



Latent Tuberculosis Among Vietnamese Immigrants

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History

Established in May 1979 as a refugee resettlement supporting agency in Westminster, California, Southland Integrated Services, Inc. (Southland) has gradually expanded its operations to respond to the rapidly evolving needs of the local Orange County population.

Southland Integrated Services, Inc. was founded in June 1998 to meet the urgent health needs of the large medically-underserved population in the community. With a multilingual medical staff and strong supporting personnel, Southland Health Center has served a diverse patient population and has helped to enroll thousands of uninsured children and adults in state-sponsored health insurance programs.

With over 20 programs, Southland provides a variety of services to low-income residents, the elderly, children, and those with mental disabilities. Southland has touched the lives of tens of thousands of people and has come to be regarded as an indispensable institution within the Orange County community.

Since May 2015, Southland Integrated Services, Inc. has been approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to be a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) clinic to provide even more quality



Medical Services

Diagnosis & Treatment

- general & chronic illness

Lab Services

- blood draw
- urinalysis
- EKG

Physical Examination

- vital signs (weight, height, heart rate, blood pressure)
- visual examination of head, eyes, chest, & abdomen

Family PACT (Planning, Access, Care, Treatment)

- family planning
- reproductive health

Acupuncture

- body & scalp acupuncture

Vaccinations

- COVID-19
- Influenza
- Hepatitis A and B
- Pneumovax
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Tetanus
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Tuberculosis (TB)

Screening Women's Health

- clinical breast exams
- breast health education
- pap smears
- pelvic exams





Patient Population Focus

At Southland, we are working towards improving latent tuberculosis infection testing and treatment among monolingual Vietnamese immigrants through culturally sensitive education and community outreach.

CDC Statistics

In 2021, U.S. state, local, and territorial health agencies reported a total of 7,882 tuberculosis (TB) cases to the CDC.

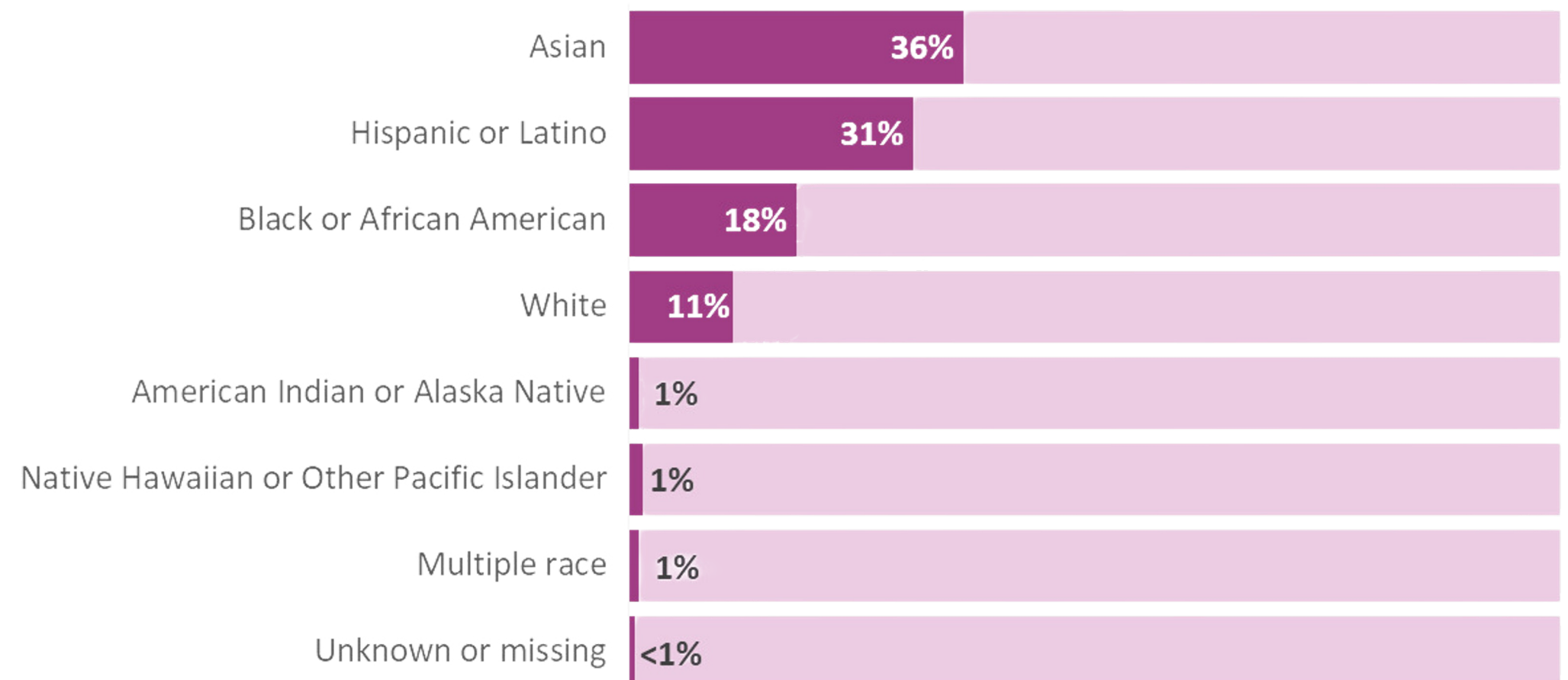
2,834 Asian persons accounted for 36% of all people who reported having TB nationally.

