

**Vuka! Let's unite towards
a TB-free world!**

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TB
Conference
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Role of Intermediate Paediatric Care in the Effort to Combat Tuberculosis

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Background



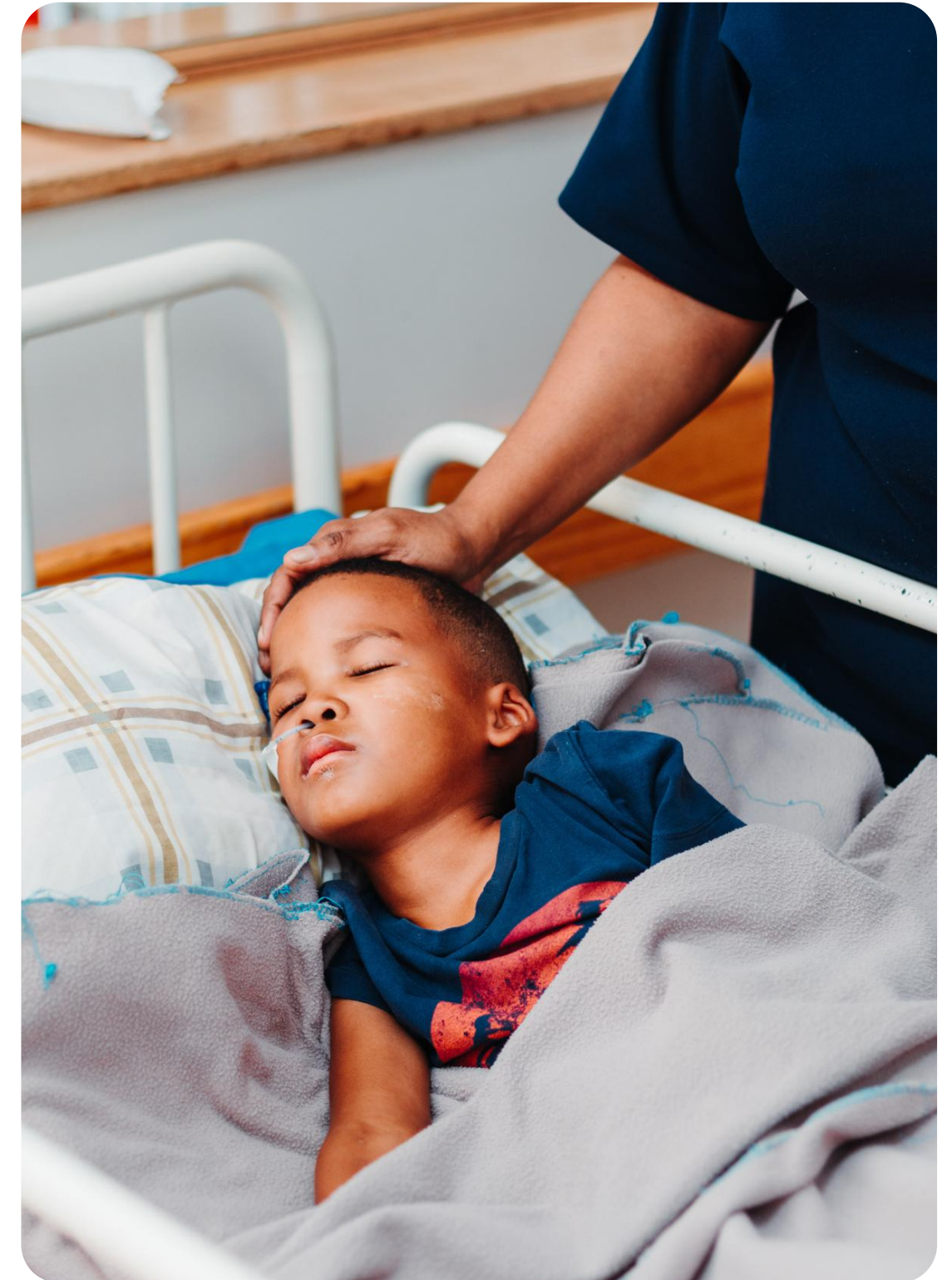
Leading Cause: Tuberculosis remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in South Africa.

