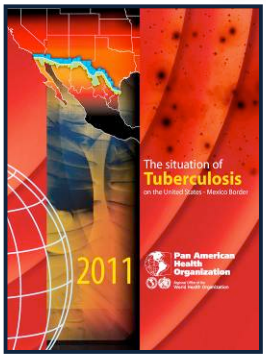
Pan American Health Organization

Regional Office of the World Health Organization

2011 PUBLICATIONS

PAHO/WHO United States-Mexico Border Office

The Situation of Tuberculosis on the United States-Mexico Border



Description:

Since the reappearance of tuberculosis as a priority public health problem throughout the Americas in the early 1980's, the impact of this disease in the life of patients, their families, their communities and even the entire health system responsible for helping these individuals has been significant. Despite the PAHO/WHO recommendations to use strictly supervised therapy (DOTS), countries continue to face major challenges to improve the clinical management of patients, including adherence, not to mention the rise of multidrug-resistant (MDR), and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR), and the obstacles many countries face to maintain the necessary infrastructure to properly serve these populations.

In the United States, tuberculosis is a public health priority, but despite the country's efforts to control and eliminate it, the disease continues to be significantly present in many cities and counties, highlighting the border states with Mexico as an area that concentrates one third of all registered cases nationwide. In 2006, US border counties reported incidence rates as higher than four times above the national average.

In Mexico, both incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis are much higher than in the United States, and the public health impact is also significantly higher for this country that works with a more complex health system to make managing cases functional. All of these issues are due to the fact that this country faces a socio–economic environment much more challenging. International and internal migration of populations looking for better opportunities in life, or just going after a better source of employment are critical variables in this puzzle. The Northern States of Mexico are also the source of one third all of registered cases in the country every year, this, significantly tied to migration of high risk populations previously described. Similar to the US situation, the Mexican border municipalities attached to their neighboring country reported in 2006 incidence rates two and three times higher than the national average, confirming the seriousness of the situation for the US – Mexico Border.

Content: Prologue; Glossary; Executive Summary; Background; Justification; Objectives; Proposed Methodology; Chapter 1, Determinants Related to Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the United States-Mexico Border; Chapter 2, The Epidemiology of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Strategies for Combating Tuberculosis; Chapter 3, Review of Strategies for the Management of Patients with Tuberculosis on the United States-Mexico Border; Chapter 4, Conclusions and Recommendations for the Control of tuberculosis on the United States-Mexico Border; Appendix 1, Appendix 2, Appendix 3, Bibliography, References.

Competitive Advantages:

This publication is an up-to-date report of the current tuberculosis situation along the US – Mexico Border, with a thorough analysis of the relationship between the social determinants of health and this disease. Also, there is a descriptive narrative explaining the uniqueness of the border region and its functional dynamic established between the inhabitants on both sides of the dividing line and how this is intimately linked to the existing epidemiology of tuberculosis in the area.

The report identifies reasons why both countries should work coordinately to control tuberculosis in the border. Related conclusions and recommendations are also presented.

COMPLETE TEXT AVAILABLE IN PDF:

English: http://www.infofrontera.org/lildbi/docsonline/fep002991.pdf *(embargoed until March 24th)*

Spanish: http://www.infofrontera.org/lildbi/docsonline/fep002992.pdf

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

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