

Incidence of Disease in Communities

Name: Silvana Montalvo Riofrio

Student ID: 2130452

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Lecturer : Laila Surani

Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious infectious disease that affects millions of people around the world. Public health professionals rely on various strategies and approaches to effectively measure, monitor and control the incidence of TB. These include active case finding, contact tracing, and targeted screening of high-risk populations. Public health professionals also use surveillance systems to track the spread of TB and identify new outbreaks. Public health professionals promote preventive measures such as vaccines and improved hygiene practices to control the spread of the disease. Public health professionals also provide treatment, support, and education to those affected by TB to reduce the spread of the disease. By using these strategies, public health professionals can better measure, monitor, and control the incidence of tuberculosis.

Strategies Used in the UK to Measure TB

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious infectious disease that has been a major public health issue in the United Kingdom (UK) for many years. To combat this disease, the UK has implemented several strategies to measure the incidence of TB, including active and passive surveillance, epidemiological studies, and laboratory testing (Shirley et al., 2020). The most common strategy used to measure the incidence of TB in the UK is active surveillance. This involves public health professionals actively identifying and recording cases of TB in the local population. This data is then used to inform public health decisions, such as implementing preventative measures and allocating resources. Active surveillance is a key tool in the UK's fight against TB (Abubaka et al., 2018). The second strategy used to measure the incidence of TB in the UK is passive surveillance. This involves the analysis of existing data, such as hospital records and death certificates, to identify and track cases of TB. This data can identify high-risk populations and inform public health decisions (Rewley et al., 2020). The third strategy used in the UK to measure the incidence of TB is epidemiological studies. This involves the study of the transmission of the disease and its associated risk factors. This data can be used to inform public health interventions, such as vaccination programs and the development of new treatments. Laboratory testing is also used in the UK to measure the incidence of TB. This involves the analysis of samples taken from suspected TB cases and identifying the presence of the disease in these samples. This data can be used to identify TB cases and inform public health decisions (Darabi & Hosseinichimeh, 2020).

Strategies used to Monitor TB in the UK

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious global health issue, with the UK has seen an increase in incidence since 2011 (Public Health England, 2018). To tackle this, the UK has implemented several strategies to monitor the incidence of TB. These include the National Tuberculosis Surveillance System (NTSS) and the Tuberculosis in Primary Care Network (TBCN). The NTSS is a comprehensive database that contains information on the UK's diagnosis, treatment and outcomes of TB cases. This system allows public health professionals to identify, monitor, and intervene in cases of TB. It also records incidence trends, helping inform public health policy (Talarico et al., 2020). The TBCN is a network of primary care professionals who work together to identify and treat TB cases in the community. This network provides an early warning system,

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allowing cases to be identified and treated before they become more serious. In addition, the network provides education and training to primary care professionals on diagnosing and treating TB. Both the NTSS and the TBCN are effective strategies for monitoring the incidence of TB in the UK (Cutfield et al., 2022). The NTSS provides a comprehensive record of cases, enabling public health professionals to intervene early and make informed policy decisions. The TBCN provides early warning of potential cases, allowing for rapid intervention and treatment. Together, these strategies are helping the UK to reduce the incidence of TB.

Strategies used to Control Tuberculosis in the UK

The United Kingdom (UK) has implemented various strategies to control the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) disease. These strategies are focused on prevention, early diagnosis, and effective treatment of the disease. In terms of prevention, the UK has implemented a nationwide Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination program. BCG is a live vaccine that can reduce the risk of TB in children, particularly those living in high-risk areas (Dockrell & Smith, 2017). Additionally, the UK has implemented educational campaigns to raise awareness of TB and encourage people to seek medical advice if they have any symptoms. The UK also has measures to facilitate early diagnosis of the disease. The National Health Service (NHS) offers free TB screening tests to people at higher risk of becoming infected with the disease, such as people living in deprived areas, people with HIV, and people from countries where TB is more prevalent (Cinardo et al., 2022). If a person tests positive for TB, they are immediately referred to specialist TB services for further investigation and treatment. The UK has developed and implemented effective treatment strategies for TB. The NHS has adopted the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendations for TB treatment and management, which recommends a combination of antibiotics to treat the disease (Stagg et al., 2020). Treatment is free of charge and is usually undertaken in a hospital or community setting. Overall, the strategies implemented by the UK to control the incidence of TB have been largely successful. According to Public Health England, the rate of TB in the UK has fallen by over 18% since 2013 (Public Health England, 2020). However, there is still room for improvement. For example, there is a need to increase access to TB screening in areas with high-risk populations, such as prisons and homeless shelters. Additionally, more needs to be done to raise awareness of TB and ensure that people can access treatment quickly and easily.

Conclusion

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The UK has adopted a comprehensive, multifaceted approach to measuring, monitoring, and controlling the incidence of tuberculosis. These approaches are based on early diagnosis and contact tracing, the provision of effective treatment and preventive services, the development of robust surveillance systems, and the implementation of targeted screening and health promotion programs. These strategies have contributed to a significant reduction in the prevalence of tuberculosis in the UK over the past decade. However, further work is needed to ensure that the incidence of TB is fully controlled in the future. To achieve this, continued efforts will be required to maintain and strengthen the existing approaches and develop new strategies to better target those most at risk of TB.

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