

1 **Incidence and Prevalence of Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Lung Disease in a Large**  
2 **United States Managed Care Health Plan, 2008-2015**

3

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21

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26

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52 **Abstract**

53 **Rationale:** Estimating the annual incidence and prevalence of nontuberculous mycobacterial  
54 (NTM) lung disease may assist in a better understanding of the public health and economic  
55 impacts of this disease and its treatment.

56 **Objective:** To estimate the yearly incidence and prevalence of administrative claims-based NTM  
57 lung disease between 2008 and 2015 in a United States (U.S.) managed care claims database.

58 **Methods:** We used a national managed care claims database (Optum<sup>®</sup> Clinformatics<sup>®</sup> Data  
59 Mart) representing a geographically diverse population of approximately 27 million members  
60 annually. All medical claims from January 1, 2007 to June 30, 2016 were scanned for diagnostic  
61 codes for NTM lung disease (ICD-9-CM 031.0 or ICD-10-CM A31.0). We defined a case of  
62 NTM lung disease as having at least two medical claims with 031.0 or A31.0 that were dated at  
63 least 30 days apart. Annual incidence and prevalence were estimated for each calendar year from  
64 2008 to 2015.

65 **Results:** From 2008 to 2015, the annual incidence of NTM lung disease increased from 3.13  
66 (95% CI, 2.88-3.40) to 4.73 (95% CI, 4.43-5.05) per 100,000 person-years, and the annual  
67 prevalence increased from 6.78 (95% CI, 6.45-7.14) to 11.70 (95% CI, 11.26-12.16) per 100,000  
68 persons. The average annual change in incidence and prevalence were +5.2% (95% CI, 4.0-  
69 6.4%;  $P<0.01$ ) and +7.5% (95% CI, 6.7-8.2%;  $P<0.01$ ), respectively. For women, the annual  
70 incidence increased from 4.16 (95% CI, 3.76-4.60) to 6.69 (95% CI, 6.19-7.22) per 100,000  
71 person-years, and the annual prevalence increased from 9.63 (95% CI, 9.08-10.22) to 16.78  
72 (95% CI, 16.04-17.55) per 100,000 persons. For individuals aged 65 years or older, the annual  
73 incidence increased from 12.70 (95% CI, 11.46-14.07) to 18.37 (95% CI, 16.98-19.87) per  
74 100,000 person-years, and the annual prevalence increased from 30.27 (95% CI, 28.41-32.24) to

75 47.48 (95% CI, 45.37-49.67) per 100,000 persons. The incidence and prevalence of NTM lung  
76 disease increased in most U.S. states and overall at the national level.

77 **Conclusions:** The incidence and prevalence of NTM lung disease appears to be increasing in the  
78 U.S., particularly among women and older age groups.

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80

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## 89 **Introduction**

90 Nontuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) lung disease is an increasingly recognized chronic  
91 condition in the United States (U.S.) associated with substantial morbidity and mortality (1-6).  
92 Increasing incidence has been reported in recent institutional- and population-based studies in the  
93 U.S. and abroad (7-13), with increased risk among those older than 50 years or with chronic  
94 underlying lung diseases such as non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, and  
95 emphysema (1, 14-16). The vast majority of NTM lung disease in the U.S. is caused by  
96 *Mycobacterium avium* complex (17), although other species such as *Mycobacterium abscessus*,  
97 *Mycobacterium kansasii*, *Mycobacterium xenopi*, and others contribute to this disease burden—  
98 particularly elsewhere in the world (18).

99  
100 Few national estimates of NTM lung disease burden in the U.S. are available, and estimating the  
101 annual incidence and prevalence of NTM lung disease may assist in a better understanding of the  
102 public health and economic impacts of this disease and its treatment (5). The most recent U.S.-  
103 wide prevalence estimate assessed the time period of 1997 to 2007 and, based on a Medicare  
104 population aged 65 years or older, observed that NTM lung disease increased at an annual rate of  
105 8.2% (10). Beyond regional studies (19), nationwide incidence has not been reported in the U.S.

106  
107 The objective of this study was to estimate the yearly incidence and prevalence of NTM lung  
108 disease between 2008 and 2015 using a large U.S. national managed care claims database.

109

## 110 **Methods**

### 111 **Administrative Claims Database**

112 Optum® Clinformatics® Data Mart (CDM) contains eligibility and pharmacy and medical claims  
113 data from a large U.S. health plan affiliated with Optum. CDM is a statistically de-identified,  
114 HIPAA-compliant, closed system of administrative claims that includes patient enrollment,  
115 physician, facility, and pharmacy claims; less than one-third of the members have laboratory  
116 results.

117  
118 From 2007 to 2015, the CDM database represented approximately 27 million enrolled members  
119 annually, with either medical and pharmacy insurance coverage or medical coverage alone. The  
120 individuals covered by this health plan are geographically diverse across the U.S., with data for  
121 insurance plan members in all 50 states. Although predominantly a commercially insured  
122 population, Medicare Advantage (ie, Part C) members have been included with increasing  
123 numbers in recent years (approximately 3.5 million in 2015). Supplemental Table 1 gives the  
124 number of beneficiaries by insurance type and study year. Demographic data were summarized  
125 and compared with the general population using year 2012 and 2015 U.S. Census Bureau data  
126 (Supplemental Tables 2 and 3).

127  
128 The patient cohort of NTM lung disease was identified from the entire CDM between January 1,  
129 2007 and June 30, 2016. Optum also provided the numbers of total insured beneficiaries of the  
130 health plan as well as breakdowns by age, sex, insurance type (commercial vs. Medicare), and  
131 state in yearly time bands.

132

**133 Claims-Based Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Lung Disease Case Definition**

134 The diagnostic codes for NTM lung disease are 031.0 and A31.0, corresponding to the  
135 International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision or 10th revision, clinical modification (ICD-  
136 9-CM or ICD-10-CM), respectively. A case of NTM lung disease is defined as an individual who  
137 had at least 2 medical claims with 031.0 or A31.0 that were dated at least 30 days apart between  
138 January 1, 2007 and June 30, 2016.

139 The index date is defined as the date of the first claim with the diagnostic ICD-9/10-CM code for  
140 NTM lung disease. Baseline is defined as the period of 12 months preceding the index date.

