



Sustained Community Partnerships: The Silver Lining of a TB Outbreak in a Homeless Shelter

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Kane County, Illinois

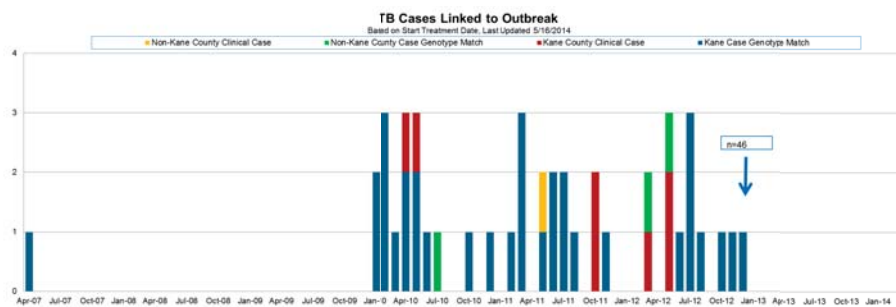


Problem

A TB outbreak was identified in Kane County, IL after two individuals were diagnosed from the same homeless shelter. Subsequently, 358 individuals were diagnosed with TB infection, and the health department did not have the infrastructure or resources to adequately manage the outbreak. The objective was to draw together community organizations to create and implement cooperative and effective strategies that could be sustained and used to mitigate and control the spread of TB.

Background

The outbreak began with the index case in 2007. Active case finding revealed no additional active cases. LTBI cases were not identified or treated. In early 2010 two more active cases were identified. Active cases were rapidly identified for a total of 46 by January 2013. Partnerships also developed quickly in response to urgent and emergent needs.



Method

From Silos to Sustained
Partnerships
TB Implementation Plan (TIP)
Committee



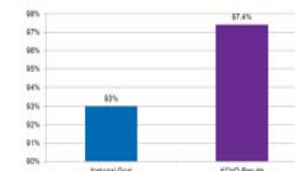
Upon recognition of the outbreak, outreach activities were initiated through the formation of community partnerships. These partnerships included shelters, local hospitals, FQHC, federal, state and local government agencies, local non-profit organizations, and medical suppliers.

Individual partnerships were effective, but functioned in silos. Bringing the partners formally together under the TB Implementation Plan (TIP) Committee brought mission-driven clarity to each partner. The TIP Committee formed workgroups that focused on key needs in the management of the outbreak. These workgroups, comprised of community partners, included: Housing, Staffing, Information Exchange, Funding and Evaluation.

Results

Key Indicators of Success
September, 2012 to December, 2013

➤ Completion of treatment for active cases within 12 months
National Goal: 93%
KCHD Results: **97.4%**



➤ Possible indicators of increasing transmission
✓ Increase smear-positive cases
KCHD Results: **No new active cases since January 2013**
✓ Increasing prevalence of newly diagnosed LTBI among exposed persons
KCHD Results: **Prevalence of LTBI reduced by 3% over one year period**

➤ Possible indicator that targeted approach should be revised
✓ Fewer cases found through targeted efforts focused on exposed persons
KCHD Results: **20 new LTBI cases and no active cases were found**
✓ Cases in unexpected population without association with the shelter or shelter guests
KCHD Results: **No increase in unexpected number of community cases**

➤ Percentage of LTBI treatment among infected contacts
National Goal: 79% for contacts to smear-positive disease start and complete LTBI treatment
KCHD Results: **91.7% started and completed LTBI treatment**

Conclusion

Involving community partners in the Kane County TB outbreak caused community organizations to gain an understanding of their respective roles and the significance of the mission of TB control and elimination, while fostering sustainable partnerships and establishing a framework that can be utilized for future public health emergencies and initiatives.

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