(<https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03093/P030932022.>)

Curable Disease: Despite significant medical advances, TB continues to challenge our health system. (<https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03093/P030932022.>)

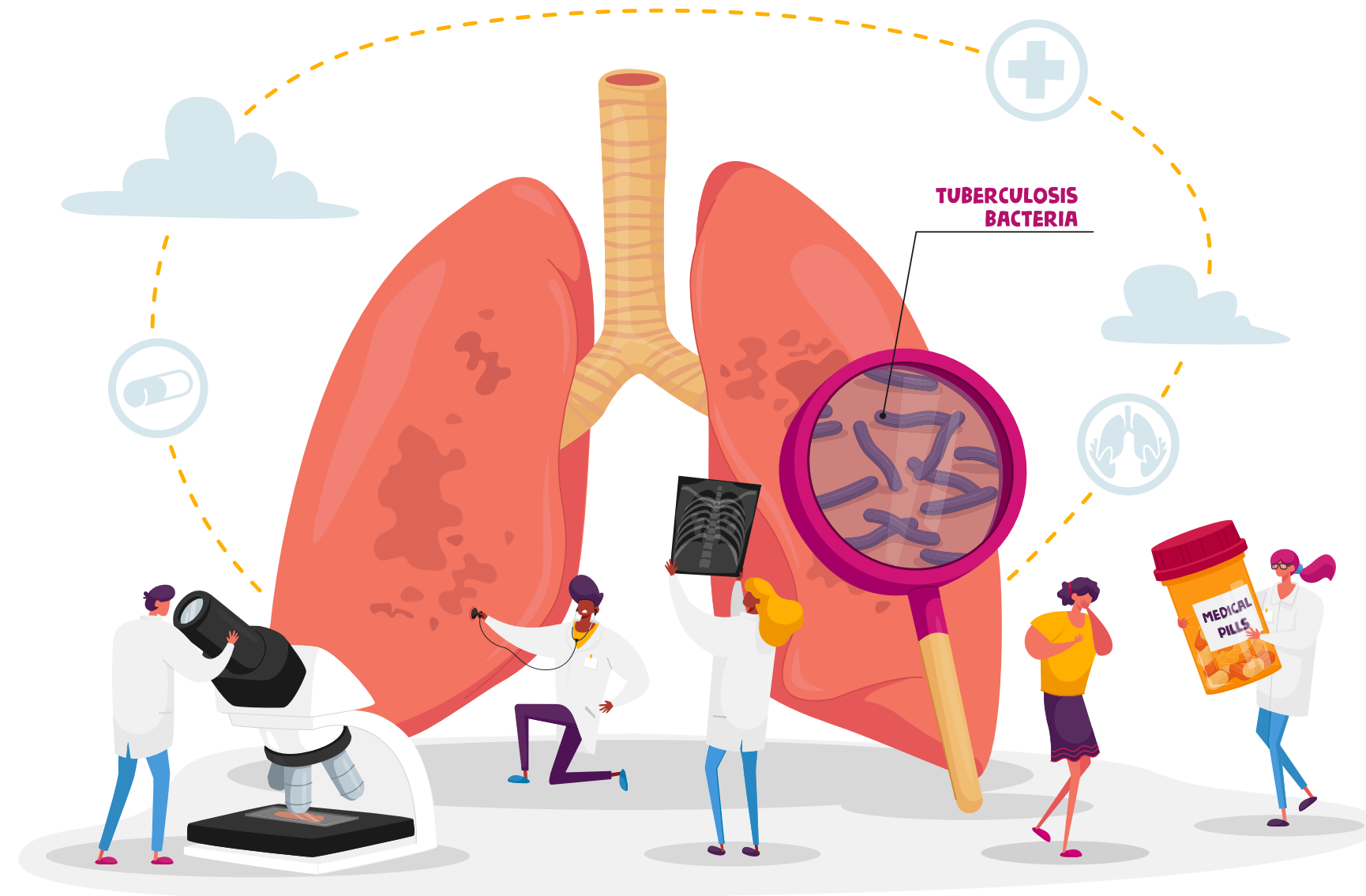
Policy Framework: The Department of Health and Wellness introduced the Transitional Care Policy Framework. (Department of Health and Wellness: Western Cape Government, Transitional Care Policy, 2022)