141

**142 Incidence and Prevalence Estimation**

143 Annual incidence and prevalence were estimated for each calendar year from 2008 to 2015.

144 Supplemental Figure 1 shows the flowcharts for prevalence and incidence calculation.

145

146 Once all the beneficiaries who met our case definition of NTM lung disease were extracted from  
147 CDM between January 1, 2007 and June 30, 2016, the incident cases and prevalent cases were  
148 identified from this patient cohort for each calendar year from 2008 to 2015. A case of NTM  
149 lung disease is included as an incident case if the beneficiary: 1) had claims with the ICD code  
150 031.0 or A31.0 within that calendar year, 2) received no claims for the disease in the preceding  
151 year, and 3) had a 24-month enrollment for the calendar year and the preceding year. Similarly, a  
152 case of NTM lung disease is included as a prevalent case if the beneficiary: 1) had claims with  
153 031.0 or A31.0 within that calendar year and 2) had a 12-month enrollment for the year. Due to  
154 the chronic nature of NTM lung disease, and the fact that patients may relapse or become re-  
155 infected after eradication of infection (27), individual beneficiaries could be counted as incident

156 and/or prevalent cases in more than 1 year. If multiple claims with 031.0 or A31.0 were received  
157 within a calendar year, the beneficiary is counted only once, in line with recommendations from  
158 the American Thoracic Society/Infectious Diseases Society of America (ATS/IDSA) guidelines  
159 on treatment duration – at least 12 months on 2 or 3 antimicrobials (22).

160

161 The population at risk for annual incidence estimation was the number of total insured  
162 beneficiaries in that calendar year excluding: 1) the number of beneficiaries without full-year  
163 medical insurance coverage for the incident year as well as the preceding year, and 2) the  
164 number of beneficiaries with a medical claim for NTM lung disease in the preceding year. The  
165 population at risk for annual prevalence estimation was the number of total insured beneficiaries  
166 in that calendar year excluding the number of beneficiaries without full-year medical insurance  
167 coverage. Of note, the number of beneficiaries without full-year insurance coverage was  
168 estimated by assessing the coverage status of a 5% random sample of CDM, under the  
169 assumption that the proportion with full-year coverage within the 5% random sample in a given  
170 year could be applied to the total beneficiary population in that year.

171

172 Incidence of NTM lung disease at each calendar year was calculated by dividing the total  
173 number of unique beneficiaries fulfilling the incident case definition by the population at risk for  
174 incidence estimation. Prevalence at each calendar year was calculated by dividing the total  
175 number of unique beneficiaries fulfilling the prevalent case definition by the population at risk  
176 for prevalence estimation. Both incidence and prevalence were stratified by age, sex, insurance  
177 type (commercial vs. Medicare Advantage), and state.

178



## 179 **Statistics**

180 Poisson regression models were fitted to the counts of prevalent and incident cases and the at-  
181 risk population sizes to estimate the annual incidence and prevalence and their 95% confidence  
182 intervals (CIs). Prevalence and incidence stratified by sex, age group, and insurance type were  
183 also estimated using the same method.

184  
185 For the trend analysis in prevalence and incidence over the years, change is assumed to take an  
186 exponential function. For any given year  $t$ , if the prevalence is  $Y_t$  and the annual rate of increase  
187 is  $b\%$ , then the prevalence of the next year is  $Y_{t+1} = Y_t(1 + b\%)$ . Using a Poisson regression  
188 model to fit the annual prevalence at multiple years and letting  $\beta$  be the coefficient of the year  
189 variable, the average annual percentage increase is estimated as  $\exp(\beta) - 1$ .

190  
191 Statistical analyses were conducted using SAS<sup>®</sup> Enterprise Guide<sup>®</sup> (release version 7.15 HF6).

## 193 **Results**

### 194 **Beneficiaries**

195 Supplemental Tables 2 and 3 provide the comparison of demographics of CDM with U.S.  
196 benchmarks in 2012 and 2015, respectively. From January 1, 2007 to June 30, 2016, a total of  
197 74,984,596 beneficiaries were enrolled in the nationwide health plan affiliated with Optum.  
198 Among them, a total of 16,872 insured health plan members had at least one medical claim with  
199 the ICD-9/10-CM code for NTM lung disease. Of these beneficiaries, 9,476 met the case  
200 definition for NTM lung disease. Among the cases of NTM lung disease, the mean ( $\pm$ SD)  
201 number of claims with 031.0 or A31.0 was 31 ( $\pm$ 65); the median was 14, and the interquartile

202 range (IQR) was 28. The mean ( $\pm$ SD) number of days between the first and the last claim was  
203 639 ( $\pm$ 677); the median was 391, and the IQR was 721. Most cases were women (n=6,530;  
204 68.9%), who had a mean ( $\pm$ SD) age of 67 ( $\pm$ 15) years. Most (89.1%) cases were aged >50 years  
205 (distribution by age: 1-30 years, 2.8%; 31-40 years, 2.6%; 41-50 years, 5.5%; 51-60 years,  
206 15.3%; 61-70 years, 26.5%; 71-80 years, 29.2%; and 81-90 years, 18.1%). At the time of the first  
207 diagnosis, 63.8% of the NTM cases (n=9,476) were covered by a commercial plan and 36.2%  
208 were covered by Medicare Advantage. About 15.2% (n=1,441) of the cases received the first  
209 NTM diagnosis in 2007, followed by 11.9% (n=1,130) in 2013, 11.5% (n=1,092) in 2015, 11.2%  
210 (n=1,061) in 2012, and 10.8% (n=1,019) in 2014. The regions where these beneficiaries received  
211 their first diagnosis varied (Figure 1). States with >500 NTM lung disease cases were Florida  
212 (n=1,299), Texas (n=954), California (n=686), Wisconsin (n=608), New York (n=566), and  
213 Georgia (n=504).

214

215 Because the baseline period is defined as the 12 months preceding the index date, evaluation of  
216 baseline demographics and characteristics required 12-month continuous insurance enrollment  
217 prior to the index date. Accordingly, demographic and baseline disease characteristics were  
218 available for 6280 cases (Table 1): they were predominantly women (68%), had a mean ( $\pm$ SD)  
219 age of 69 ( $\pm$ 14) years, and a mean ( $\pm$ SD) Charlson comorbidity index of 2.2 ( $\pm$ 2.3). Most of the  
220 cases (80.2%) had at least one underlying lung disease including asthma, bronchiectasis, chronic  
221 obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis, or prior tuberculosis. Bronchiectasis  
222 (37.0%) and COPD (52.6%) were the most common chronic underlying lung diseases observed.

