

# The Role of the Public Health Nurse

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# Learning Objectives



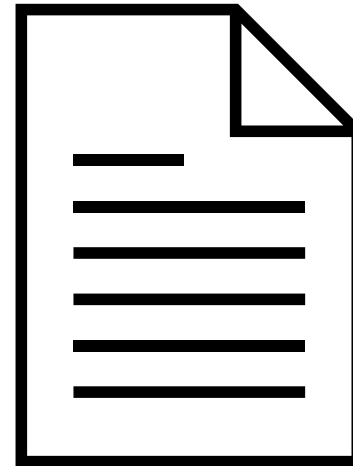
Explain the role of public health  
in the management of  
tuberculosis



List the activities of public  
health nurses in the prevention  
and control of tuberculosis

# Disclosures

- No Relevant Financial Relationships
- No Off-Label Investigational Uses



# Tuberculosis in History

- Tuberculosis is one of the oldest known infectious diseases
- Tuberculosis was identified in a bone that was over 4,000 years old
- In the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC Hippocrates wrote about patient's with consumption
- Epidemics occurred in Europe from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century AD
- Late 1600's to 1700's – in coastal towns, physicians could board vessels and determine who could disembark the ship and who could not

# Tuberculosis in History

- In the early to mid 1800's, a board of health was established in some states, Ladies Benevolent Societies started visiting the sick and private sanatoriums were established.
- In 1904, the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis established (later becoming the National TB Association, 1918).
- July 1, 1946, the Communicable Disease Center was established

# In today's world, what are the core functions of public health?

1. assessment, implementation, evaluation
2. assurance, evaluation, revision
- ✓ 3. assessment, policy development, assurance
4. assurance, implementation, evaluation

# Core Public Health Functions

- **Assessment:**
  - Collect, compile, and analyze information
  - Identify health risks and services needed
- **Policy Development:**
  - Based on current scientific knowledge
- **Assurance:**
  - Assure receipt of necessary services to achieve agreed upon goals by providing services directly and encouraging actions by other entities

# Essential Services of Public Health

- Monitor health status of the community
- Diagnose and investigate health issues
- Inform, educate and empower people
- Mobilize community health partnerships
- Develop policies and plans for implementation of identified services
- Enforce laws and regulations
- Link people with needed services
- Assure competent workforce
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality
- Participate in research



# Public Health Goals for Tuberculosis

- Stop and prevent transmission of TB in the community
- Assure early identification of persons with tuberculosis disease
- Assure appropriate and timely and consistent treatment of tuberculosis disease to prevent drug resistance
- Assure completion of effective treatment to cure

# Tuberculosis Reporting

- A diagnosed or suspected case of active TB disease must be reported within 24 hours to the public health authority
- Reporting is accomplished by the healthcare providers and laboratories
- Reports can be made via any reporting method (phone, fax, electronic reporting system)