Goal: To support individuals with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. (Department of Health and Wellness: Western Cape Government, Transitional Care Policy, 2022)



Objectives

Evaluate Intermediate Paediatric Care's impact on severe TB outcomes.



Problem Statement & Rationale



Our Strategic Role

St Joseph's Children's Hospital serves as the **primary provider** for post-acute specialized paediatric care.

We bridge the gap for children with severe and complex TB-related conditions who require long-term, specialized support.



Vulnerability Factors



Poor health-seeking behaviors leading to delayed diagnosis.



Financial constraints limiting access to consistent care.

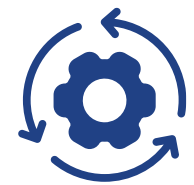


Crime and health system challenges affecting service delivery.

Methods



Reflective Review



Process Focus

A systematic analysis of clinical outcomes achieved within a transitional care setting.



Outcome Evaluation

Highlighting the effectiveness of intermediate care in managing complex paediatric TB and other conditions.



Patient Profile



Care Needs

Anticipated long-term medical and rehabilitative requirements.



Setting: St Joseph's Children's Hospital



+ Meet Cherice



Nursing

Comfort care and pain management formed the backbone of Cherise's daily care, alongside naso-gastric feeding, and continuous family support, education, and psychosocial care.

Occupational Therapy

Visual stimulation, self-feeding, dressing, and school readiness. Caregiver training provided to support continued stimulation at home.

Speech & Language Therapy

Non-verbal on admission. Introduced to alternative communication, advancing to automatic speech development.

Social Work

Consistent family communication maintained. Weekend visits introduced as Cherise's condition stabilised.

Physiotherapy

Admitted with no head control. Progressed from joint integrity and positioning to strengthening, endurance, and seating.