223

## 224 **Incidence**

225 The annual incidence of NTM lung disease increased from 3.13 (95% CI, 2.88-3.40) in 2008 to  
226 4.73 (95% CI, 4.43-5.05) in 2015 per 100,000 person-years. The average rate of yearly change  
227 for incidence was +5.2% (95% CI, 4.0-6.4;  $P<0.01$ ). The incidence of NTM lung disease overall  
228 and stratified by age, sex, and insurance plan subgroups is shown in Figure 2A. Among people  
229 aged younger than 65 years from 2008 to 2015, the incidence of NTM lung disease increased  
230 from 1.34 (95% CI, 1.16-1.54) to 1.82 (95% CI, 1.62-2.04) per 100,000 person-years,  
231 respectively. The incidence of NTM lung disease in people aged 65 years or older from 2008 to  
232 2015 increased from 12.70 (95% CI, 11.46-14.07) to 18.37 (95% CI, 16.98-19.87) per 100,000  
233 person-years, respectively. In men, the incidence from 2008 to 2015 increased from 2.05 (95%  
234 CI, 1.77-2.37) to 2.71 (95% CI, 2.40-3.07) per 100,000 person-years, respectively, compared  
235 with an increase in women from 4.16 (95% CI, 3.76-4.60) to 6.69 (95% CI, 6.19-7.22) per  
236 100,000 person-years. The annual incidence in Medicare plan members increased from 2008 to  
237 2015 from 8.89 (95% CI, 7.31-10.82) to 16.38 (95% CI, 14.87-18.05) per 100,000 person-years,  
238 respectively. The annual incidence rate in commercial plan members increased from 2008 to  
239 2015 from 2.75 (95% CI, 2.51-3.01) to 2.99 (95% CI, 2.73-3.26) per 100,000 person-years.  
240 Supplemental Table 4A shows the average rate of yearly change of incidence for these  
241 subgroups.

242

### 243 **Prevalence**

244 The annual prevalence from 2008 to 2015 increased from 6.78 (95% CI, 6.45-7.14) to 11.70  
245 (95% CI, 11.26-12.16) per 100,000 persons, respectively. The average rate of yearly change for  
246 prevalence was +7.5% (95% CI, 6.7-8.2;  $P<0.01$ ). The prevalence of NTM lung disease overall  
247 and stratified by age, sex, and insurance plan subgroups is shown in Figure 2B. The respective

248 yearly prevalence estimates for NTM lung disease from 2008 to 2015 in people younger than 65  
249 years of age increased from 2.87 (95% CI, 2.63-3.12) to 4.10 (95% CI, 3.82-4.41) per 100,000  
250 persons compared with an increase in people 65 years and older from 30.27 (95% CI, 28.41-  
251 32.24) to 47.48 (95% CI, 45.37-49.67) per 100,000 persons. The yearly prevalence estimates  
252 from 2008 to 2015 increased in men from 3.79 (95% CI, 3.44-4.18) to 6.45 (95% CI, 5.99-6.94)  
253 per 100,000 persons, respectively, and increased in women from 9.63 (95% CI, 9.08-10.22) to  
254 16.78 (95% CI, 16.04-17.55) per 100,000 persons. The annual prevalence estimates in Medicare  
255 plan members increased from 2008 to 2015 from 19.47 (95% CI, 17.25-21.97) to 43.11 (95% CI,  
256 40.86-45.49) per 100,000 persons, respectively. The annual prevalence in commercial plan  
257 members increased from 2008 to 2015 from 5.95 (95% CI, 5.63-6.30) to 6.77 (95% CI, 6.41-  
258 7.15) per 100,000 persons, respectively. Supplemental Table 4B shows the average rate of yearly  
259 change of prevalence for these subgroups.

260

### 261 **Geographic variation**

262 As illustrated in Figure 3, it appears that the incidence and prevalence of NTM lung disease from  
263 2008 to 2015 has increased in most U.S. states (incidence increased by at least 10% in 29 states,  
264 and prevalence increased by at least 10% in 39 states) and overall at the national level. The  
265 incidence rates of NTM lung disease in Hawaii and Arizona were consistently in the high range  
266 ( $\geq 6/100,000$  person-years) in 2008 and 2015. The prevalence of NTM lung disease in Hawaii  
267 was consistently in the high range ( $\geq 17/100,000$  person-years) in 2008 and 2015, whereas in  
268 Arizona, the prevalence shifted from the 11.51-17.00/100,000 range in 2008 to the  $\geq 17/100,000$   
269 range in 2015. Marked increases in both the incidence and prevalence of NTM lung disease were  
270 observed in Florida and adjacent states.

271

272 **Discussion**

273 This study provides epidemiologic information on NTM lung disease in the U.S. following the  
274 publication of ATS/IDSA guidelines in 2007, including incidence and prevalence estimated  
275 across all states. The annual incidence and prevalence of NTM lung disease significantly  
276 increased from 2008 to 2015; the average rates of yearly change were +5.2% and +7.5%,  
277 respectively. Women and people aged 65 years or older had consistently higher incidence and  
278 prevalence rates relative to men and people aged less than 65 years, respectively, over this time  
279 period.

280

281 An increase in the prevalence of NTM lung disease in North America and other regions of the  
282 world has been documented in the time period from the mid-1990s to mid-2000s (20, 21). The  
283 7.5% increase in prevalence observed from 2008 to 2015 in the current analysis is comparable to  
284 the 8.2% increase reported from 1997 to 2007 in a large U.S. population-based study based on  
285 Medicare Part B claims (10). Although the rate of yearly change in prevalence was comparable  
286 between these studies, the annual prevalence estimates appeared to differ. In the previous  
287 Medicare-based study, the reported annual prevalence (cases/100,000 persons) increased from 20  
288 in 1997 to 47 in 2007 (10). The annual prevalence estimates for NTM lung disease among  
289 Medicare Advantage plan members in our study increased from 19.5 per 100,000 persons in  
290 2008 to 43.1 per 100,000 persons in 2015. It is important to note that, although our 2008 estimate  
291 appears to be lower than the previous study's 2007 estimate, this is likely due to the difference in  
292 identification criteria for NTM lung disease. In the previous study, the prevalence estimates were  
293 calculated by dividing the total number of unique cases (i.e., individuals assigned at least one

294 NTM lung disease–associated claim) by the total number of beneficiaries (who had at least one  
295 month of coverage) during the time period evaluated (10). The current analysis required at least  
296 two diagnostic codes at least 30 days apart as well as 12 months of continuous insurance  
297 coverage. In addition, the Medicare Part B study focused on people aged 65 years or older,  
298 whereas our Medicare Advantage subpopulation also included plan members aged <65 years  
299 who had disabilities. Nonetheless, we speculate that age is a likely driver of the higher  
300 prevalence of NTM lung disease among Medicare Advantage beneficiaries relative to  
301 commercially insured beneficiaries in the current study (Figures 2A and 2B).

