

TB Screening and the Role of Civil Surgeons

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Accreditation Statement



Accreditation Statement

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UAN Number: UAN JA0000238-0000-26-089-L99-P.

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IPCE CREDIT™

This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 18.25 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credit for learning and change.

Other Healthcare Professionals:

A record of attendance will be provided to all registrants for requesting credits in accordance with state nursing boards, specialty societies or other professional associations.

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Available Credit

- 18.25 ACPE,
- 18.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*
- 18.25 ANCC
- 18.25 Attendance
- 18.25 IPCE

Disclosure:

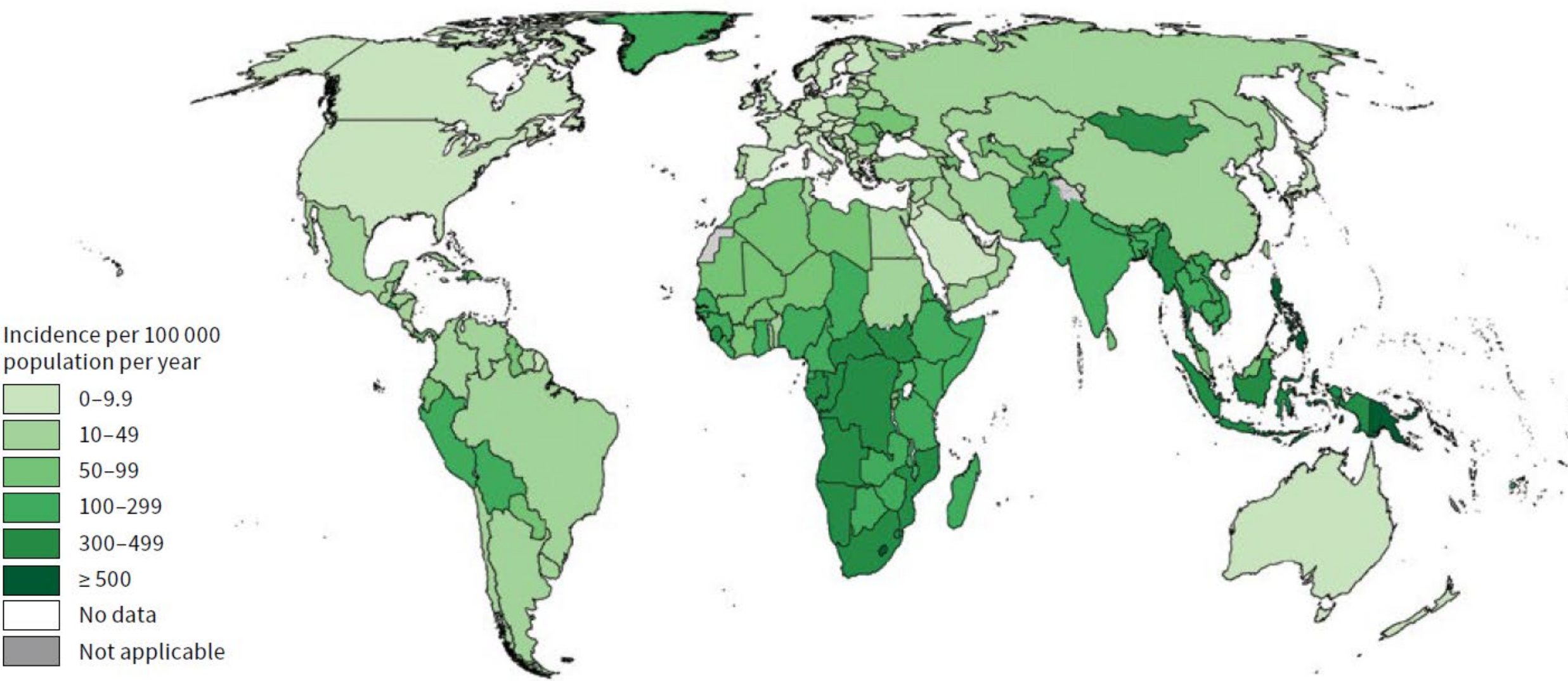
No relevant financial disclosures to report and no mention of off-label use of any medications or products

Learning Objectives

- Describe the demographics of TB among immigrants to the US
- Explain how TB screening is conducted for immigrants and the role of the Civil Surgeon
- Discuss how Civil Surgeons and health departments collaborate to diagnose and treat immigrants with TB infection or TB disease

