

Evaluation of a Higher Education Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Outreach Project

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Background

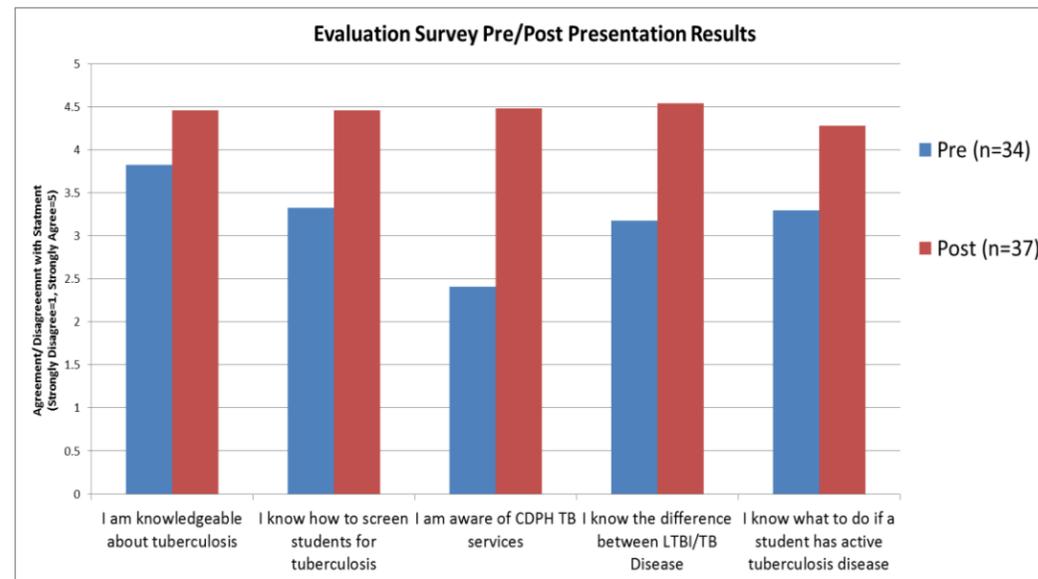
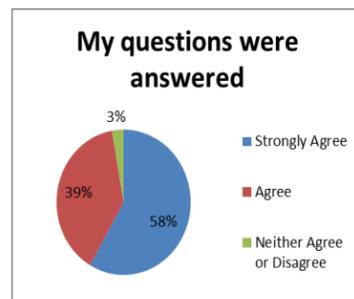
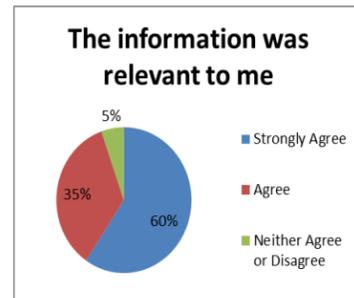
CDPH has treated and/or conducted multiple contact investigations for cases of TB disease at local universities over the past three years. To prevent TB transmission and increase screening for high-risk populations at Chicagoland universities, CDPH conducted an outreach project targeting higher education institutions in Chicago. The project's goals were to educate university healthcare staff about TB/Latent Tuberculosis (LTBI), provide recommendations for campus policies related to health/TB based on national guidelines, and build relationships with university healthcare staff and leadership.

Methods

There are approximately 20 four-year institutions in the City of Chicago. CDPH reached out to 12 institutions that have their main campus in Chicago and operate independently. Healthcare staff at these institutions were invited to participate in a survey to assess interest in learning more about TB and current university policies around TB screening. All institutions responded to the survey and six expressed interest in an education session led by CDPH TB staff. A presentation was created based on the survey responses and CDC/American College Health Association TB guidelines. CDPH presented to healthcare staff at all six institutions. A pre- and post- evaluation that used a five point Likert scale and open-ended questions was administered to evaluate the project.

Results

Thirty-four (34) pre- and 37 post- evaluations were completed by participants before and after the presentation. The evaluations found an improvement in all indicators assessed including knowledge of TB (18% increase), TB screening (36% increase), awareness of CDPH TB services (88% increase), and confidence in responding to active TB cases (30% increase). More than half of the participants indicated they would review or consider updating their institution's TB screening practices as a result of the presentation.



What is one new thing you learned from the presentation? (n=29, some respondents listed more than one)

- CDPH Services (n=12)
- Difference Between LTBI and TB Disease (n=6)
- Chicago TB Epidemiology (n=3)
- Chest X-Ray Screening (i.e. do not need repeat) (n=3)

What do you plan to do differently as a result of this presentation? (n=24, some respondents listed more than one)

- Consider increasing screening of students (n=6)
- Learn more/be more aware of TB (n=4)
- Review TB Protocols (n=2)
- Continue Established Protocol (n=2)
- Take BCG vaccine into account when screening (n=2)

Examples of Presentation Materials

Best Practices for Past Positive TB Tests

- Students with a documented previous positive TST or IGRA should **NOT** be retested
- Screening these students requires:
 - A documented negative chest x-ray
**does not need to be repeated*
 - A negative TB symptom check

Who on Campus is Most at Risk?

- Students, staff, faculty and healthcare workers who are from, have worked or lived in a high incidence TB country
- Those living or working in a congregate setting
- Recent contact of someone with active TB disease
- People with immune deficiencies

What if You Identify a Case of Active TB on Campus?

- Questions you might want to ask your own campus:
 - How would you want us to notify contacts?
 - What would you want your campus to know?
 - Could you assist with DOT?
 - Do you have an isolation room?
 - Do you have a plan for housing for infectious students?

What if You Identify a Case of Active TB on Campus?

- Report it
- We will assist with any contact investigations/treatment
- Know you might not hear anything more

Conclusion

This project has helped create stronger partnerships among CDPH and Chicagoland universities. Since the completion of the project, at least three universities have reached out to the TB program for consultation around screening and LTBI treatment. Additionally, CDPH has completed two contact investigations on campuses.

Contact

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CDC Disclaimer: *The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*