302

303 Another U.S.-based study using a large linked database approach at four integrated healthcare  
304 delivery systems reported an increased prevalence of NTM lung disease based on the ATS/IDSA  
305 2007 microbiologic criteria (17). In the four healthcare delivery systems combined, the average  
306 annual age-adjusted period prevalence for 2004 to 2006 was 5.5 cases per 100,000 persons. This  
307 finding appears to be consistent with our overall NTM lung disease prevalence rate for 2008  
308 (6.78 cases per 100,000 persons).

309

310 Our study provides a nationwide estimate of incidence for NTM lung disease among  
311 beneficiaries in a large insurance plan. A prior population-based study focused on the incidence  
312 rate in Oregon (19), using the 2007 microbiological criteria (22), and reported a relatively small  
313 increase of 2.2% ( $P=0.21$ ) in the annual incidence of NTM lung disease between 2007 and 2012  
314 (from 4.8/100,000 person-years to 5.6/100,000 person-years)—figures that are consistent with  
315 our yearly incidence rate findings for Oregon. We observed that the incidence of NTM lung

316 disease in Oregon was in the 3.01-4.00/100,000 person-years range in 2008 and in the 4.51-  
317 6.00/100,000 person-years range in 2015 (Figure 3A).

318

319 There are limitations in this study, including the impact of using ICD codes for the NTM case  
320 identification, and drawbacks that are inherent in claims data-based studies. The ATS/IDSA  
321 guidelines published in 2007 indicate that clinical, radiographic, and microbiological criteria are  
322 equally important, and all must be met to make a diagnosis of NTM lung disease (22). The  
323 claims data we used for this study do not have microbiological or radiographic confirmation of  
324 the NTM infection. As a result, case identification based on ICD code may be subject to  
325 undercoding as well as overestimation of disease due to miscoding or inappropriate selection of  
326 diagnostic codes (5, 23). It was also reported that using ICD-9-CM codes to identify NTM lung  
327 disease cases meeting the ATS/IDSA criteria may miss approximately 25% to 75% of cases (17).

328

329 On the other hand, a prior publication has suggested that claims-based case identification has a  
330 high positive predictive value of approximately 82% for NTM lung disease (23). This is a study  
331 that constructed case-finding algorithms to find cases of tuberculosis and NTM lung disease at a  
332 large health maintenance organization (Kaiser Permanente Northern California) and the Portland  
333 Veterans Affairs Medical Center. It was reported that case-finding of NTM lung disease based  
334 on receiving  $\geq 1$  ICD-9-CM 031.0 detected nine out of 18 (50%; 95% CI, 0.26-0.74) cases in a  
335 population with rheumatoid arthritis who were treated with anti-tumor necrosis factor agents.  
336 When chart review was used with ATS/IDSA criteria applied for NTM lung disease, this case-  
337 finding algorithm had a high positive predictive value for true disease (82%; 95% CI, 0.48-0.98).

338

339 Disease awareness since the publishing of the 2007 ATS/IDSA guidelines may have increased  
340 diagnostic testing and therefore the number of claims being submitted for testing; however, not  
341 all test results will be confirmatory. We believe that the requirement of at least two diagnostic  
342 codes 30 days apart reduces the potential of counting claims that were submitted for testing alone  
343 as representing cases.

344

345 Claims data-based studies have their inherent limitations. For example, real-world ICD coding  
346 practices may vary. It is possible that the diagnostic code was chosen to improve reimbursement,  
347 leading to a shift in the reported case mix (24, 25). In addition, intrinsic deficiencies in the  
348 diagnostic coding system may, to some degree, impair the accurate diagnosis and recording of  
349 cases (e.g., incomplete ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM menus could lead clinicians to choose inexact  
350 codes). It is also possible to have perpetuated coding error from “coding inertia”, a tendency to  
351 carry the initial code over on subsequent claims. Another consideration is that the  
352 representativeness of Optum CDM over the U.S. varies. We have noticed a geographic variation  
353 in insurance coverage (e.g., less coverage in the Northeast region of the U.S., Supplemental  
354 Table 2) that could affect state-level estimations of incidence and prevalence. The  
355 socioeconomic status of the enrolled beneficiaries may also impact NTM lung disease incidence  
356 and prevalence; however, we did not have access to socioeconomic data. We have excluded  
357 individuals who had less than 24 months and 12 months of continuous enrollment from the  
358 incidence and prevalence calculations, respectively. Nonetheless, we believe that these  
359 beneficiaries with full-year enrollment are representative of the entire plan population, because  
360 qualification for insurance coverage is not likely related to NTM lung disease or being selected  
361 into the 5% random sample.



362

363 Medical chart review using the ATS/IDSA criteria can identify NTM lung disease cases more  
364 accurately than utilizing claims data alone. However, collecting and analyzing electronic health  
365 records nationwide is time-consuming and labor-intensive. We chose administrative claims data  
366 for two predominant reasons: 1) efficiency of extracting data and 2) access to a nationwide  
367 population.

368

369 We recognize that factors such as increased clinical awareness, changes in diagnostic evaluation,  
370 and issues with real-world coding practice may have contributed to the increases in incidence  
371 and prevalence of NTM lung disease observed in this study. Variable changes in frequencies of  
372 pulmonary risk factors for NTM lung disease have been observed. Bronchiectasis increased  
373 among Medicare beneficiaries between 2000 and 2007 (28). COPD prevalence was reported to  
374 have decreased in the United States from 2008-2009 to 2014-2015 (29). A Canadian study  
375 modelling the effects of changes in the prevalence of risk factors on the prevalence of NTM lung  
376 disease observed that risk factors were generally found to be increasing, but the magnitude of  
377 those increases did not completely explain the increases in NTM lung disease prevalence (30).  
378 Importantly, the investigators lacked data on the frequency of bronchiectasis. It is very likely that  
379 increases in the prevalence of chronic underlying lung diseases that are associated with NTM  
380 (e.g. bronchiectasis), might also be driving increases in NTM lung disease. The 2017 British  
381 Thoracic Society guidelines also reported that most studies report a rise in prevalence over the  
382 last four decades (26). Pulmonary NTM is a chronic disease—the guideline’s criterion for  
383 treatment success is 12 months of sputum culture negativity while on therapy. Both the chronic

384 nature of the condition and the increase in incidence contributed to the increased prevalence over  
385 the years.

386

387 The strengths of the current study include the analysis of a large nationwide claims database that  
388 is geographically diverse across the U.S., coupled with a case definition of NTM lung disease  
389 that required 2 diagnostic codes 30 days apart, resulting in a nationwide real-world population-  
390 based estimation of incidence and prevalence of NTM lung disease.

