

# Impact of COVID-19 on child and adolescent TB services: experiences from Africa

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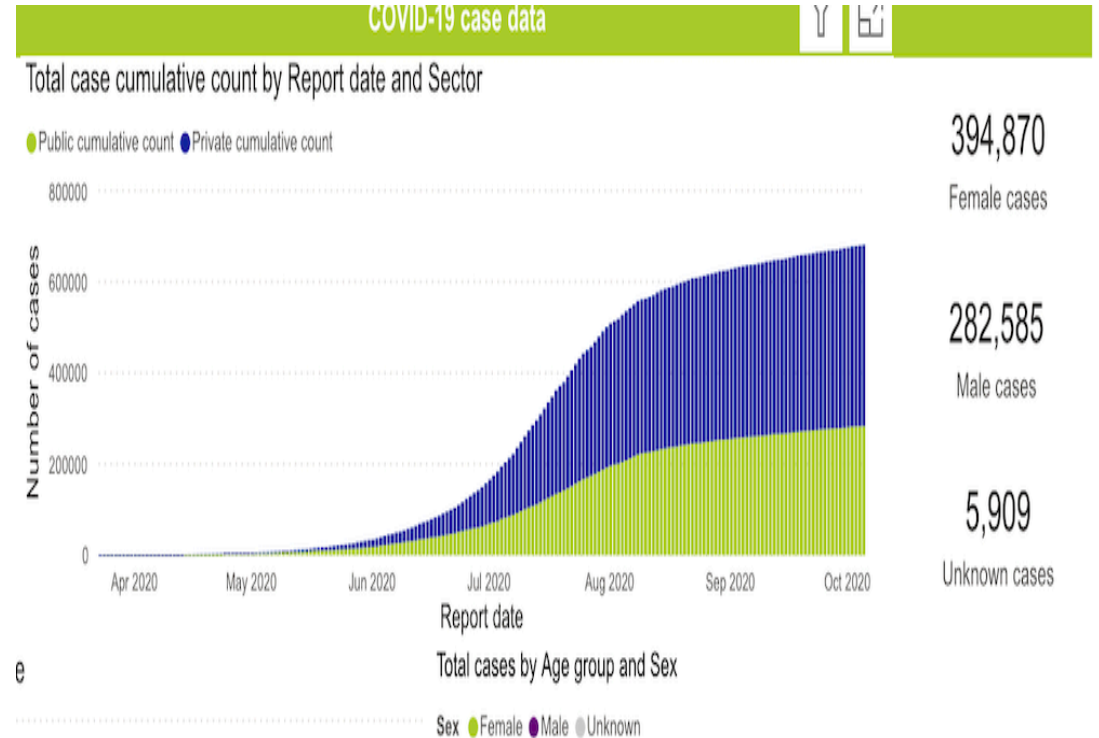
Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (Ghana)

# Outline

- General covid19 epidemiology from low/high incident setting
- Ghana's example
  - Outpatient attendance –covid19 period
  - TB diagnosis-covid19 period
- Challenges from Adolescents with TB
- Way forward