Dietetics

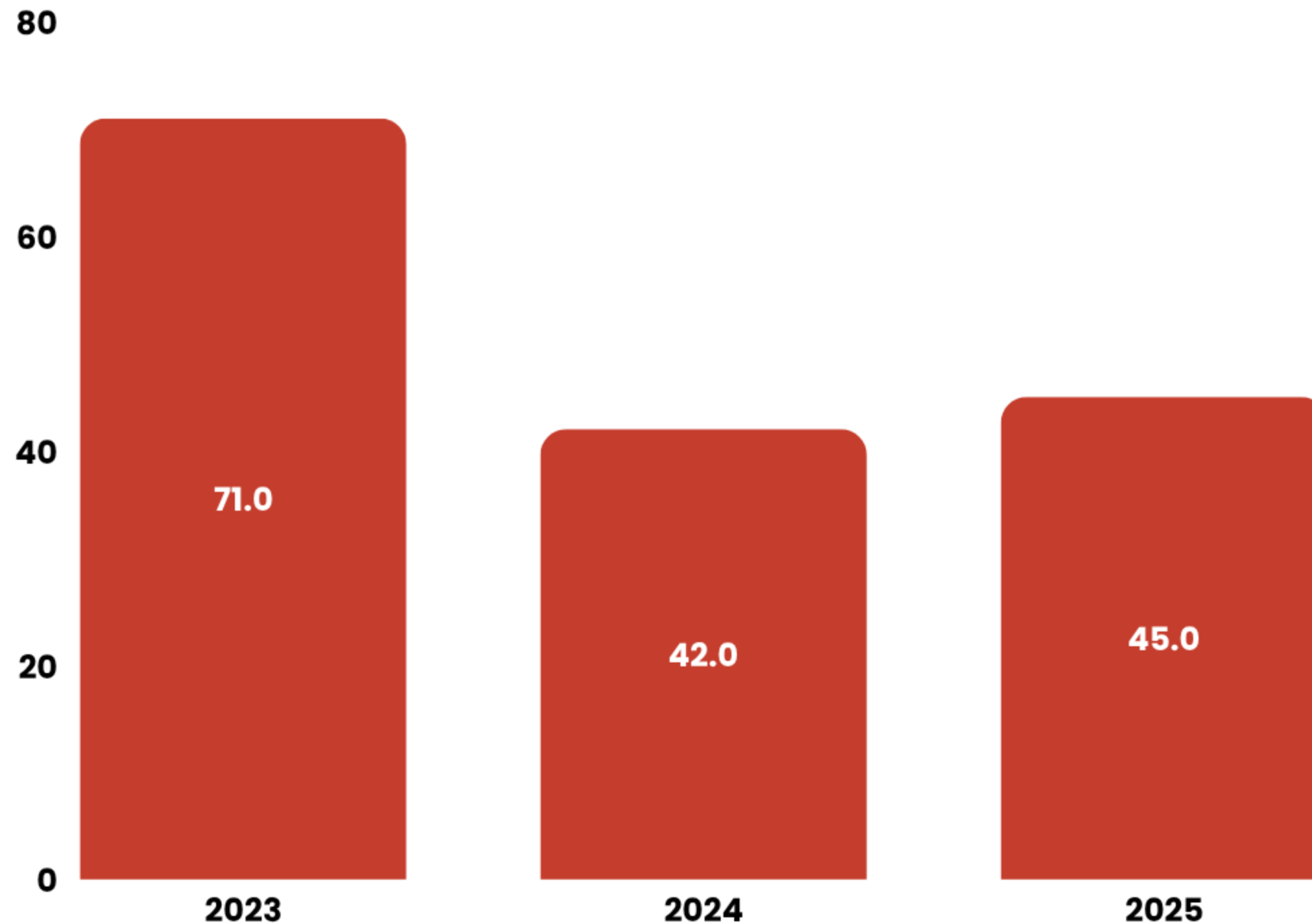
Initially tube-fed. Dietician and nursing team ensured all nutritional needs were met throughout her stay.

Discharge Outcomes: Self-feeding ✓ Walking with assistance ✓ Short conversations ✓ Referred to community ECD programme ✓



Dual Infections per Annum

Dual Infections Admissions (2023 - 2025)