391

### 392 **Conclusion**

393 The incidence and prevalence of NTM lung disease appear to be increasing in the U.S.,  
394 particularly among women and the older age groups.

395

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**Figure Legends.**

**Figure 1.** Number of patients by state at the First diagnosis of NTM lung disease, January 1, 2007 to June 30, 2016 (n=9,476).

**Figure 2.** Yearly incidence (*A*) and yearly prevalence (*B*) of NTM lung disease (2008-2015) by select subgroups in a U.S. national health insurance plan.

**Figure 3.** Incidence (*A*) and prevalence (*B*) of NTM lung disease in the U.S., by state in 2008 and 2015.



**Table 1.** Baseline demographics and patient characteristics<sup>a</sup>

<b>Baseline Variable</b>	<b>Claims-Based NTM Lung Disease (N=6280)</b>
Age, mean ( $\pm$ SD), years	69 ( $\pm$ 14.1)
Women, % (n)	67.6% (4246)
Charlson Comorbidity Index, mean (SD)	2.2 (2.3)
Underlying lung disease	
Aspergillosis, % (n)	3.0% (187)
Asthma, % (n)	23.2% (1460)
Bronchiectasis, % (n)	37.0% (2324)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, % (n)	52.6% (3304)
Cystic fibrosis, % (n)	1.7% (104)
Pneumonia, % (n)	40.2% (2527)
Tuberculosis, % (n)	7.0% (438)
Any of the above lung disease, % (n)	80.2% (5034)
Atherosclerosis, % (n)	8.1% (509)
Arrhythmia, % (n)	22.5% (1415)
Coronary artery disease, % (n)	19.4% (1217)
Cancer, % (n)	19.5% (1227)
Congestive heart failure, % (n)	11.6% (727)
Colitis, % (n)	4.1% (257)
Crohn disease, % (n)	0.8% (49)

Dementia, % (n)	0.7% (46)
Depression, % (n)	9.4% (590)
Diabetes, % (n)	14.4% (905)
Gastroesophageal reflux disease, % (n)	26.8% (1684)
Heart valve disorder, % (n)	15.5% (976)
HIV, % (n)	1.6% (98)
Hyperlipidemia, % (n)	46.4% (2912)
Hypertension, % (n)	50.0% (3142)
Immune deficiency, % (n)	6.2% (392)
Mental disorder, % (n)	16.0% (1002)
Metastatic carcinoma, % (n)	3.5% (220)
Moderate or severe liver disease, % (n)	0.7% (47)
Multiple sclerosis, % (n)	0.4% (22)
Myocardial infarction, % (n)	4.7% (297)
Obesity, % (n)	3.8% (236)
Organ transplant, % (n)	1.4% (88)
Pectus excavatum, % (n)	0.2% (12)
Rheumatoid disease, % (n)	6.0% (377)
Tobacco use, % (n)	10.5% (659)

HIV = human immunodeficiency virus.

<sup>a</sup>Baseline diseases/disorders identified via insurance claims (ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM codes).



**Figure 1.**

Number of Patients by State at the First NTM Diagnosis, from 1 January 2007 to 30 June 2016 (n=9,476)

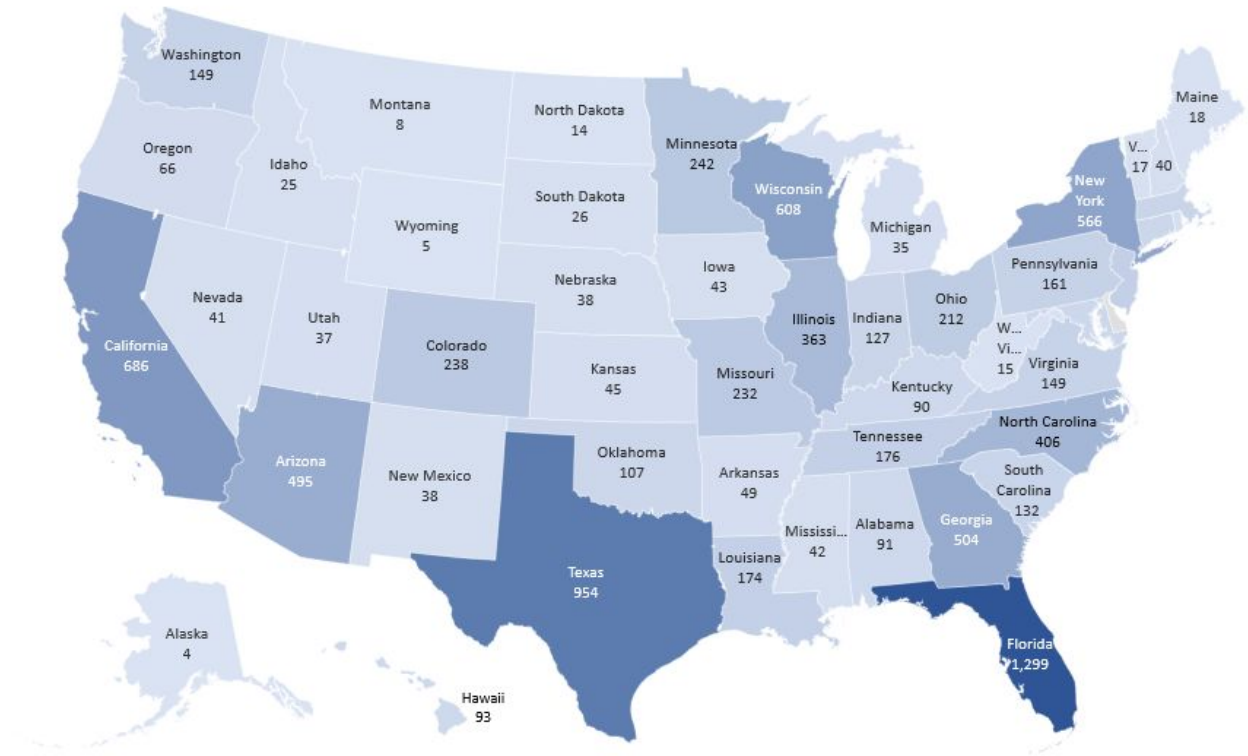
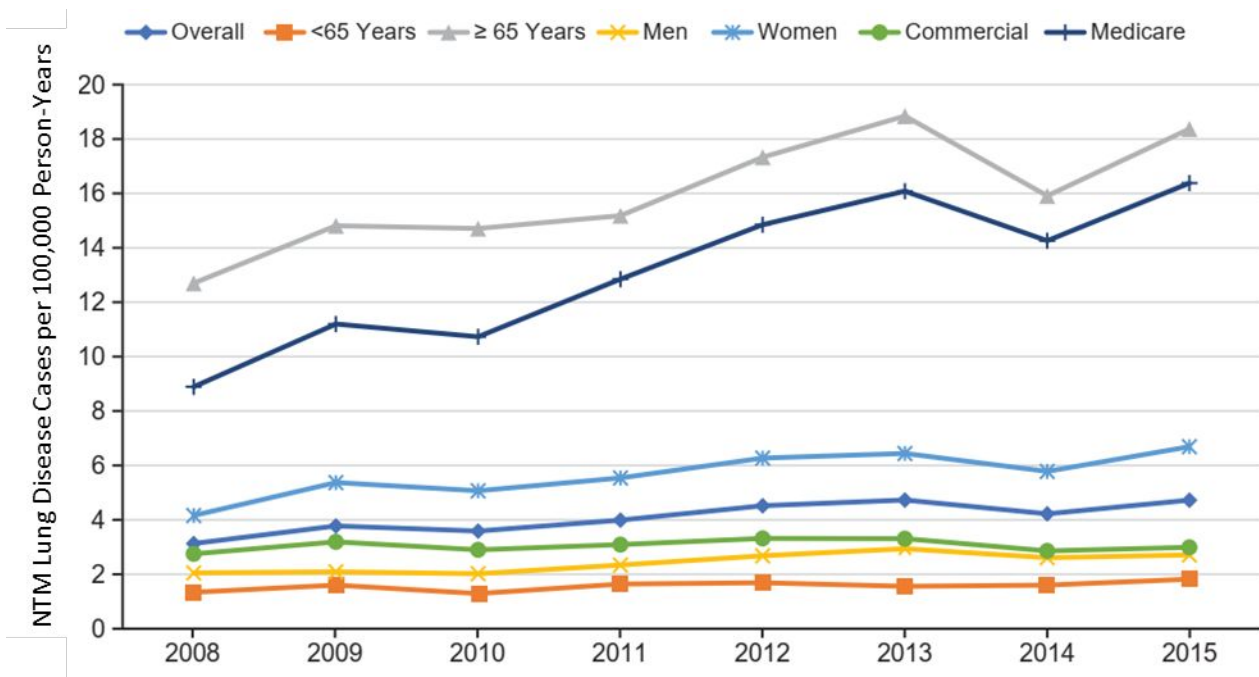


