Stop TB in the African-American Community

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Stop TB in the African-American Community

Today’s presentation will provide
• Epidemiology of TB in the African-American community
• CDC activities to address this health disparity
  – CDC-funded TB intensification projects
  – CDC research projects (TBESC-Task Order 11)
  – Stop TB in the African-American Community Summit (May 2006)
  – Post summit activities
  – Other CDC efforts (listservs, educational materials, websites)
• Future activities

Background

• While overall rates continue to decline in the U.S., TB continues to disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities
• In 2005
  – 82% of all reported TB cases occurred in racial and ethnic minorities
  – 45% of TB cases reported in U.S.-born persons were among African Americans
  – The TB case rate for U.S.-born blacks (8.9/100,000) is more than 8 times higher than the rate in whites (1.1/100,000)

Proportional Representation of TB Cases in U.S. Born Blacks, 2005

TB Rates in U.S. Born, by Race/Ethnicity, United States, 1993–2005

*Updated as of March 29, 2006
**CDC Activities to Address TB in the African-American Community**

- In 2002, ACET called for presentations to highlight the historically high case rates among African Americans in the Southeast
- Established a workgroup on the topic
- Called for increased research and resources
- In May 2003, CDC and ACET convened a national meeting to raise awareness of this TB disparity

**CDC-Sponsored Demonstration Projects: Tuberculosis Intensification Projects to Address TB in African Americans**

- CDC issued supplemental funding for demonstration projects to identify innovative strategies to improve TB testing, diagnosis, and treatment in high-risk black communities
  - South Carolina, Georgia, and Chicago, IL

**TB Intensification Project Components**

- Description of the problem
  - Epidemiology
  - Knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs
- Intervention
- Evaluation

**TB Intensification Project Findings from Qualitative Assessments**

- African-American community not aware of TB problem, low priority
- Low knowledge of TB among patients
- Historical stigma and misconceptions associated with TB in the community
- Mistrust of healthcare providers
Recommendations to Address Barriers and Needs (1)

- Increase comprehensive, accessible medical care to address TB clients' other concerns (medical, social)
- Provide healthcare workers who are of similar racial background, e.g., “look like us”
- Increase cultural competency of health care providers
- Improve education of health care providers on outreach, engagement and maintaining ongoing client contact
- Tailor services for male clients at point of entry—current services appeal to women

Recommendations to Address Barriers and Needs (2)

- Tailor and disseminate educational messages for the African American community that incorporate cultural beliefs and preferences, lifestyle behaviors, and risk factors
- Address stigma associated with TB
- Provide TB education at all levels of the community

Sample Interventions from the TB Intensification Project (1)

- Recruited African-American health care workers to provide TB services and education
- Hired peer educators to coach and motivate high-risk clients
- Recruited an African-American social worker to bridge referral gaps

Sample Interventions from the TB Intensification Project (2)

- Established community coalition task force to improve partnerships with the business community, faith–based organizations, shelters, etc.
- Launched social marketing campaigns: print, billboards, TV, and black radio to get the messages out to the community

Georgia Campaign-- HALT TB

South Carolina Campaign
Chicago Campaign

Addressing TB Among African Americans in the Southeast: Identifying and Overcoming Barriers to Treatment Adherence for LTBI and TB Disease
• Funded in 2003, through the CDC Tuberculosis and Epidemiologic Research Consortium (TBESC)
• Collaborative project between RTI International and CDC (Task Order 11)

Research Objectives
• Determine TB knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and practices held by African Americans with or at risk for TB, and providers who this population
• Develop interventions needed to address the identified barriers to eliminate disparities in TB case rates among African Americans

Preliminary Findings of Formative Research
• Lack of knowledge about TB was widespread
• Misconceptions about TB transmission and prognosis
• Fear and stigma of TB is widespread
• Individuals wanted more face-to-face communication with providers
• TB is low priority for individuals at risk for TB

Preliminary Intervention Ideas
• TB Disparity Toolkit
  – A tool for identifying TB disparities in local communities
  – A guide for creating and forging partnerships
  • TB Fact Sheets
  • Educational materials for patients and providers
  • PowerPoint presentation to reach out to local partners
  • TB Awareness Video

Other CDC Activities to Address TB in the African-American Community
Summit Goals

• Raise awareness of the problem
• Build upon accomplishments from the 2003 meeting
• Create links and build networks to lead to ongoing strategies to address the problem

Summit Participants

Over 100 individuals from a myriad of organizations, including:
- CDC
- TB prevention programs
- Professional organizations
- Academic institutions
- Local and national advocacy organizations (civic, faith-based, community-based; fraternities; other)
- HHS State and Regional Minority Health Consultants

2005 Cooperative Agreement Performance Goal Related to TB in African Americans

• Decrease the case rate in jurisdictions reporting more than 50 cases of TB in U.S.-born blacks
• Report progress in the annual interim and final progress report

Summit Activities

Welcome and Keynotes from Public Health Leaders
- Dr. Louis Sullivan, President Emeritus, Morehouse School of Medicine and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Dr. Garth N. Graham, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health of the Office of Minority Health, HHS
- Yvonne Lewis, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, CDC
- Dr. Kevin Fenton, Director, NCHSTP, CDC
- Dr. Kenneth Castillo, Director, DTBE, CDC
Summit Breakout Sessions
• Convened groups based on organizational type to facilitate working with peers
• Groups devised actions based upon group discussion
  – Lists of options
  – Restricted to items that could be implemented in the upcoming year

Summit Evaluation
• Evaluate outcomes of the summit and implementation of action plans
• Convened follow-up conference calls with summit participants
• Collected data on action items achieved

Action Items from Professional Organizations
• Partner with CDC to obtain materials to exhibit at national conventions and meetings
• Hold workshop at the National Association of Black Social Workers annual national meeting
• Present a position paper at the annual meeting of the National Black Nurses
• Give presentations at the Concerned Black Clergy of Atlanta meeting and at churches
• Include TB testing at health fairs and mobile health units

Stop TB in the African-American Community Website
http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/TBinAfricanAmericans/

Stop TB in the African-American Community Listserv Subscription Information
To subscribe:

Future Activities to Address TB in the African American Community
• CDC research priority
  – National Study of Determinants of Early Diagnosis, Prevention, and Treatment of TB in the African-American Community
• Southeastern National TB Center (Regional Training and Medical Consultation Center)
  – Educational materials
Summary

• TB is a significant health disparity for the African-American community that must be addressed
• CDC is undertaking several activities to address this disparity, but more is needed
• Additional commitment, political will, and resources to address this TB disparity are needed
• Recognition of this health disparity is needed at the local level

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