Trend Analysis

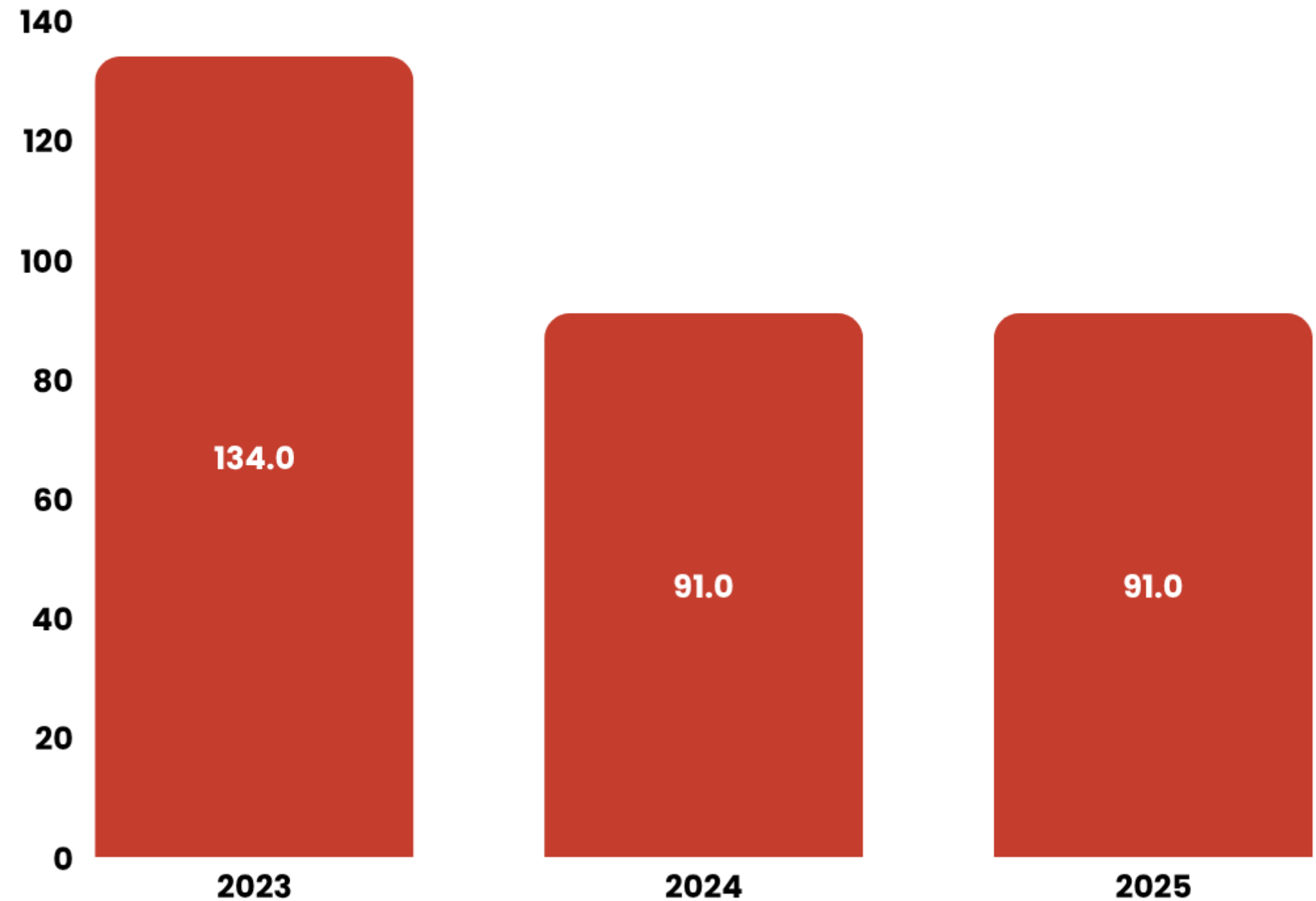
A significant shift was observed in the dual infection admission rates over the last three years.