Figure 2.

A.



**B.**

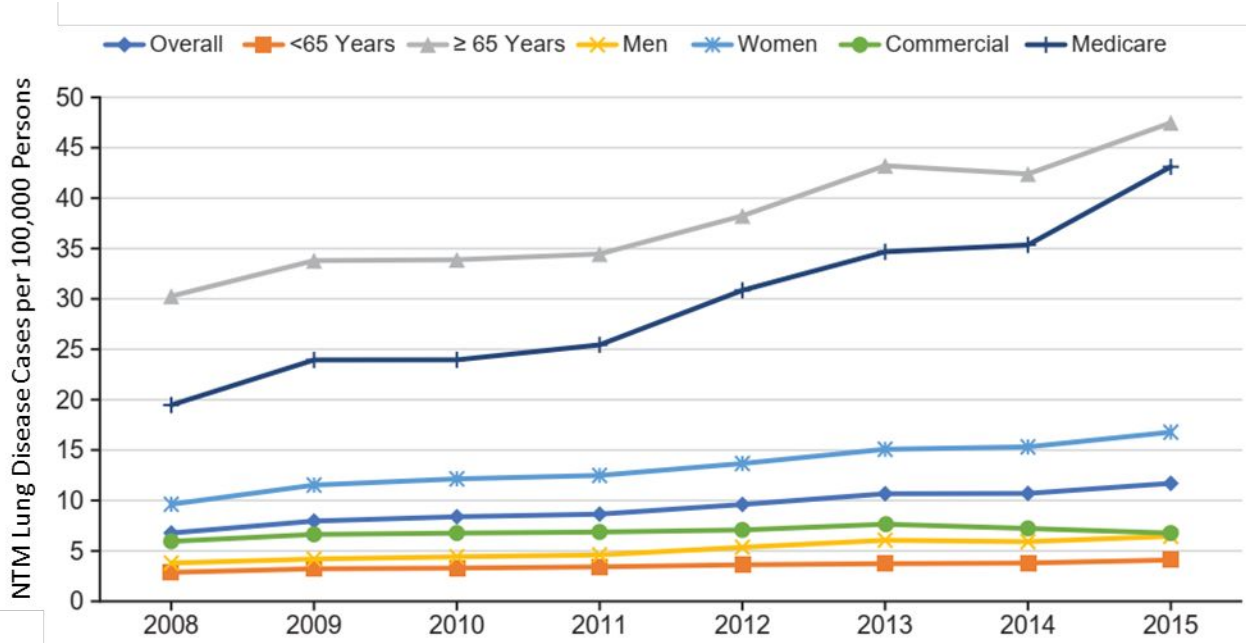
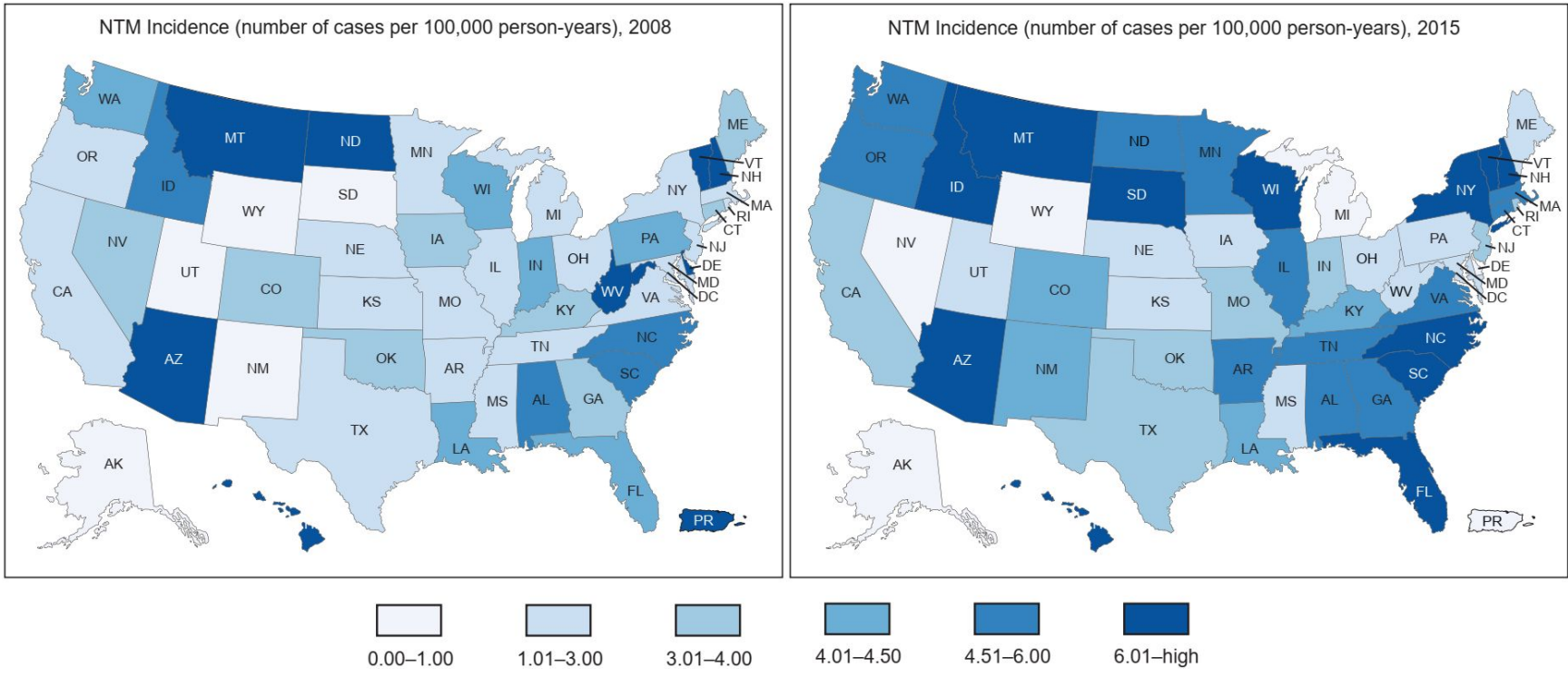


