

Responses to the Summary of Weaknesses/Recommendations from CDC on the October 5, 2012 Progress Report

The results of the Duval County TB cluster investigation as of April 17, 2013 are described in Appendix 1. The process for our contact search is described in Appendix 2. The process for TB data management is described in Appendix 3. Among the 1,873 Florida shelter contacts identified in the Duval County cluster, 1,340 (72 %) were located. Of those located, 77% (n=999) of the contacts were tested; 32 were identified as cases and 323 had LTBI. To date, 100% of active cases and 52% of LTBI cases have initiated or completed treatment.

Specific responses to weaknesses identified are included below.

1. As of October 5, 2012, nine epidemiologists from county health departments throughout Florida had been deployed to Duval County. None of them were new hires.
2. A memorandum of understanding exists between the Duval County Health Department (DCHD) and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for integrated HIV and TB control (Appendix 4). The local health department provides updates on ongoing screening efforts during local homeless coalition meetings. A guidance document for management of TB cases in Duval County homeless shelters, drafted last fall is undergoing review (Appendix 5). Dedicated Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) staff continue to actively work with the shelters to assure screening is completed and provide educational materials as requested. The TB liaison resigned in February 2013 and the position is in the process of being filled. The focus of this position will be to serve as a liaison for the jail, shelters and the hospitals.
3. All screenings and pending results are entered into the Florida Department of Health's Health Management System (HMS) and are monitored by the TB Program Manager who assigns a Nurse Case Manager and DIS to follow up. Ongoing screening results are provided to the TB physicians for complete evaluation and follow up.
4. Screening data are entered into HMS and reviewed weekly or more often as needed (See Appendix 3). There is no current evidence of ongoing transmission within the local shelters in Duval County.
5. The results of the cluster investigation are described in Appendix 1. Individuals were screened 56 days or more after exposure. Early on in this process, data management was inconsistent and chest x-rays were not documented for all positive contacts. In the past months chest x-rays have been consistently obtained on all positive contacts. A review is under way to verify that all individuals with positive IGRA tests have been evaluated for active TB.
6. The most recent update of the cluster investigation is included in Appendix 1. The 999 high priority contacts tested are a subset of 1,291 found, excluding 49 deceased. Of those tested, 32 individuals had active TB and 323 were diagnosed with LTBI. The health department is currently validating their data to make sure all individuals with an LTBI diagnosis received a chest x-ray.

7. The final number of high priority contacts, after multiple de-duplication steps and review, was 2,261. Of these, 1,873 had in state and 388 had out of state locating information.
8. A memorandum of understanding exists between DCHD and the Duval County Sheriff's office for integrated TB and HIV management (Appendix 4).
9. A March 2013 DCHD review of protocols and procedures implemented by local shelters showed that:
 - a. Staff screening and testing within 30 days of employment was partially implemented by shelters.
 - b. The shelters did not display posters for client education about TB.
 - c. The shelters did maintain bed map assignment and the recommended space between beds.
 - d. All facilities have referral processes in place for sick clients.
 - e. Funding for Service Point has ended, another data system Client Trak has been implemented. The health department needs to validate the quality of the TB data documentation. The health department is currently providing TB screening for staff and clients on an as-needed-basis. No other funding exists to support this activity.
 - f. The Florida Department of Health requested a NIOSH consult to evaluate the environmental conditions in the shelters. The report is expected to be finalized later this year. UV lights and HEPA filters are used at a few sites.
10. The HMS database for TB case management requires case managers to document an infectious period before entering contact evaluation related data. Written statewide standards also describe the need to document the infectious period (Appendix 6). A recommendation has been made to the DCHD to incorporate language regarding documentation of the infectious period in their local policy.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1	1-2-3 Assure the Cure
APPENDIX 2	Final TB Cluster Investigation Effort
APPENDIX 3	HMS Data Sheets
APPENDIX 4	MOU: DCHD and Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
APPENDIX 5	TB Standard Guidelines for Homeless Service Providers in Duval County
APPENDIX 6	DOH Guidelines Contact Investigation and Contact Evaluation