# Benefits of Surveillance

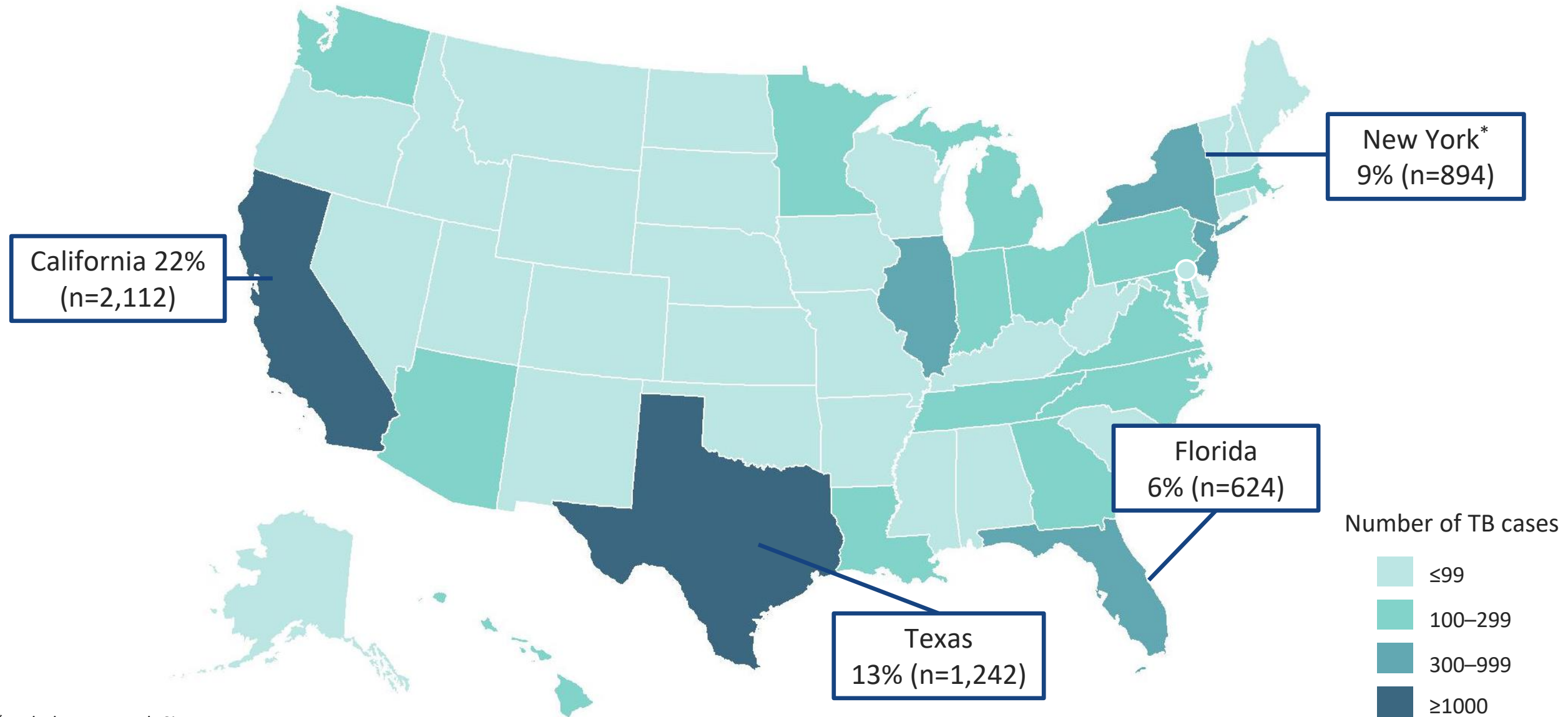
- Estimate the magnitude of the problem and population involved
- Determine the geographic distribution
- Detect epidemics/outbreaks
- Evaluate control measures
- Facilitate planning
- Stimulate research