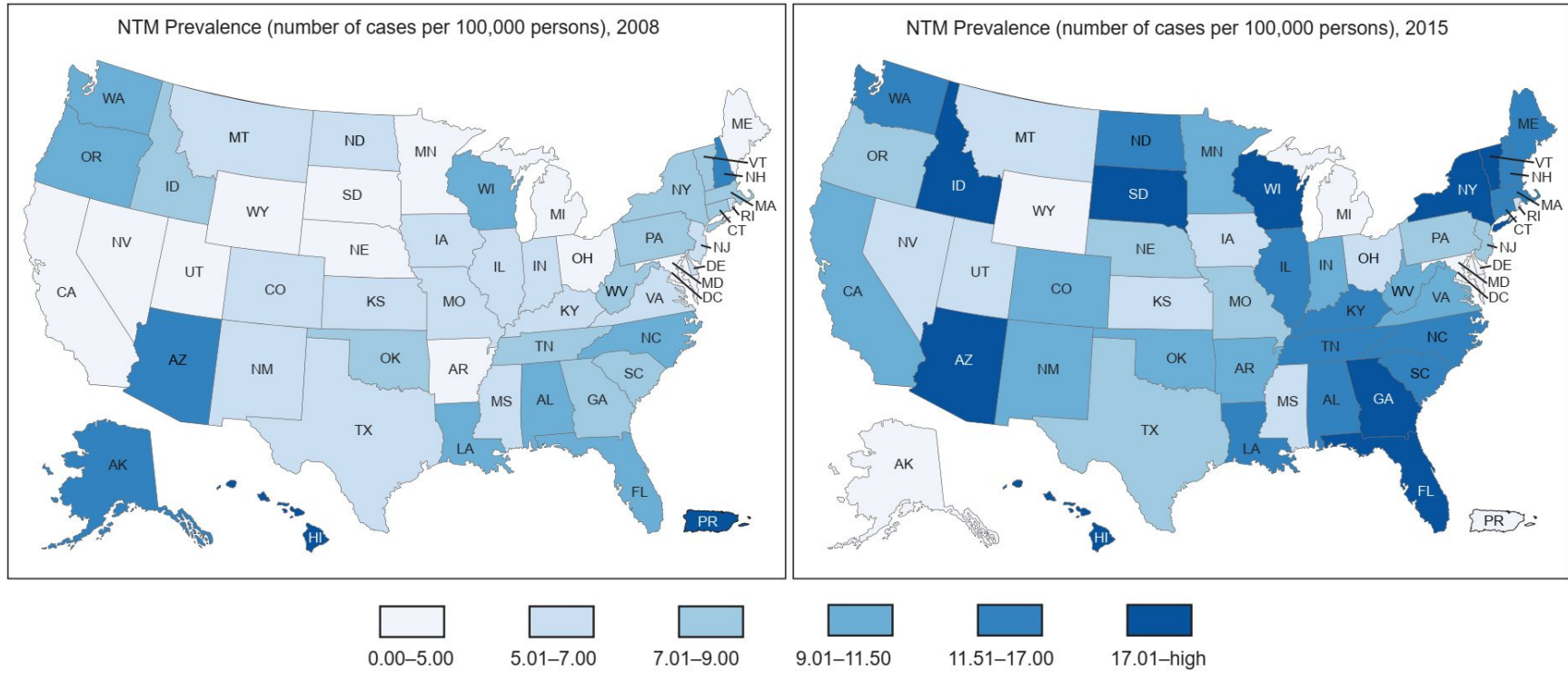


Figure 3.

A



**B**



**Supplemental Tables and Figures.**

**Supplemental Table 1.** Total number of beneficiaries by insurance type and study year

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Optum® CDM</b>	<b>Optum® CDM Commercial</b>	<b>Optum® CDM Medicare Advantage</b>
<b>2007</b>	27,959,527	26,396,751	1,562,776
<b>2008</b>	27,355,593	25,676,313	1,679,280
<b>2009</b>	26,249,408	24,220,914	2,028,494
<b>2010</b>	26,081,574	23,681,602	2,399,972
<b>2011</b>	27,068,037	24,581,827	2,486,210
<b>2012</b>	28,259,093	25,406,898	2,852,195
<b>2013</b>	29,079,416	25,973,901	3,105,515
<b>2014</b>	27,557,541	24,335,447	3,222,094
<b>2015</b>	27,611,475	24,133,366	3,478,109

CDM = Clinformatics® Data Mart.