There's a rate of 14.4 TB cases per

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/populations/tbinasians/default.htm>

100,000 Asian persons.

**Percentage of TB Cases by Race/Ethnicity,*
United States, 2021 (N=7,882)**



*Persons who identified as Hispanic or Latino were categorized as "Hispanic or Latino," regardless of self-reported race. Persons who did not identify as Hispanic or Latino were categorized by self-reported race; if more than one race was reported, the person was categorized as "Multiple race."

CDC Statistics

The TB case rate is 32 times higher for Asian persons than for non-Hispanic white persons.

Being born in or traveling to countries with a high rate of TB disease increases a person's risk of becoming sick with TB

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/populations/tbinasians/default.htm>



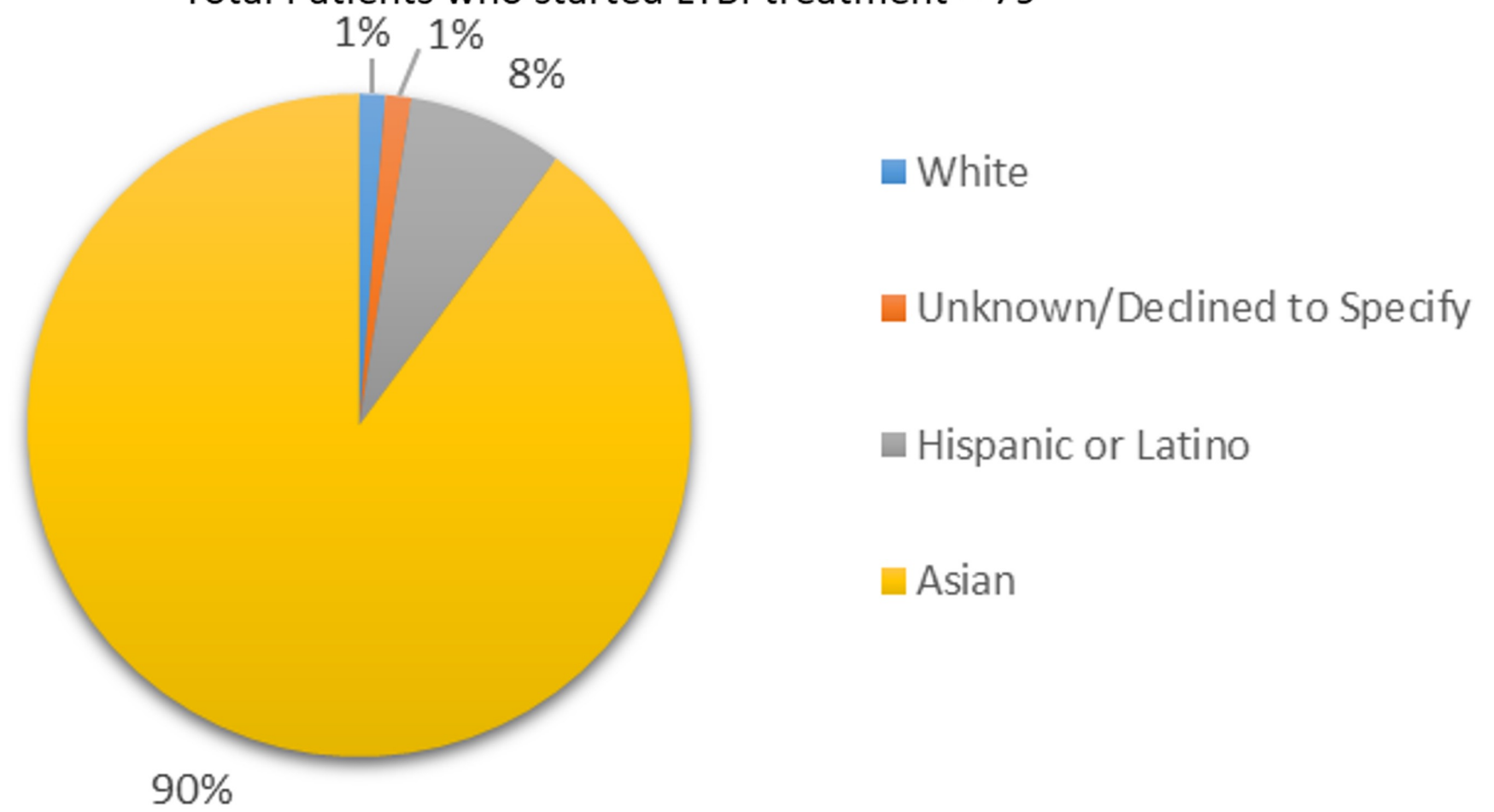
TB case rates are 32x higher among Asian persons than White persons.

- Philippines; 12.3%,
- India; 10.2%,
- Vietnam; 7.5%,
- China; 5.6%
- Myanmar; 1.8%

KEY FINDINGS

Out of the 79 patients who started LTBI treatment, the majority race was Asian, then followed by Hispanic or Latino, White, and Unknown.