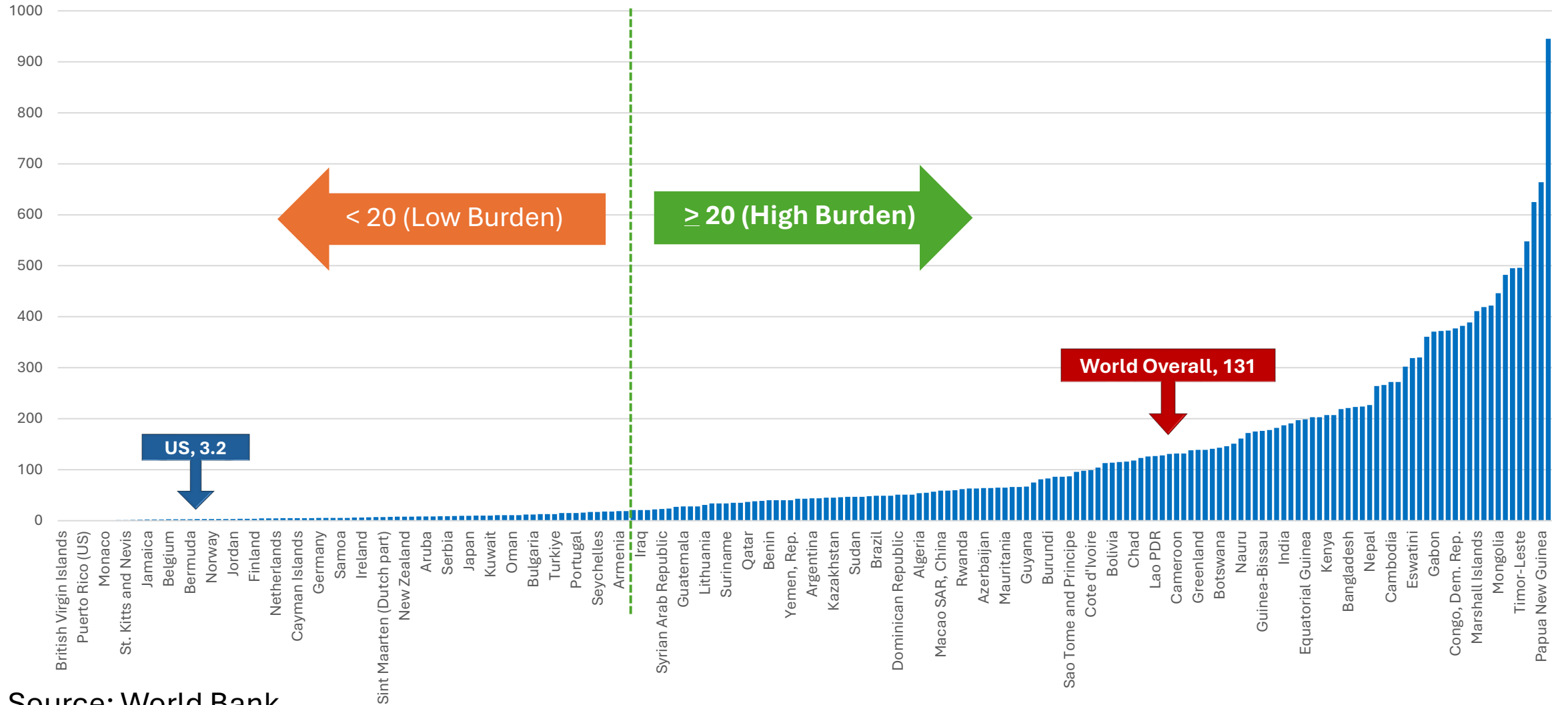
Immigration-related TB Demographics in the US