**Supplemental Table 2.** Demographics of Optum® CDM compared with U.S. benchmarks, 2015

<b>Attributes</b>	<b>CDM Commercial</b>	<b>CDM Medicare Advantage</b>	<b>U.S. Population (2015)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>U.S. Privately Insured (2015)<sup>a</sup></b>
Male, %	50	43	49	49
Female, %	50	57	51	51
<b>U.S. Region</b>	<b>Total Lives</b>	<b>Total Lives</b>	<b>Total Lives</b>	<b>Total Lives</b>
Northeast, %	10	12	18	21
Midwest, %	24	19	21	25
South, %	42	35	39	29
West, %	24	32	24	25
<b>Age Band</b>	<b>Total Lives</b>	<b>Total Lives</b>	<b>Total Lives</b>	<b>Total Lives</b>
00-20 years, %	18	0	34	33
21-39 years, %	32	1	26	26
40-64 years, %	40	9	27	26
65+ years, %	10	91	13	14

<sup>a</sup> Statistical Abstract. U.S. Census.  
 CDM = Clinformatics® Data Mart.

**Supplemental Table 3.** Demographics of Optum® CDM compared with U.S. benchmarks, 2012

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>CDM Lives (commercial and Medicare Advantage) Total Lives</b>	<b>U.S. Population (2012)<sup>a</sup> Total Lives</b>	<b>U.S. Privately Insured (2012)<sup>a</sup> Total Lives</b>
White, %	73	63	71
African American, %	4	13	10
Hispanic, %	9	17	11
Asian, %	4	6	6
Other/unknown, %	9	1	2
<b>Median household income</b>		<b>2010<sup>b</sup></b>	
	\$62,500	\$44,600	NA
<b>Median net worth</b>			
	\$175,000	\$77,300	NA

<sup>a</sup> U.S. Census Bureau.

<sup>b</sup> Federal Reserve – Survey of Consumer Finance.

CDM = Clinformatics® Data Mart; NA = not available.

**Supplemental Table 4.** Average rate of yearly change of incidence and prevalence**A**

<b>Incidence</b>	<b>Average Rate of Yearly Change (%)</b>	<b>95% CI (%)</b>	<b>P Value</b>
<b>Overall</b>	5.2	4.0-6.4	<.01
<b>≥65 Years</b>	4.5	3.1-5.9	<.01
<b>&lt;65 Years</b>	3.3	1.3-5.4	<.01
<b>Women</b>	5.3	3.9-6.7	<.01
<b>Men</b>	5.2	3.1-7.4	<.01
<b>Medicare</b>	7.6	5.4-9.8	<.01
<b>Commercial</b>	0.6	-0.7-2.0	0.37

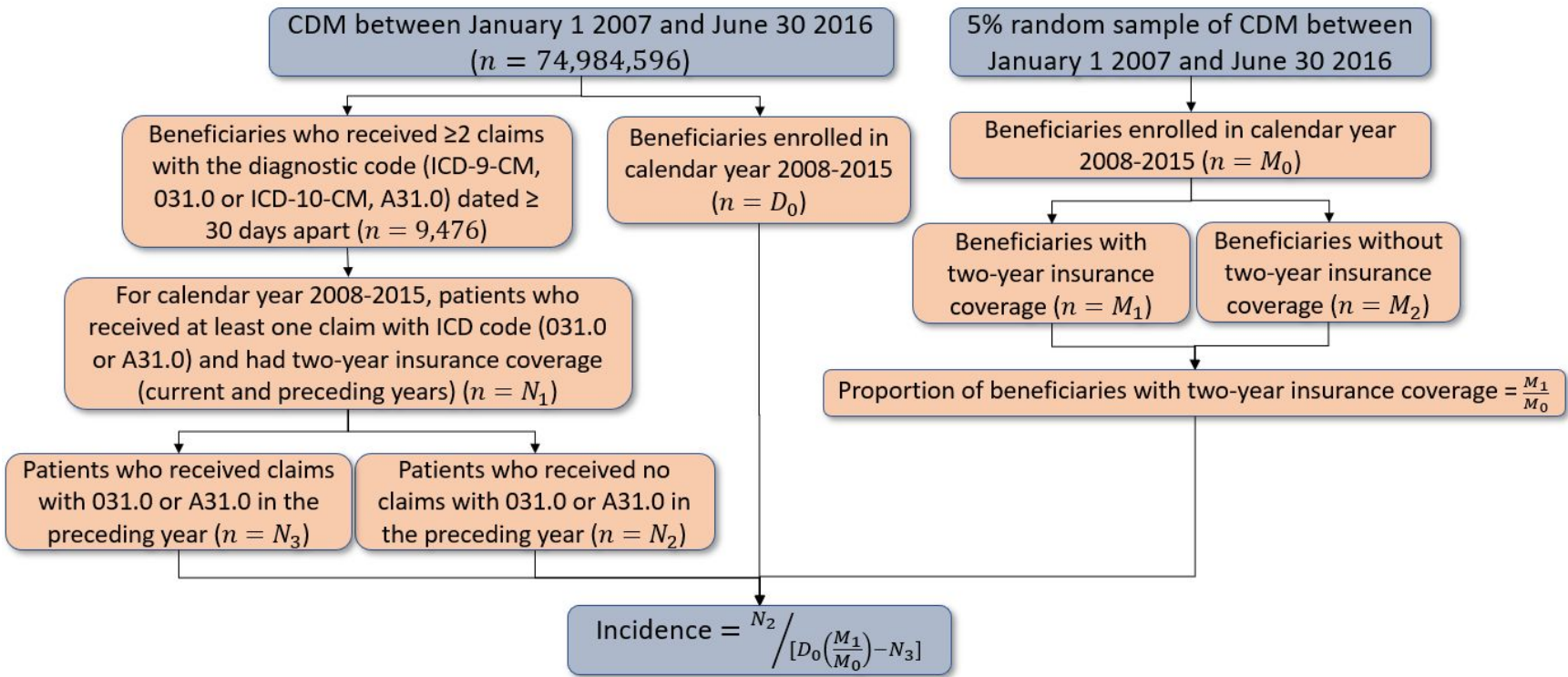
**B**

<b>Prevalence</b>	<b>Average Rate of Yearly Change (%)</b>	<b>95% CI (%)</b>	<b>P Value</b>
<b>Overall</b>	7.5	6.7-8.2	<.01
<b>≥65 Years</b>	6.4	5.5-7.3	<.01
<b>&lt;65 Years</b>	4.6	3.3-5.8	<.01
<b>Women</b>	7.4	6.5-8.2	<.01
<b>Men</b>	8.0	6.7-9.5	<.01
<b>Medicare</b>	11.3	10.0-12.7	<.01
<b>Commercial</b>	2.1	1.3-2.9	<.01

**Supplement Figure 1.** Flowchart used to calculate claims-based yearly incidence (*A*) and prevalence (*B*). ICD-9-CM = International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision, clinical modification; ICD-10-CM = International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision, clinical modification.

**Supplemental Figure 1.**

**A.**



B.