# South Africa covid19 data-October 2020

- TOTAL cases - 683,000
- Recovery: 617,000
- Death: 17,103

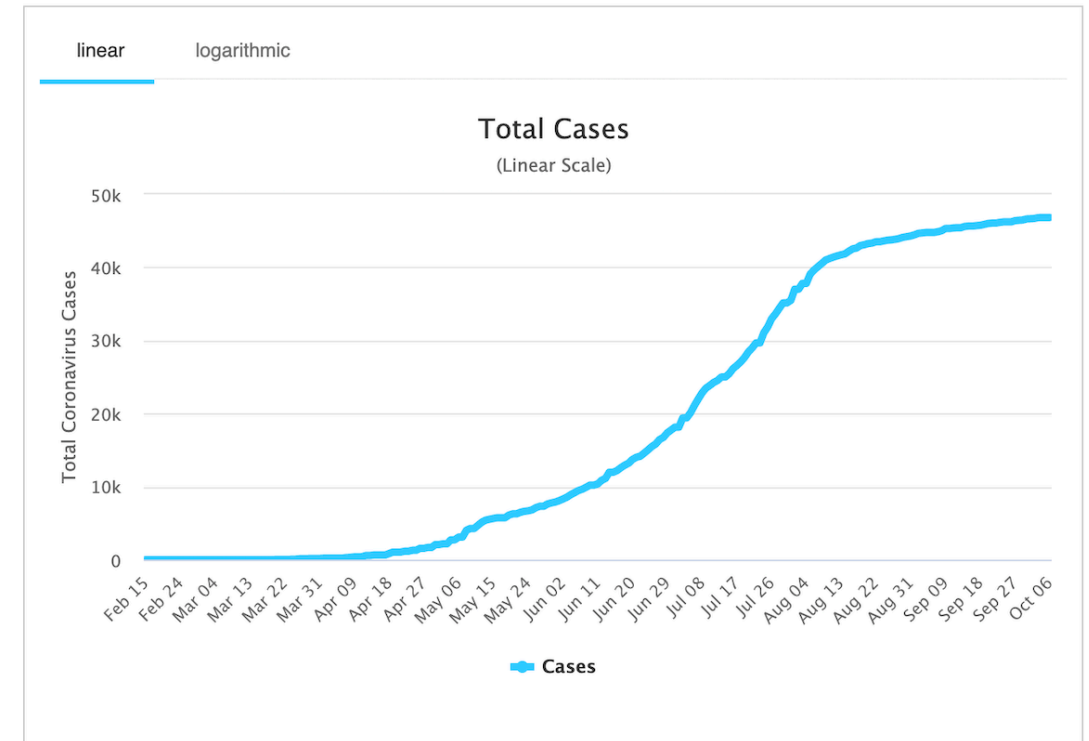