Estimated TB incidence rates at country level, 2024



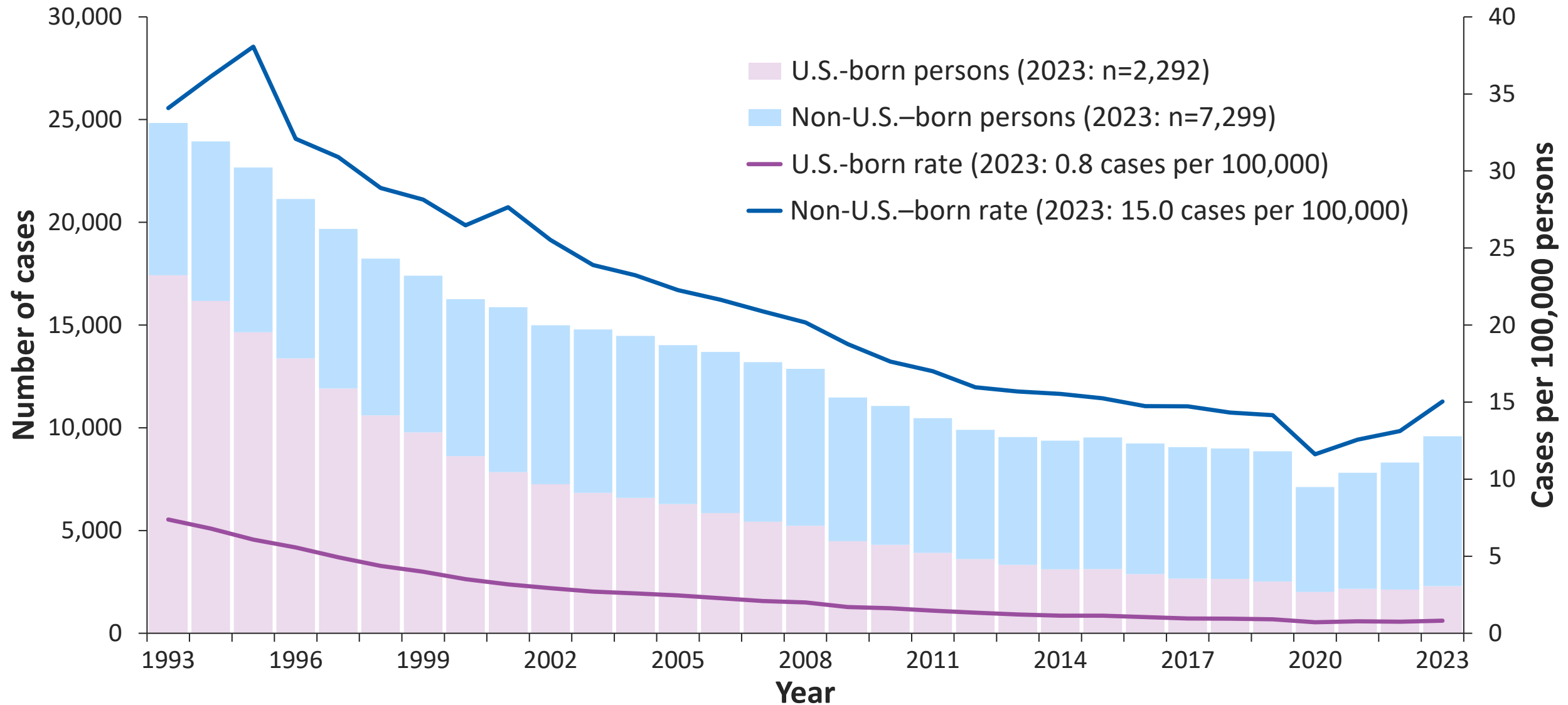
Source: WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2025

