, taking into account the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the large-scale war.

MATERIALS AND METHODS. The epidemiological and statistical indicators of TB incidence in Ukraine were analyzed.

RESULTS. During 2022-2025, a negative trend in TB incidence was observed – an increase in incidence across all age groups. Among children with TB, there has been an increase in the percentage of the most vulnerable groups – young children and adolescents (ages 15-17). At the same time, there have been a decrease in the number of children with “mild”, limited forms of TB and an increase across all age groups in the percentage of TB patients who are bacteriologically active.

CONCLUSIONS. Over the past few years, for obvious reasons, the situation regarding TB detection, treatment, and patient follow-up has significantly deteriorated. During the war, all children in Ukraine are considered to be at high risk of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection and TB disease and require (at the earliest opportunity) specific screening for TB.

KEY WORDS: tuberculosis, children, epidemiology, incidence, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.