# Ghana covid19 Data-

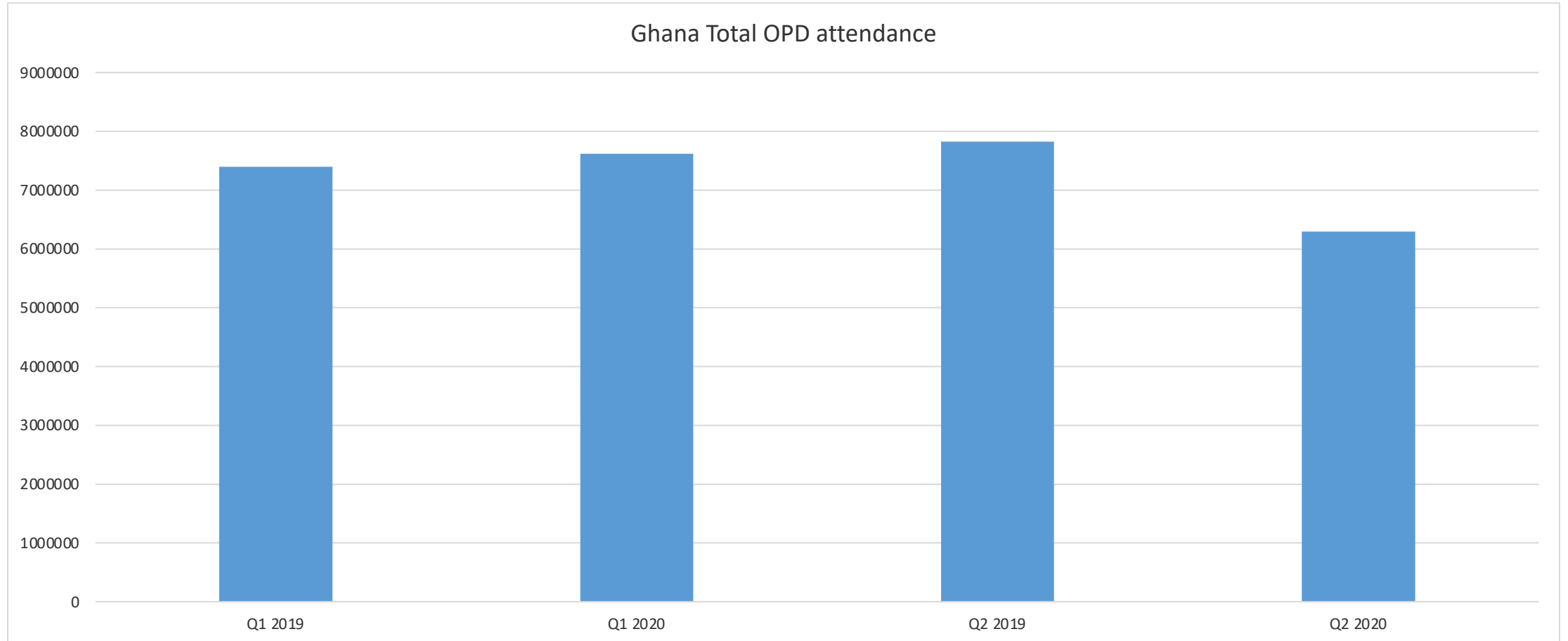
# October 2020

- TOTAL Cases: 46,829
- Recovery :46,060
- Death: 303

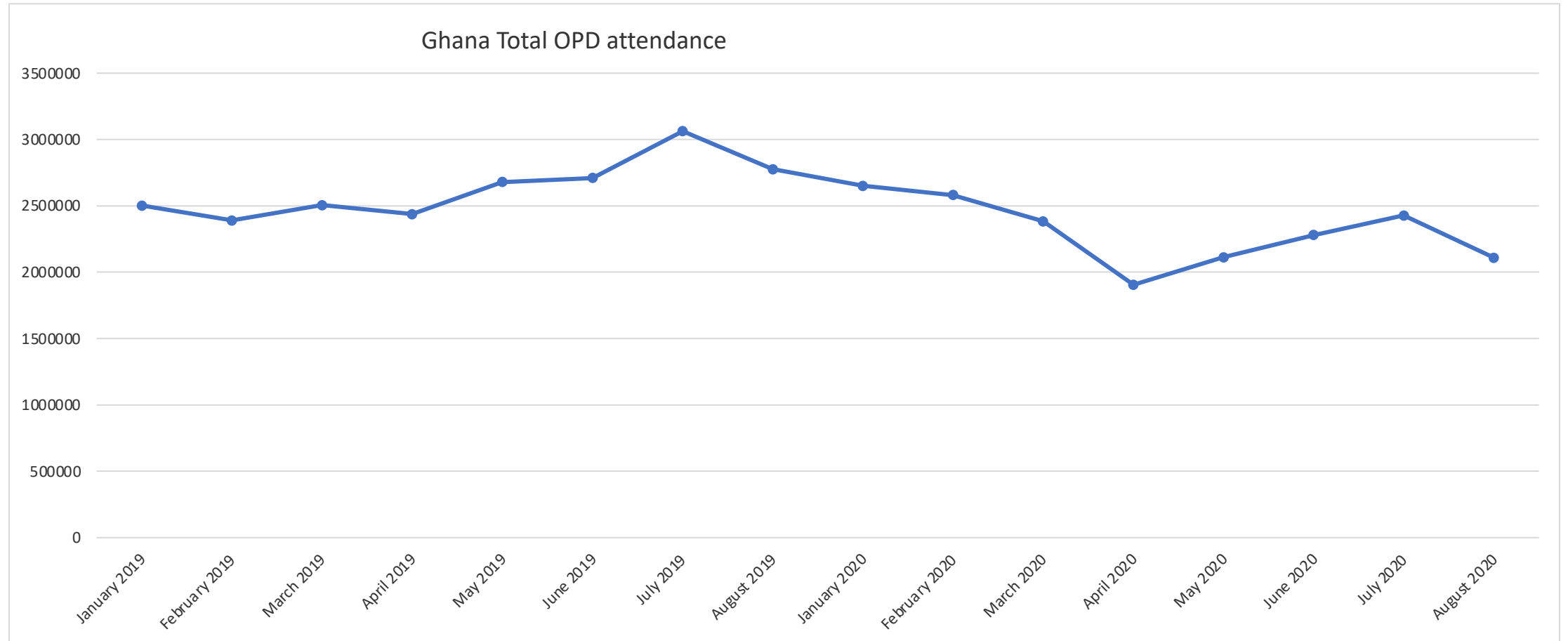