Incidence of tuberculosis disease (cases per 100,000) 2024



Source: World Bank

TB Cases and Incidence Rates by Origin of Birth,* United States, 1993–2023

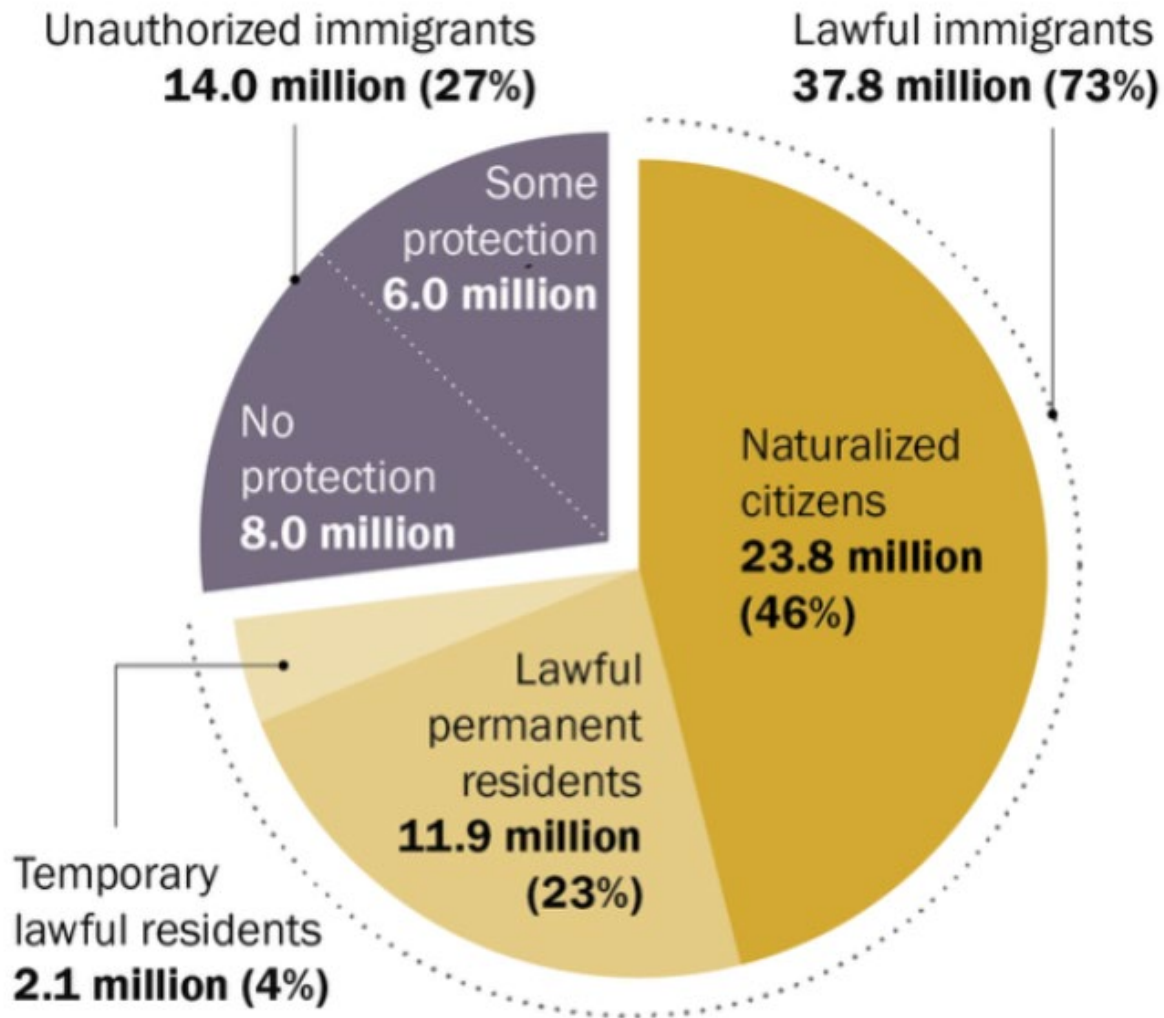


*Persons born in the United States, certain U.S. territories, or elsewhere to at least one U.S. citizen parent are categorized as U.S.-born. All other persons are categorized as non-U.S.-born.

Are immigrants screened for TB?

Terminology

- **Immigrant** – Person who comes to the US intending to remain permanently.
- **Nonimmigrant visitor** – Person visiting the US who intends to return to their home country.
- **Refugee** – (UN designation) An individual outside the US, unable to return home. Usually sheltered in refugee housing/camp until approved for placement in the US.
- **Asylee** – (US designation) Same as a refugee but applies for asylum after arriving in the US.
- **Lawful permanent resident** – Non-citizen with permission to remain in the US permanently. Aka “green card holder.”
- **Naturalized citizen** – Person who has achieved US citizenship after being an LPR for a required period and meeting additional requirements.



