



IOM International Organization for Migration
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IOM's International Dialogue on Migration
Co-sponsored by WHO and CDC

Seminar on Health and Migration, 9-11 June 2004

Session IIB: Public Health and Migration

US/Mexico tuberculosis (TB) border health card: Bilateral TB referral & treatment initiative, Dr Stephen WATERMAN

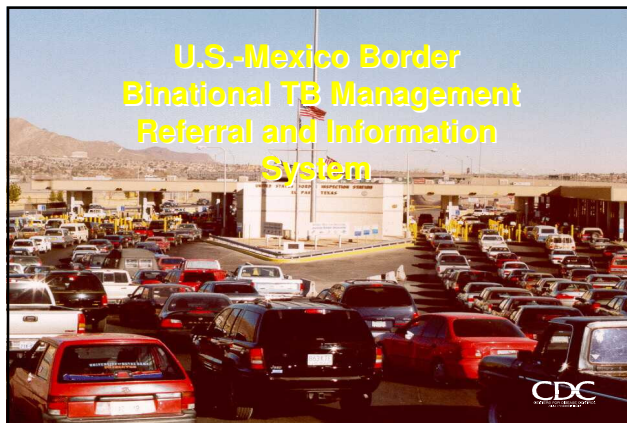
US-Mexico Binational Tuberculosis Referral and Case Management Project



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CDC
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U.S.-Mexico Border Binational TB Management Referral and Information System



Reported TB Cases, U.S., 2000

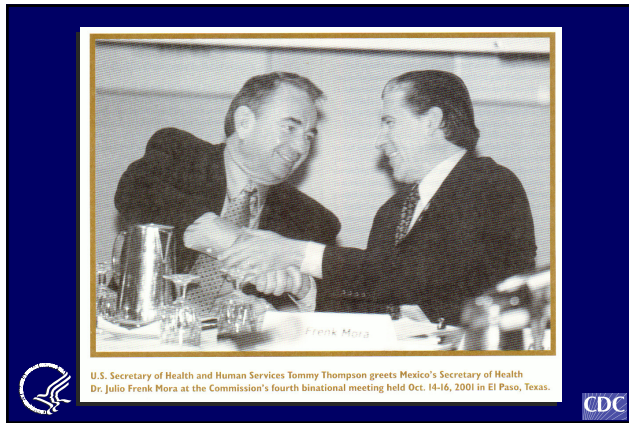
- 16,377 TB cases reported (total)
- 46% (n=7,554) among foreign-born persons
 - 24% (n=1,773) of foreign-born TB cases were born in Mexico
 - 70% (n=1,238) of the Mexican-born TB cases reported from the 4 border states (AZ, CA, NM, TX)
 - Mexican-born TB cases have more than 2X higher rates of single and multiple drug resistance



Background

- U.S.-Mexico border: Frequent crossings complicate case management and continuity of care
- Repercussions of untreated and incomplete TB treatment extend to other parts of U.S. and Mexico






Background (2)

- **Nov 2000**
 - U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission inaugural meeting – signed agreement on TB
- **2000-2001 Mexico City, Atlanta, El Paso**
 - U.S. and Mexico key players discuss Binational Card and Information System of TB Case Management

Goals of the US-Mexico Binational TB Referral and Case Management Project

- Ensure continuity of care and completion of therapy
- Reduce TB incidence and prevent drug resistance
- Coordinate referral of patients between health systems
- Provide model for other diseases

Binational Health Card – Data Elements



- Unique identification number
- Location where card was issued
- Treatment initiation date
- Date of last dose TB treatment
- Treatment regimen
- DOT (yes/no)
- Bilingual
- Toll-free telephone numbers in the US and Mexico

TB Patients - Eligibility

US

- Active TB
 - Mexico-born, and/or
 - Mexico-bound
- Suspect TB
 - ICE Detention Centers

Mexico

- Active TB



Pilot Sites

- US-Mexico border sister cities/states
 - San Diego, CA – Tijuana, BC
 - El Paso, TX/Las Cruces, NM - Ciudad Juarez, CHIH
 - Webb/Cameron Counties, TX – Matamoros, TAMAU
 - Arizona – Sonora
- INS / ICE Detention Centers
 - Texas, California, Arizona
- Mexican states
 - Coahuila, Nuevo Leon
- US States
 - Tennessee, Washington, Illinois



Project Launch: March 27, 2003



Training and Educational Activities

- Training
 - All sites have received training and have received all materials
 - Card Project information will be incorporated in local and national trainings/ meetings
- Educational Activities
 - Mexico has designed and distributed posters and brochures for patients describing the Project
 - A flipbook ("rotafolio") for patients is currently being completed for both US and Mexico Pilot Sites





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Card Distribution and Patient Movement As of June 3, 2004: US and Mexico Pilot Sites*

U.S.

