

Implementing D.O.T.S. to Raise Awareness of LTBI and TB in the Vietnamese Community in San Diego

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Background

Despite an overall decline in Tuberculosis in California and the U.S., rates are increasing in San Diego. Asians made up 41% of reported TB cases in San Diego, and most TB cases (72%) in the county were reported among the foreign-born. APHF's focus is to improve the health of underserved San Diego residents through disease prevention and early detection. This year, we are expanding our scope to include latent tuberculosis infection/tuberculosis (LTBI/TB) because it affects the same communities we target. APHF will focus on the Vietnamese community in San Diego to maximize the impact of TB control efforts. Reaching out to Vietnamese community members is crucial since Vietnam has one of the highest TB burdens in the world. This project will pilot an educational program about latent tuberculosis infection/tuberculosis, D.O.T.S.: Direct Outreach through Train-the-Trainers Strategy, targeting the Vietnamese community in San Diego using a train-the-trainer model to teach community members.

Methods

There are two objectives for APHF to help address the issue of TB in San Diego. First, APHF will employ the train-the-trainer model and create LTBI/TB videos and accompanying handouts in English and Vietnamese to educate "trainers" quarterly. The "trainers" will then educate and share information with their "trainees." Second, APHF will also conduct an online seminar on LTBI/TB for health professionals to raise awareness about newly released treatment guidelines.

Objective 1: Direct Outreach

The first objective is to raise awareness about the link between LTBI and TB, address misperceptions, decrease stigma, and encourage and facilitate testing and treatment for LTBI and TB. APHF will create LTBI/TB videos and accompanying handouts in English and Vietnamese for volunteer trainings. The "trainers" will go on to educate and share information with their "trainees," or any interested community member. The metric for evaluation of successful completion of the training for the trainees will be based on pre- and post-training assessments.

Objective 2: Educational Seminar

The second objective is to organize and host an online webinar about tuberculosis that is free-of-charge and open to healthcare professionals and clinicians. Attendees will complete online assessments based on a survey that incorporates treatments, the most recent findings, and sociodemographic questions. The pre-test will be given at the start of the virtual seminar, and the post-test will be given after. Community members can also take the pre and post-tests, which consists of roughly 20 questions addressing fundamental TB facts, disease etiology, and infection control in healthcare settings.

Results

The preliminary data from the first Trainers' Education Session showed a 35% increase in the knowledge assessment score. This demonstrates that the volunteer training effectively improved the trainers' understanding of TB/LTBI.