Total U.S. foreign-born population in 2023:
51.8 million

Source: Pew Research Center

Nonimmigrant Arrivals 147 million

Entering on temporary basis
Intending to return home
Tourism, business, temporary or
seasonal work, study

Source: Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2024
Office of Homeland Security Statistics

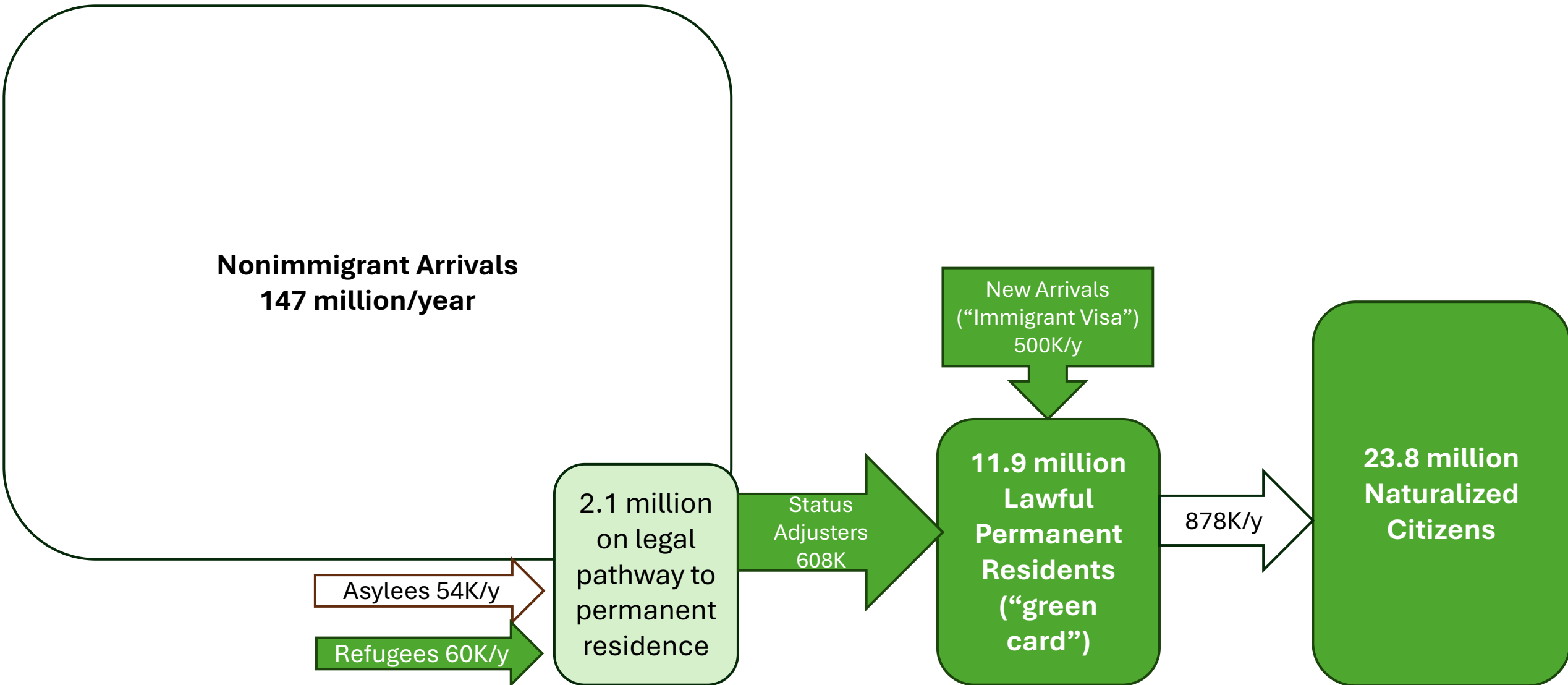
US Citizenship and Immigration Service

Department of Homeland Security

Health-Related Grounds of Inadmissibility

- **INA212(a)(1)(A) specifies medical conditions that render an applicant inadmissible on health-related grounds:**
 - Communicable diseases of public health significance
 - **Tuberculosis**
 - Hansen's disease
 - Syphilis
 - Gonorrhea
 - Failure to show proof of required vaccinations
 - Physical or mental disorder with associated harmful behavior
 - Substance abuse or addiction as set forth in HHS regulations

TB Screening in Immigration Processes



Who performs TB screening?

