

TB Prevention at a Community Based Organization

“We’re thrilled to collaborate with TB Free California to provide TB prevention education and expand our local partnerships including Chinese Newcomers Center. Through this linkage, Ana Li, RN from the SF TB Clinic provided a linguistically appropriate and culturally sensitive presentation about TB testing and treatment, then engaged in dialogue with community members in a setting where they were comfortable.”

Susannah Graves, TB Controller, MD, MPH
San Francisco Department of Public Health, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control

Public Health Problem (Issue)

Over 80% of California’s tuberculosis (TB) cases could be averted with increased testing and treatment of latent TB infection (LTBI), the stage before the infection progresses to TB disease (1). California continues to have the most TB cases in the U.S., and non-U.S.-born Asians are disproportionately affected by TB disease compared to other groups. In response, the TB Free California initiative collaborates with local health departments, clinics, and community-based organizations in efforts to prevent TB disease by improving LTBI care in high-risk communities.

San Francisco (SF), California has a TB case rate of 11.8 per 100,000. This is more than four times the national rate of 2.7 cases per 100,000 and twice the rate of California at 5.3 per 100,000. The largest proportion of TB cases reported in 2019 are among the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) population at 21.4 per 100,000. Among TB cases in SF’s API community, individuals of Chinese descent make up over 50% of the TB cases, of which 88% are non-U.S.-born (1). Unfortunately, lack of awareness about TB risk factors and TB preventative treatment are barriers to providing care for SF’s Chinese immigrant population. Addressing this health inequity relies on a multidisciplinary partnership among community, county, and state systems.

Taking Action (Intervention)

TB Free California partnered with the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program and the Chinese Newcomers Service Center to develop a joint community awareness event focused on Chinese and other newly arrived Asian immigrants. Supported by the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, the TB Free California team worked with the leaders of the non-profit organization to host on-site health education events. This collaboration was made possible because of the strong partnership with Drs. Susannah Graves and Janice Louie, Laura Romo, and Ana Li. The first community outreach event was held in October 2019.

To deliver a successful health education seminar, the team:

- Met with the API Council, an advocacy organization in SF, to establish a working relationship with the Chinese Newcomer Service Center.
- Developed a culturally relevant TB education curriculum in lay language, including Powerpoint slides with English and Simplified Chinese characters to guide the audience.

- Provided an educational seminar in Cantonese, the primary language spoken by the clients of the Chinese Newcomers Service Center.
- Disseminated TB Free California LTBI education posters in English and Simplified Chinese to increase their awareness of TB and encourage testing.
- Supported the Chinese Newcomers Service Center with the development of event promotion materials/posters.

Impact

As a result of this event:

- Over 40 clients of the Chinese Newcomers Service Center received TB prevention education at our first outreach event.
- A new partnership was formed between a community group (Chinese Newcomers Service Center) and the SFDPH team supporting future linkage to TB care.
- TB Free California established a relationship with Chinese Newcomers Service Center and the API Council, both community-based organizations primarily serving non-U.S.-born Californians at high risk for TB.
- A health education training curriculum was developed in English/Cantonese, and can be made available for future community events.
TB Free California will continue to collaborate with SFDPH and the Chinese Newcomers Service Center on future events to prevent TB.

Footnotes

Tuberculosis Control Branch, Report on Tuberculosis in California, 2019. California Department of Public Health, Richmond, CA. August 2020.

Success Story Author Contact:

First and Last Name: Shereen Katrak

Title: Director

Department or Affiliation: Tuberculosis Control Branch, California Department of Public Health

Email: shereen.katrak@cdph.ca.gov

Phone: include area code (510) 412-5838

Healthy People Objective

TB

PHHS Block Grant Funding

100% - Total source of funding