Total Coronavirus Cases in Ghana



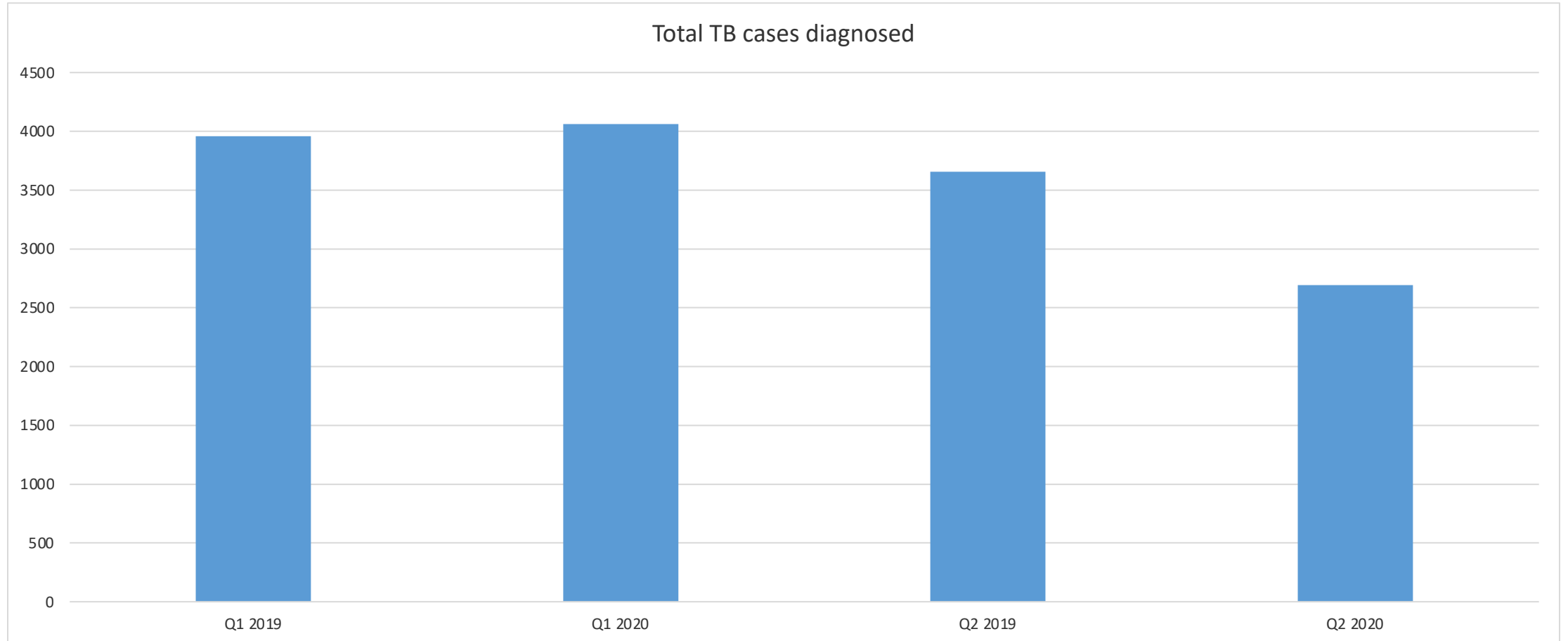
# Impact on National OPD attendance during covid19