# TB in the United States

10,347 cases of  
tuberculosis in  
the US in 2024

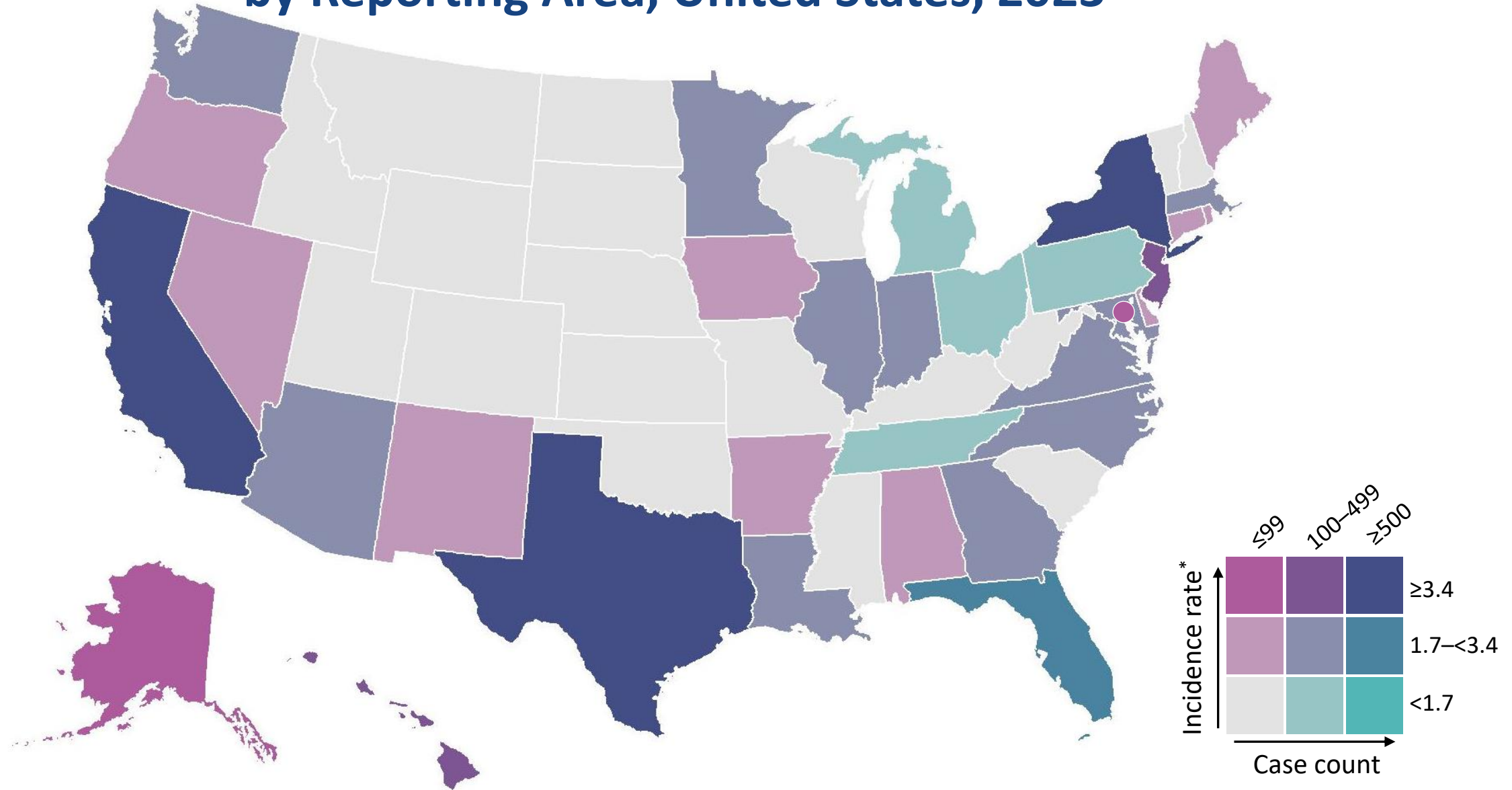
The US TB rate  
increased to  
3.0/1,000,000 in  
2024.