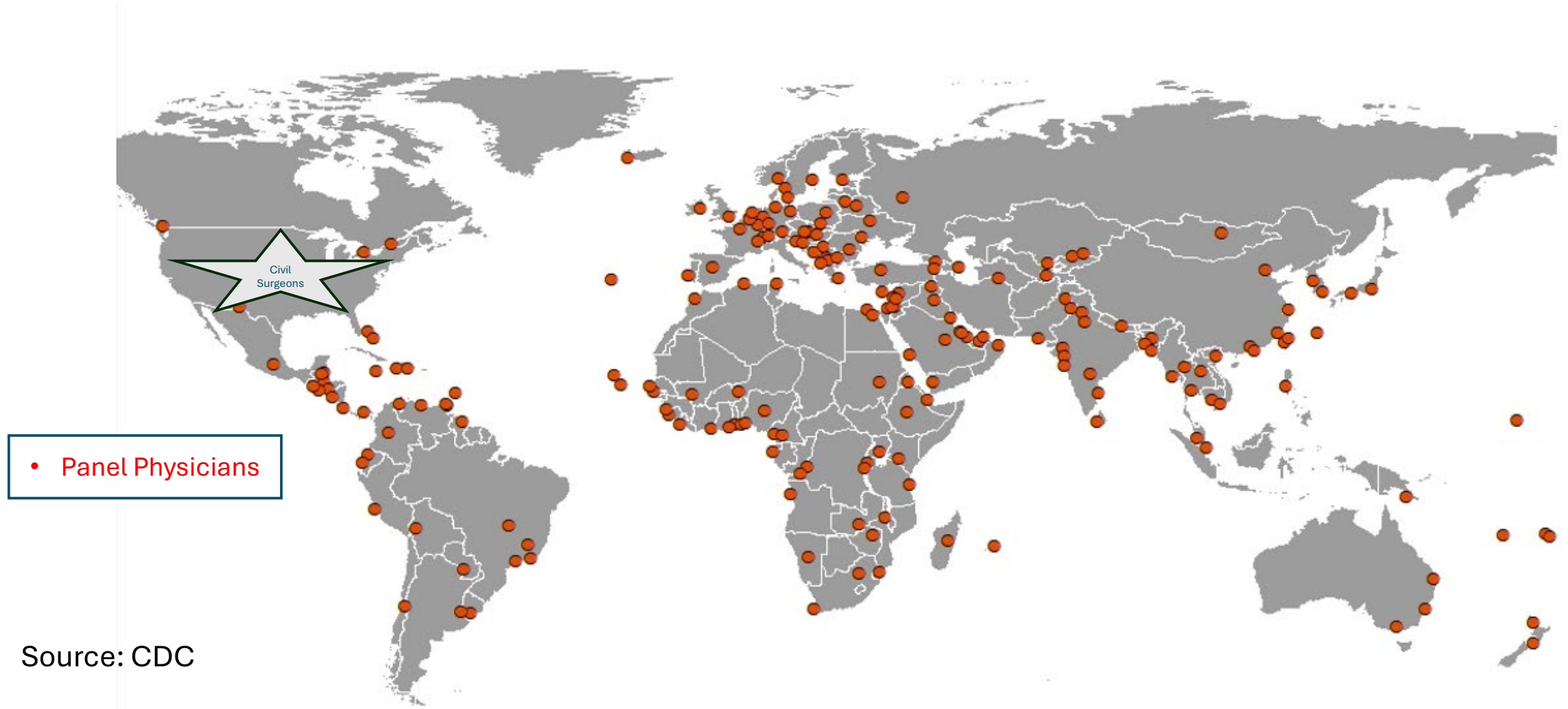
Civil Surgeons

- **Doctors in the U.S. who perform medical examinations for persons adjusting their status to permanent residency**
 - Domestic
 - Designated by DHS/USCIS
 - More than 5,000 across the U.S.
 - Physicians submit an application package to USCIS
 - Identify inadmissibility on health-related grounds

Panel Physicians

- **Medically trained, licensed, and experienced medical doctors practicing overseas who are appointed by the local U.S. Embassy or Consulate**
 - Abroad
 - More than 840
 - Embassies and consulates appoint panel physicians
 - Number of panel physicians in country is based on need
 - Annual agreement
 - Identify inadmissibility on health-related grounds