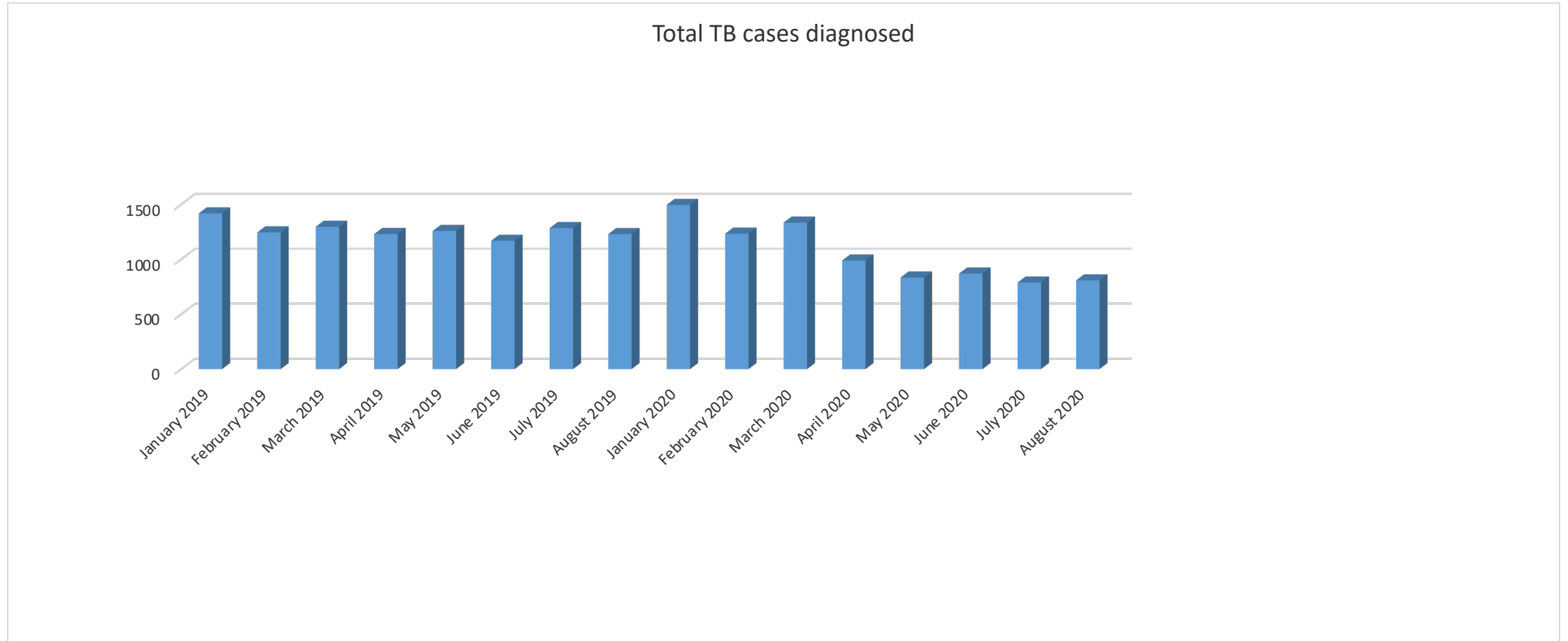
# National OPD attendance trends in Ghana during covid19