- Total – 292 cards distributed
 - 86 moved to Mexico
 - 6 patients from Mexico
- Card distribution by state
 - California 48%
 - Texas 34%
 - Arizona 15%
 - Tennessee, Illinois, Washington 2%

Mexico

- 984 cards distributed
 - 32 moved to U.S.
 - 37 patients from U.S.
- Card distribution by state
 - Baja California 48%
 - Tamaulipas 35%
 - Chihuahua 10%
 - Sonora 3%
 - Coahuila 3%
 - Nuevo Leon 1%

*Information available as of June 3, 2004 teleconference



Detail of Card Movement: US Pilot Sites* (1) 30% (n=81) of Card patients moved to Mexico

- Demographic information
 - 90% (73/81) males
 - Median age = 35 (range: 1-93 years)
 - 48% (39/81) of patients NOT official US cases
- Move destination
 - Patients went to 17 Mexican states
 - 79% (60/81) went to Mexican Pilot sites

* Data up to April 30, 2004; Data from Project Database
**Using data collected by the US national TB surveillance system



Project Evaluation

- Is the binational referral system facilitating completion of therapy for patients traveling across the US-Mexico border?
- Can we improve project efficiency?
- How much does it cost?
- Is the model sufficiently effective and feasible to warrant replication in other sites and/or for other diseases?



Evaluation Site Visit Results (1)

- High level political commitment exists for this Project in both countries
- The 800 toll-free lines are functional in both countries
- The majority of personnel in the Pilot Sites have been trained in the Card protocol
- According to providers, patients have a favorable attitude towards the Card
- People living directly at the US-Mexico border migrate less than anticipated (while on TB treatment)
- The notification loop between the US and Mexico is not completely functional yet



Project Evaluation-Design

- Phase 2
 - Priorities for assessment, determined through group consensus, include:
 - Impact of Project
 - Migration patterns/ tracking
 - Data system/ database analysis
 - Coordination with immigration authorities
 - Patient and provider experience
 - Project cost
- Protocol in human subjects review
- Data collection to begin in July and completed by September



Challenges - Planning and Implementation

- Establish mechanisms to safeguard patient confidentiality and legality of information exchange
- Funding and sustainability



Challenges – Pilot Operations

- Notification/ referral information flow between and within countries not completely functional
- Database management challenging
- Remains difficult to obtain treatment outcome status of patients who have moved
- Budget needs





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Funding

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Mexico
- U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)



Project Summary

- Responds to identified TB needs in the region
- Has become an integral part of TB management in ICE detention centers
- Strong political commitment exists at the national, state, and local levels
- Represents a model for consensus for binational collaboration
- Should lead to improved treatment outcomes
- Should provide model for other similar settings or for other diseases in this setting



Project Partners

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National TB Program of Mexico• Mexican Ministry of Health• Mexican National Center for Epidemiological Surveillance• National Institute of Diagnostic and Epidemiological Laboratory• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention• US-Mexico Border Health Commission• California Department of Health Services• San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency and its CureTB program• Texas Department of Health, TB Elimination Division• El Paso City-County Health Department• Migrant Clinicians Network and its TBNet program• The Binational TB Prevention and Control Project, "JUNTOS"• La Fe Community Health Center• Institute of Health Services of Baja California | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State of New Mexico Department of Health• Secretary of Health of Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, Sonora, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon• Secretary of Health of Jalisco, Michoacan, Vera Cruz, Oaxaca• Ciudad Juarez Secretary of Health• US Agency for International Development (USAID)• US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)• US Department of Homeland Security• US Department of Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)• US Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS)/ICE• Ten Against TB• American Lung Association• American Lung Association of Texas (ALAT)• Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) |
|---|---|



Thank You

Gracias