All TB Cases per Annum

Comparative Analysis

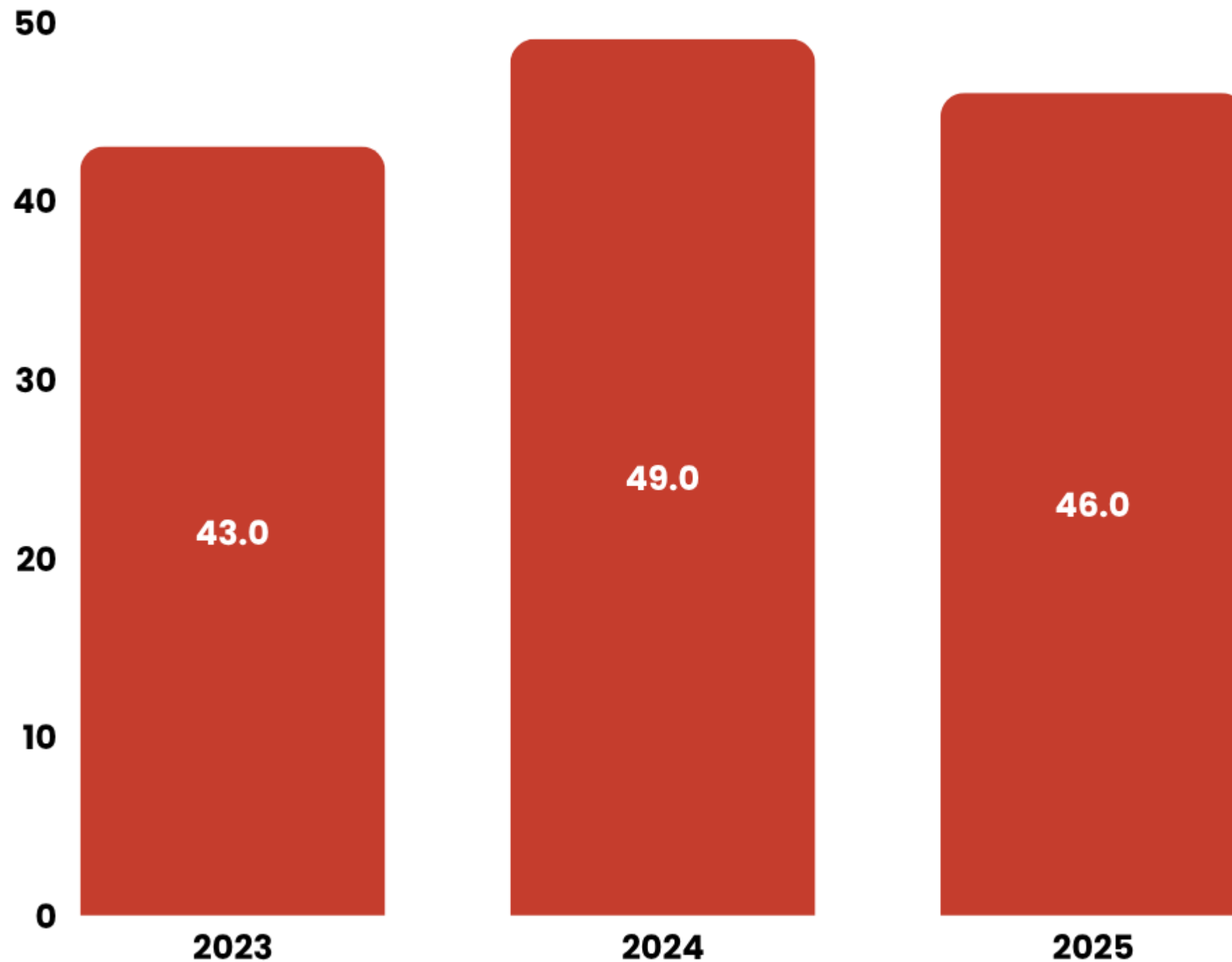
The overall count of tuberculosis cases managed at our facility experienced a drop from 134 in 2023 to 91 in 2024, but this doesn't signify any particular trend. It simply reflects a reduction in the total number of occupied beds.

Total TB Cases (2023 - 2025)



Complex TB Cases per Annum

DTB and TBM Cases (2023 - 2025)



Clinical Complexity



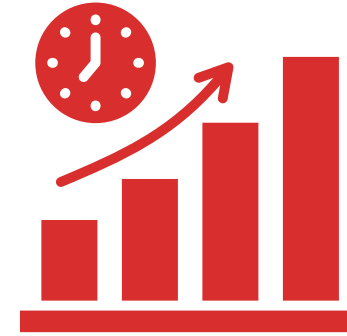
Despite a decline in the number of admissions in 2024 and 2025, the complexity of the diagnoses has risen.

Conclusion & Key Messages



Holistic Care Approach

- ✓ Multi-disciplinary team addressing physical & emotional needs.
- ✓ Psychological, spiritual, and social support included.
- ✓ All services provided in one setting at no cost.



Improved Outcomes

- ✓ Reduces treatment interruptions significantly.
- ✓ Improves adherence to complex medication therapy.
- ✓ Supports successful completion of TB treatment.



Support & Collaboration

- ✓ Structured caregiver education and counseling.
- ✓ Community-based referrals for continuity of care.
- ✓ Strong partnerships with external stakeholders.

St Joseph's Children's Hospital: Bridging the gap in paediatric TB care.

THANK YOU



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