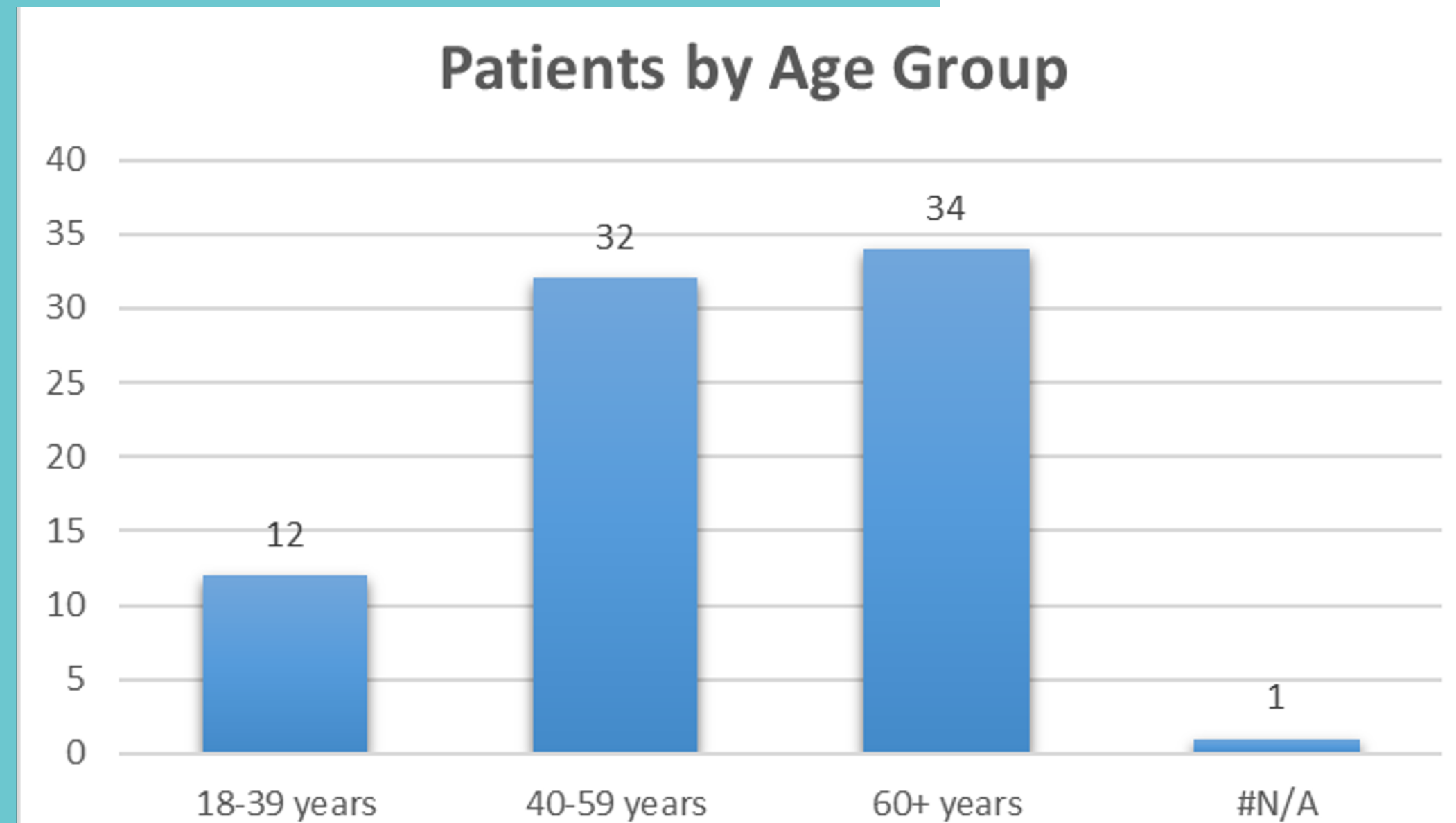
Patients by Race/Ethnicity
Total Patients who started LTBI treatment = 79



KEY FINDINGS

Patients (40-59 years and 60+ years) made up the majority of those who started LTBI treatment.

