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Evaluation of HIV status among Tuberculosis cases in women ≥ 18 years

Author (s)

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Objectives:

The NYSDOH Bureau of Tuberculosis (TB) Control set a goal of testing 68% of all adults with TB for HIV infection by the year 2006. Statewide, 75.8% of adult male TB cases are tested for HIV, while only 52% of adult females are tested. An evaluation of local TB programs will be performed to identify factors affecting HIV testing among adult female TB cases.

Methods:

Two tools were developed: a chart abstraction tool and a clinic survey. Counties with 50% of female TB cases with unknown HIV status from 2000-2007 and located within one day's driving distance from Albany were selected to participate in the chart review.

All charts of females, 18 will be reviewed. The survey will be sent to every county in NYS to be completed by a county TB program clinic staff member.

Results:

The results will help to identify barriers to testing female TB patients for HIV. Data demonstrate that 4.6% of female TB cases, 2000-2007, tested positive for HIV co-infection, 21% were not offered screening and 22% refused the test. Barriers may exist within clinical practice, staff attitudes, knowledge, or coordination of care. Findings may help to address deficiencies that exist within the county level TB programs.

Conclusions:

Research findings will be presented to NYSDOH and county health department staff. Interventions and policies for improvement at both the local and state level will be proposed.