# TB Cases and Percentages by Reporting Area, United States, 2023 (N=9,633)



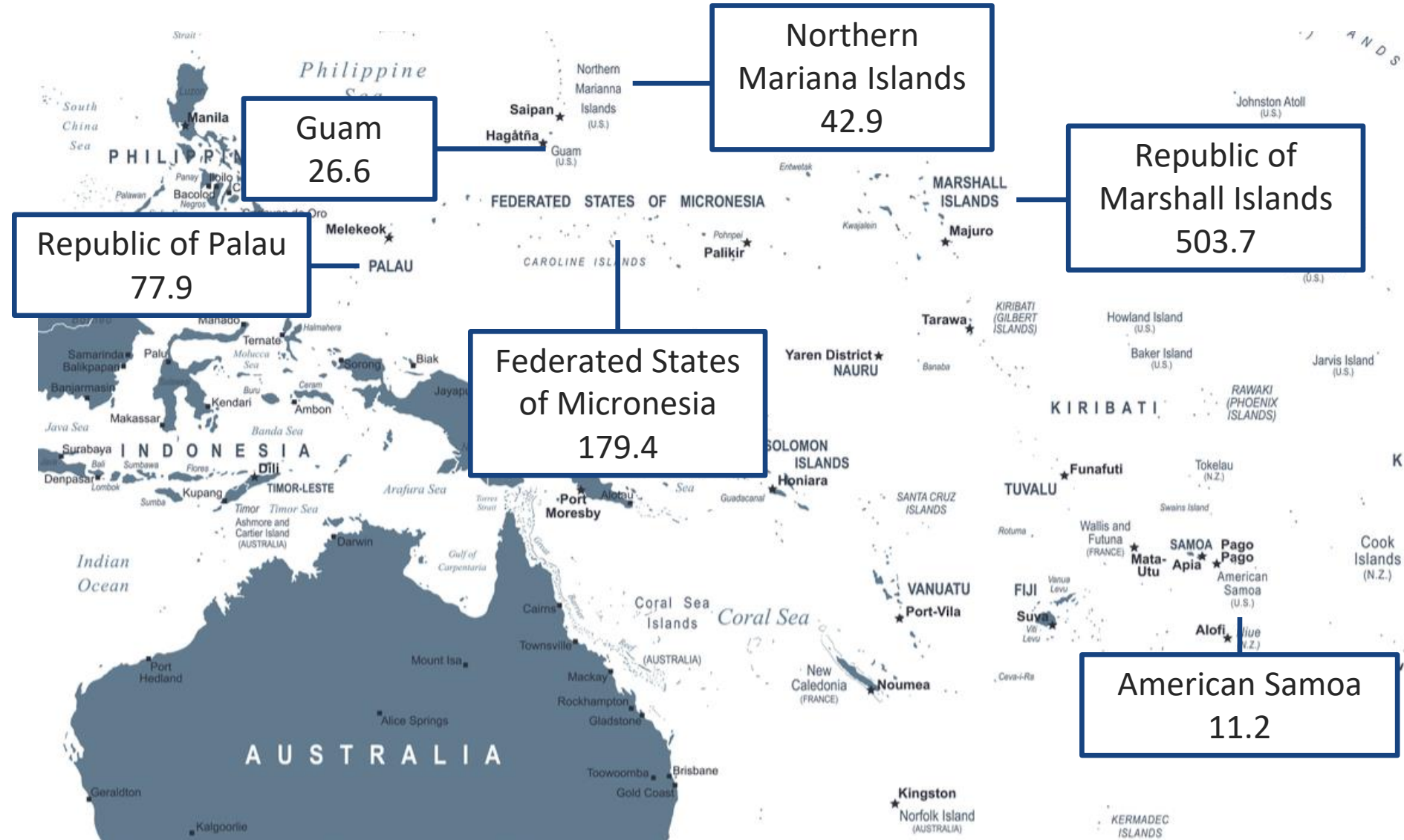
\* Includes New York City

# TB Cases and Incidence Rates\* by Reporting Area, United States, 2023



\*Cases per 100,000 persons

# TB Incidence Rates\* by U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands, 2023



\*Cases per 100,000 persons

# Roles and Responsibilities of the Public Health Team

- The Public Health Team consists of:
  - **Physician** – works in or with the public health department providing guidelines and orders under which the nurse will function
  - **Registered Nurse** – works in the public health department following policies, procedures, guidelines and orders to assure goals are met
  - **Non-licensed personnel** – administrative, medical assistants, DOT workers – provide supportive roles for the nurse and the physician
  - **Other Professionals** - Epidemiologist, Pharmacist, Social Worker, Laboratorians, IT personnel, Public Health Assistant, Mayo Consultation Team Members, CDC Personnel, etc.



# The Public Health Nurse in TB History



With the institution of public health nurses in the 1920's, the value of nurses in the prevention and control of TB became apparent.

<https://www.sctuberculosis.com/important-links>

# The Role of the Public Health Nurse


- Follow the TB Program Policies, Procedures, Guidelines and orders as established
- Assess individuals and perform IGRA or TST testing when appropriate
- Serve as a local expert on tuberculosis testing and treatment within the community
- Case manage individuals with TB infection and active TB disease
- Participate in and assist with contact investigations
- Stay abreast of current information on Tuberculosis

# Case Management in Tuberculosis

Priority to assure that the client receives:

- appropriate assessment, testing and diagnosis
- treatment, follow-up testing and medications to assure cure is obtained
- supportive services to assist with participation to cure

# What support services are available?

1. Laboratory capable of conducting TB testing
2. CDC & Mayo Clinic Center for Tuberculosis
3. TB Nurses in other jurisdictions or states
-  4. All of the above

# Support Services

- Laboratories: private, state TB lab and CDC
- State TB Program, particularly the State Nurse Consultant
- Supervisors, TB Program and Nursing
- Pharmacists
- CDC
- Mayo Clinic Center for Tuberculosis

# Questions and Answers







Thank you