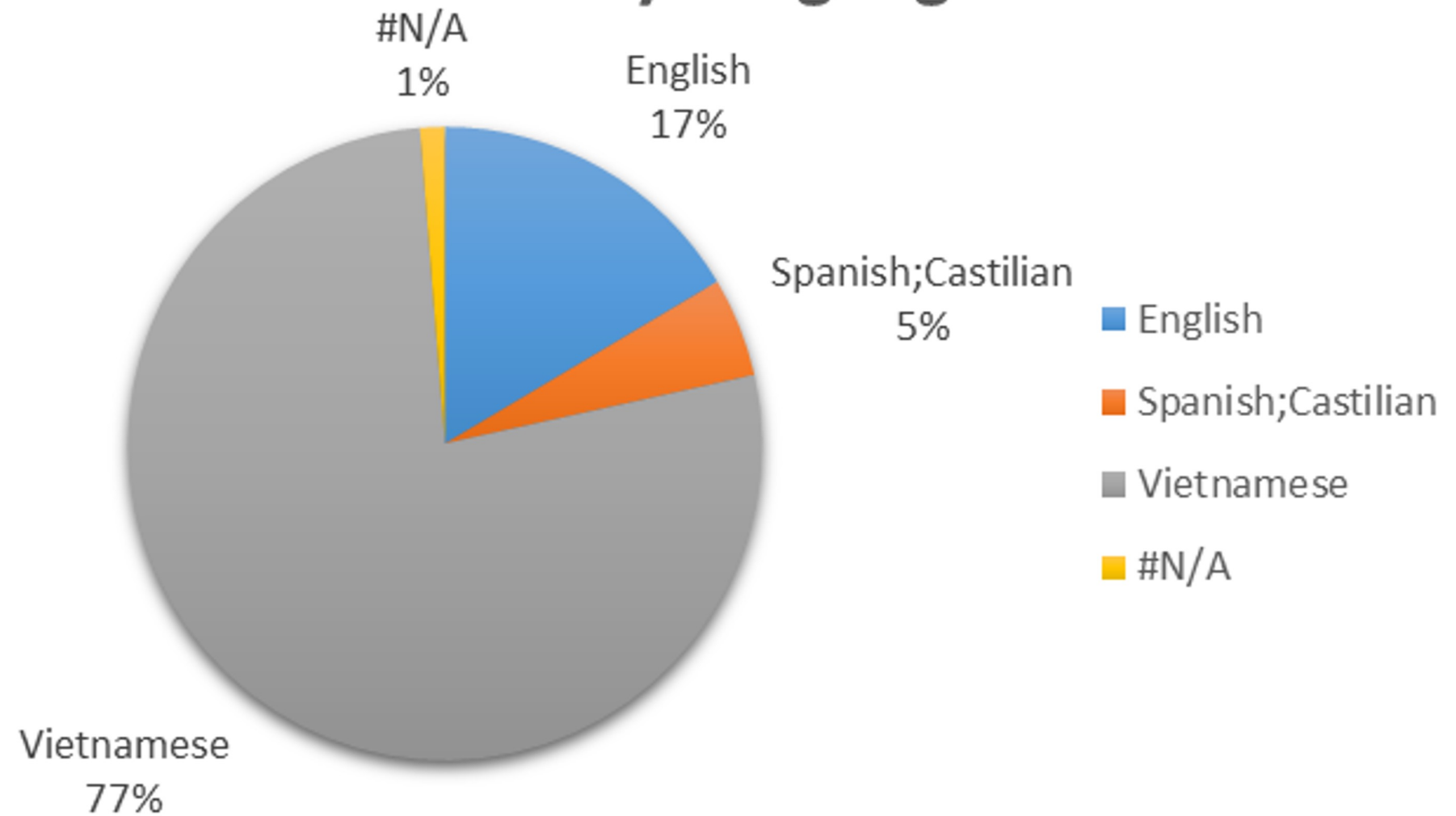
Note: 1 patient without demographics, but did start LTBI treatment and is included in the 79 total.



