Exploring Partnerships to Enhance Tuberculosis Services for Latinos in Baltimore City

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Preceptors
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Tuberculosis burden

- More people afflicted by tuberculosis disease than by any other single infectious agent
- Compared to all infectious diseases, TB ranks 2nd (after AIDS) in the death toll it exacts
- Globally
  - 8.9 million new cases (140/100,000 population)
  - 14.6 million total cases (229/100,000 population)
  - over 1.6 million deaths (27/100,000 population) (2004 estimates)
- In the U.S.
  - 14,093 reported new cases last year (4.8/100,000 population) (2005)
  - 1,384 estimated deaths (2004 estimates)
- HIV has led to an increase in TB rates
Latent versus active tuberculosis

- 1/3 of world infected with Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- Infection (latent TB) risk factors: contact with person w/ active TB, severity of TB in source case, air clearance where in contact with the case. Crowding and poverty - related to the intensity of contact with a case.
- Disease (active TB) risk factors: recent TB infection, being HIV+, stress, poor nutrition
- Treatment of active TB – usually 6-9 months
FIGURE 2. Number and rate* of persons with tuberculosis (TB), by origin of birth and year — United States, 1993–2005†

* Per 100,000 population.
† Data for 2005 are provisional.

• In 2000-2004, 33% of foreign-born cases were found in people from Central America, the Caribbean, and South America.
Latino TB cases in Baltimore City

1994 Baltimore City TB cases

- 95% Non-Latino
- 5% Latino

2004 Baltimore City TB cases

- 83% Non-Latino
- 17% Latino

In 1990, 6,602 Latinos were recorded by the census, while in 2000 over 11,000 were counted. These are likely underestimates.
Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) Successes and Challenges

Successes
Steady decline in rates from 1978 to 2001

Challenges
Adherence
Clinic Hours
Legal Measures
   Patient-provider agreement
   Commissioner’s order
   Warrant and quarantine in jail
Aims of internship

- Learn about organizations serving Latinos & the services offered
- Survey organizations’ knowledge of the city’s TB clinic
- Have a meeting between community organizations and the TB clinic – brainstorm partnerships to better serve Latinos
Organizations

- 17 organizations contacted
- 10 participated in interview
- 7 participated in meeting

- 6 social service
  - Assisi House of St. Patrick Church
  - Beans and Bread
  - Casey Family Services
  - Centro de la Comunidad
  - Hispanic Apostolate
  - St. Michael Outreach Center

- 2 governmental or quasi-governmental
  - Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods, Office of Hispanic Affairs
  - Baltimore HealthCare Access

- 2 medical
  - Baltimore Medical Systems, Highlandtown clinic
  - Bayview Hospital’s Care-A-Van
## Survey results

### Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has any health official or outreach worker talked to or given information to your organization about TB?</td>
<td>5/7</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do your clients ever talk about TB?</td>
<td>1/7</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has your organization had any clients with TB?</td>
<td>4/9</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you heard of the Baltimore City TB clinic?</td>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you know where the clinic is?</td>
<td>5/5</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have the clinic phone number?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you know whether the clinic charges for services?</td>
<td>4/9</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Survey results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you know if the clinic provides care to undocumented immigrants?</td>
<td>5/9</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have your clients said anything about the Baltimore City TB clinic?</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you send someone to the Baltimore City TB clinic?</td>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education and outreach

- Word-of-mouth through key informants
- Venues for education
  - ESL classes, job searching, St. Michael’s, health fairs
  - Videos
  - Latino Providers Network
- Mass media
  - Fiesta Musical radio show on WEAA 88.9FM
  - An interview on El Sol radio station
  - Television Channel 25 city-based public service announcements
  - La Opinion newspaper
  - El Tiempo newspaper
TB Follow-Up Recommendations

- Meet at a community organization for DOT
- Contact CASA de Maryland - ways to reach Latino TB patients who are day laborers
- Partner with the Mayor’s Office of Hispanic Affairs and potentially Programa Salud for translation and interpretation
- Increase incentives
- Investigate possibility of enhancing casework through partnerships with community organizations
Formative research needed

- Patients - knowledge and beliefs about TB, experiences with the TB clinic, and adherence issues
- Providers – adherence issues, feasibility and expected impact of recommendations
- Organizations serving Latinos/ community members - TB knowledge, feasibility, impact, other input
Other Resources

- Students
  - Programa Salud JHU undergraduate group
  - Johns Hopkins medical school TB group
  - Johns Hopkins School of Public Health students
  - Nursing students
- Latino task force within city health department
- Community organizations and individuals who have expressed interest and offered given ideas
- Latino Provider Network
- Community advocates and professors working on health and health disparity issues concerning Latinos in Baltimore
Expected outcomes of recommendations & partnerships

- Better relationship between TB clinic and community organizations
- Increased knowledge of TB amongst Latinos
- Enhanced DOT options
- Increased adherence with DOT
  - Fewer quarantine orders
- Decreased spread of TB
Organizations that were interviewed (either in person or over the phone)

- Assisi House of St. Patrick Church
- Baltimore HealthCare Access
- Baltimore Medical Systems, Highlandtown clinic
- Bayview Hospital’s Care-A-Van
- Beans and Bread
- Casey Family Services
- Centro de la Comunidad
- Hispanic Apostolate
- Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods, Office of Hispanic Affairs
- St. Michael Outreach Center

Organizations that were called or e-mailed but not reached for an interview

- Caroline Street Clinic
- Casa de Maryland, Baltimore Worker’s Rights Center
- Education Based Latino Outreach (EBLO)
- Immigration Outreach Center, St. Matthew Catholic Church (IOSC)
- Men’s Center
- St. Joseph’s St. Clare Outreach Van
Resource guides listing community organizations

- Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association & Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Society (sponsors). Baltimore resource guide to Hispanic health services: for healthcare providers and the patients they serve. (In English and Spanish); 2006. In the future this will be available at www.bhca.org.

- Baltimore HealthCare Access, Inc. Consumer Guide to Low Cost and No Cost Health Care and resources in Baltimore City. (Guía de recursos y servicios de salud a bajo costo o gratuitos en la ciudad de Baltimore.) 2005-2006 edition; Available at:
  [http://www.bhca.org/pdf%20and%20Word/Low-No%20cost%20health%20care.pdf](http://www.bhca.org/pdf%20and%20Word/Low-No%20cost%20health%20care.pdf) in English and

- Hola Baltimore! website. Available at:
Thank you!

- Wendy Cronin
- Susan Dorman
- Michel Ibrahim
- Sherry Johnson
- Elli Leontsini
- Dipti Shah
- Jessie Torgersen
- Diane Zerbe
- Employees of organizations contacted
- Baltimore City TB clinic employees