SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS AMONG THE INMATES OF THE BATAAN PROVINCIAL JAIL: BASIS FOR A POPULATION-SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

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099

Background Tuberculosis still remains a global threat as a result of insufficient data due to incompleteness and low quality from countries with high burden of Tuberculosis. In like manner, the control of TB within the prison and jails has been a long-standing concern. Because of a large number of population

in prison cells, the transmission of disease increases in addition to the large number of inmates coming from lower economic status families with unmet nutritional requirements and restricted conditions of prison cells.

Objectives This study aims to conduct surveillance to determine the incidence and prevalence of TB among the inmates of Bataan District Jail.

Methods The study utilized the descriptive survey technique. A sample population of 314 inmates, both male and female, where given a constructed survey questionnaire. The data collected were treated and analyzed using mean, frequency and percentage distribution.

Result After analysis of data collected, it was seen that the jail facility had no resident physician to conduct upon-commitment or entry screening. Also, surveillance practice on TB like utilizing links and networks to laboratory-confirmed and clinically-diagnosed TB cases were not practiced fully. However, there was sufficient stock of anti-TB treatment drugs and proper use of Direct- Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) strategy. Appropriate network of treatment has been reflected. This was seen where the problem of delayed laboratory confirmation lead to droplet and airborne exposure of other inmates.

Conclusion The missing link is the establishment of a DOTS Clinic that will specifically render procedure on working out TB program needs for the jail facility. The availability of a quality laboratory for screening will eventually help the institution materialize efficient surveillance and control.