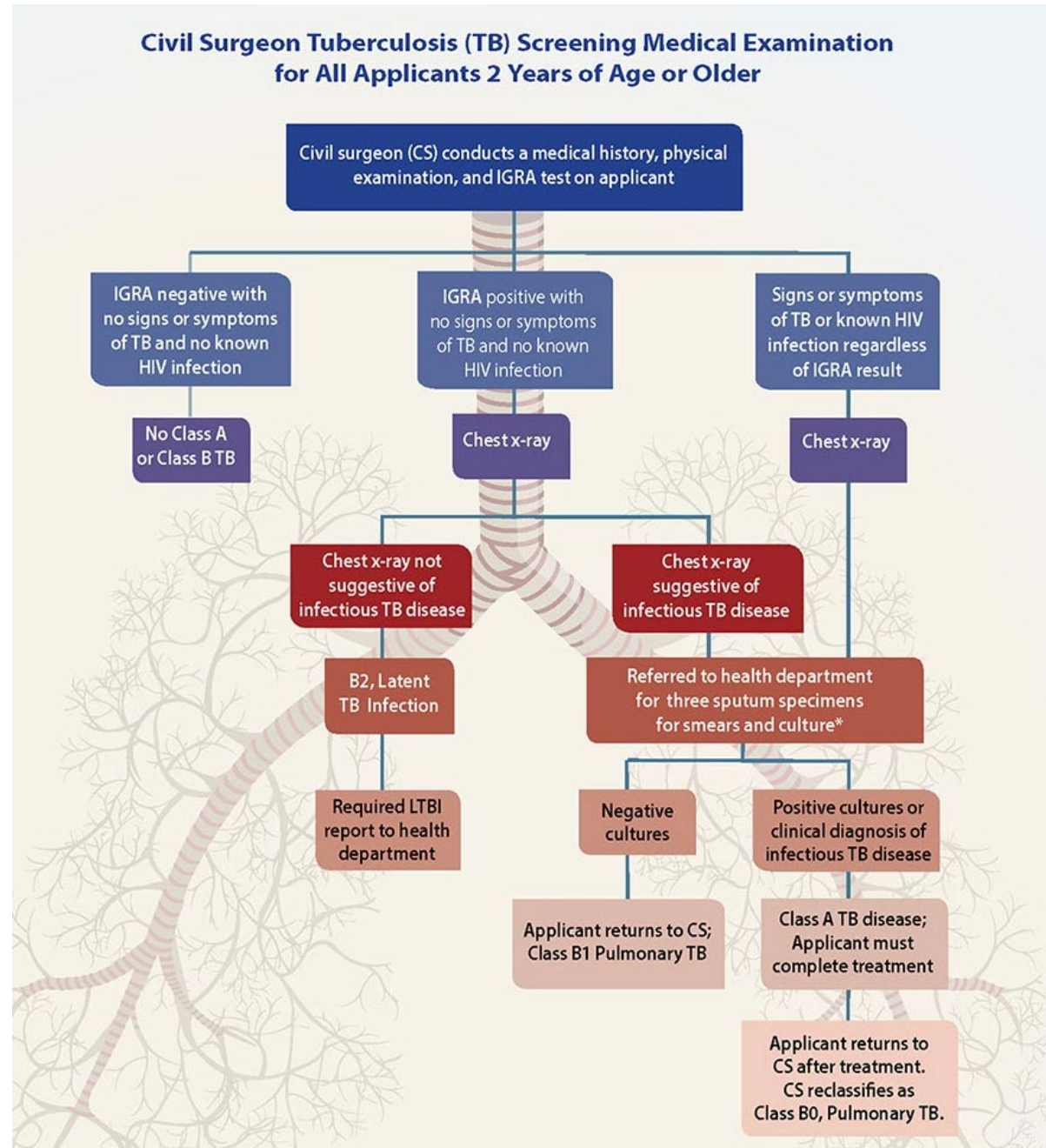
Centralized -> Decentralized



TB Screening by Pathway

New Immigrant Arrivals Examined by Panel Physician OUTSIDE the US		Status Adjusters Examined by Civil Surgeon INSIDE the US
Low Burden Country	High Burden Country	Any country of origin
≥ 15 years of age: Chest x-ray (No screening for LTBI)	≥ 2 years of age: IGRA Chest x-ray if IGRA is positive	≥ 2 years of age: IGRA Chest x-ray if IGRA is positive

Algorithm for Civil Surgeon TB Screening



Gaps and Opportunities

- Treatment for TB infection (latent TB) is not required
- Local Health Department resources are limited
- Primary care providers encouraged to treat

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/hcp/education/latent-tb-infection-guide-primary-care-providers.html>

LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION

A GUIDE FOR PRIMARY
HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS,
Viral Hepatitis, STD, and
TB Prevention



Center for
Tuberculosis

Q & A

Thank you!