KEY FINDINGS

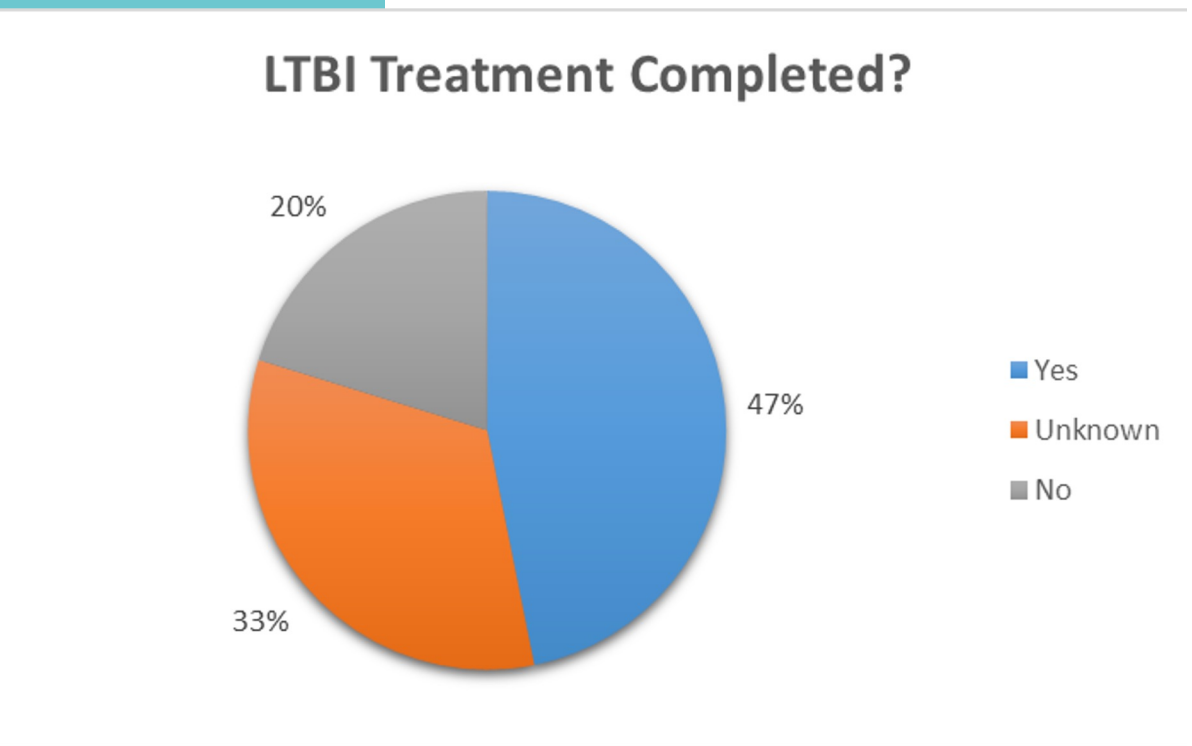
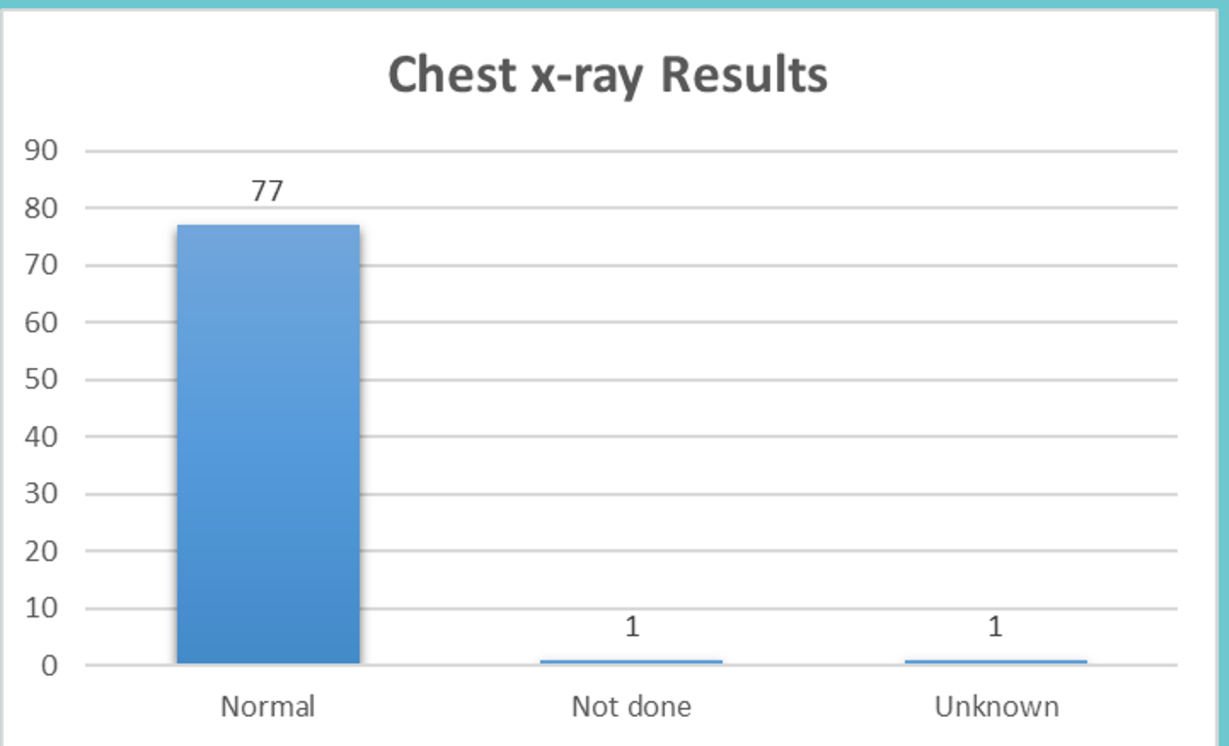
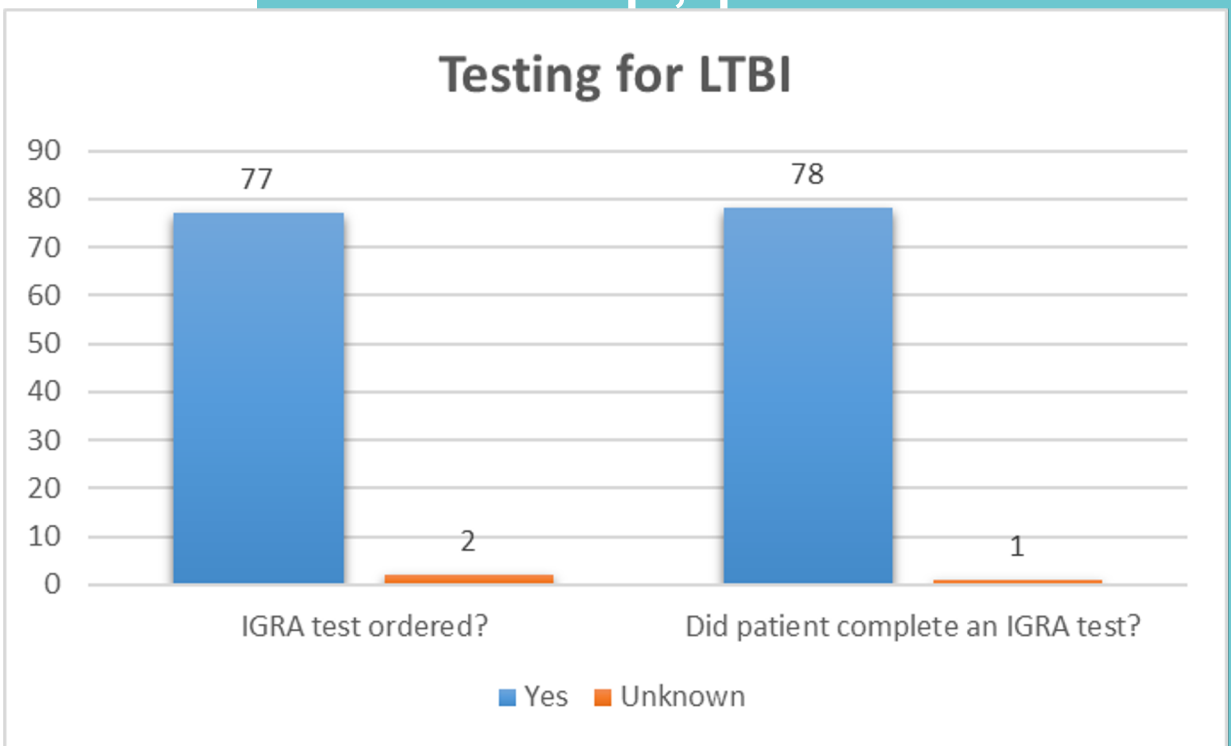
Most of our patients are best served in a language other than English. A total of 82% of the patients sampled speak either Vietnamese or Spanish.

Patients by Language



KEY FINDINGS

The majority of the patients who started LTBI treatment had a completed IGRA as well as a chest x-ray (which had normal results). Of those patients who started treatment, 47% completed it. The main reasons for those who did not finish treatment was because of lost to follow up, patient refusal, and side effects to the medication.



CHALLENGES & BARRIERS




- Cultural and Stigma-Related Challenges
 - Social stigma surrounding TB can discourage individuals from seeking testing and treatment
- Traditional Beliefs
 - Traditional and alternative medicine beliefs might lead to the uncertainty and avoidance of Western practices
- Lack of Health Literacy
 - Community members may not be aware or fully understand the risk of LTBI and its potential progression to active TB due to limited information in their preferred language
 - Solutions
 - Conduct community workshops, webinars, and health fairs to increase awareness about LTBI and its consequences
 - Distribute translated materials in community centers, places of worship, and social networks
- Complexity of LTBI Screening and Treatment
 - LTBI screening is a multi-step process that requires follow-up appointments for treatment, which can be challenging for some individuals
 - Solutions

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Southland's Process

- Dr. Fayette Nguyen Truax created an educational video in Vietnamese to educate community members on the importance of testing and treating Latent Tuberculosis, given that Vietnamese immigrants are one of the highest contractors of “sleeping TB” amongst API populations.
- Southland was able to collect data through a pre- and post-survey response for its monolingual Vietnamese patients regarding their knowledge on Latent Tuberculosis before and after watching Dr. Nguyen Truax’s video.

1) Day - Month - Year <i>* must provide value</i>	02-11-2023  Today D-M-Y
2) What is your gender? <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="radio"/> Woman <input type="radio"/> Man <input type="radio"/> Other
3) What is your age? <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="radio"/> 40-49 <input type="radio"/> 50-59 <input type="radio"/> 60-69 <input type="radio"/> Over 70

Post-video survey			
	Yes	No	Unsure
8) If people have sleeping tuberculosis germs (germs that are not active) can they become sick later in life? <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			reset
9) Do you believe that taking medication for sleeping tuberculosis is important? <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			reset
10) Would you be willing to get an x-ray if your blood test is positive for tuberculosis? <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Pre-video survey			
	Yes	No	Unsure
5) If people have sleeping tuberculosis germs (germs that are not active) can they become sick later in life? <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			reset
6) Do you believe that taking medication for sleeping tuberculosis is important? <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			reset
7) Would you be willing to get an x-ray if your blood test is positive for tuberculosis? <i>* must provide value</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Impact

- Language Accessibility
 - Providing educational materials and workshops in their native language is crucial as it ensures information is easily accessible and understood.
- Transfer of Knowledge
 - Southland and LLU's approach was to gauge knowledge pre- and post-education and found that majority of our patients did not know much about LTB, acting as a form of preventative care.
- Behavioral Change
 - The ultimate goal is to encourage a change in



OUR TEAM



Tricia Nguyen, MPH
Chief Executive Officer



Ngoc Khanh Banh
Community Outreach Director

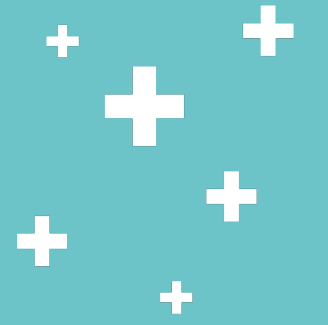


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In collaboration with the California Department of Public Health - TB Free Program, Orange County Health Care Agency
- Pulmonary Division, and Southland's team of medical providers.



THANK YOU