# National TB cases diagnosed in Ghana under covid19

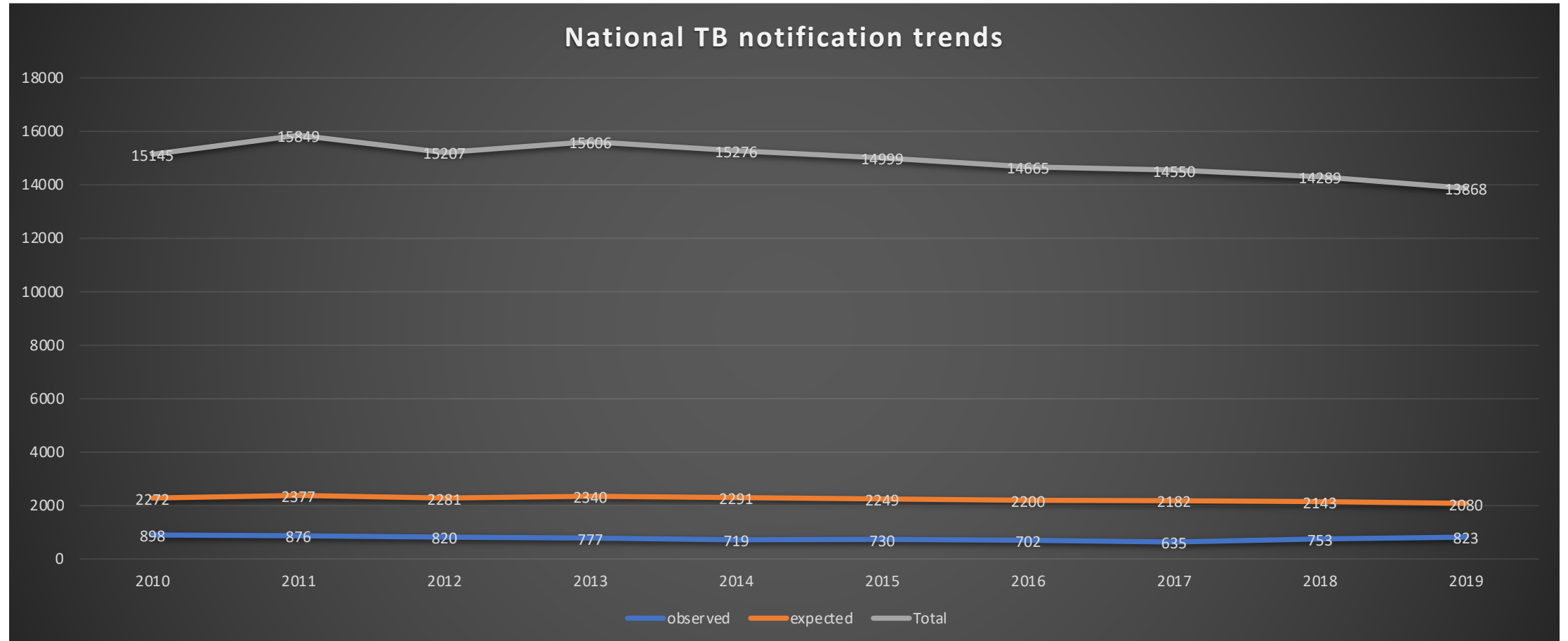


# TB diagnosis trends since covid19





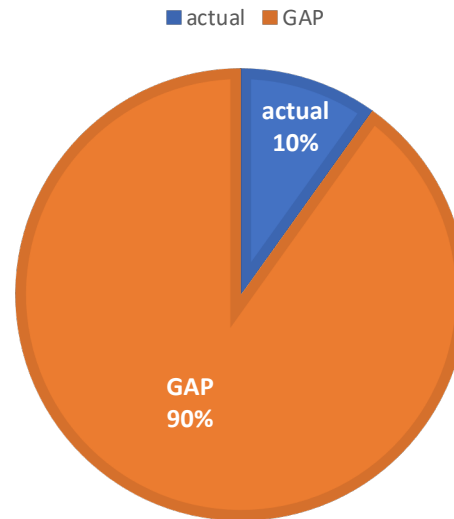
# National Childhood Tuberculosis trend from 2010 to 2018



# Estimated Detection GAP in 2019 for children < 15 years

ACTUAL	823
EXPECTED	8320
GAP	7497

BASED ON 2013 SURVEILLANCE STUDY



**If such was the situation in NORMAL times, surely covid19 will further worsen the GAP in case detection**

# Effect on TB services during 3 weeks of covid19 lockdown

- TB clinics were closed-Follow-up visits disrupted
- Medication centers were opened but not communicated appropriately
- Transportation (vehicles) to hospitals for medication were not available in cities that were locked down

# Effect post-lockdown

- Hospitals were opened but mainly to essential services. Some Adolescents were not sure if their care was essential and stayed home.
- Medication centers continued their services, yet emphasis was on staying home which seem to be preferred option for some adolescents
- Transport services resumed but transport fee was deterrent for some

# Administrative challenges

- Staff cohort to manage emergency and therefore all out-patients' clinics were suspended
- Enablers packaged which supports nutrition and transport during treatment were also suspended
- No structured system to track adolescents who needed to refill their medication

# Way forward to avert future challenges with other lockdowns

- Electronic database of clients (adolescents in care) with schedule visits, and drug refill dates
- Alert system/reminders with specific instructions on where to pick medication
- Arranging for WhatsApp or telephonic consultations with clinicians on wellbeing of adolescents with chronic infectious diseases

# Summary

- We must keep engaging the adolescents with chronic diseases
- Lessons from covid19 must enable us develop functional models in consultation with adolescents with TB/HIV on how best establish continuum of care during natural disasters and outbreaks

# Acknowledgment

- National TB control Programme
- [www.worldometer.info](http://www.worldometer.info)
- Communications from Adolescents TB/HIV clinic, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital