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Topic: P- TB epidemiology

Abstract language: English

Title: Do pilot active case finding projects increase case notification of sputum smear-positive tuberculosis at national level?

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Text: **Background:** Active tuberculosis case finding (ACF) projects have mostly described an increase of the notification rate in the area of intervention. The objective of this study is to measure the impact of ACF on the case notification of sputum smear positive (SS+) TB at the national level.
Methods: Case-finding results of the 16 countries which have participated to the first wave of the TB Reach project were analyzed. Following the results of TB Reach, we have used two methods to achieve our goal. First we have described the variation of case notification at the national level and then a segmented linear regression has been used to analyze the impact of the TB Reach project on the case notification of SS+ TB at the national level for 2005 to 2013, before, during and after the intervention.
Results: TB Reach project described in almost all countries, an increase of SS+ TB cases from 3% to 334%. Before, during and after the implementation of TB Reach project, the variations of case notification at country level were often within the expected range from -10% to + 10% for most countries. Using the segmented linear regression, before implementation of the ACF project, there was a significant year-to-year change in the case notification of SS+ TB in most countries. During the intervention, there was no impact on case notification at national level in all countries, except Benin and Kenya. After intervention, there was a significant decrease in the number of case notified at national level in some countries.
Conclusions: In general, ACF projects have no influence on case notification of SS+ TB at national level. Our hypothesis is that the ACF projects are pilot projects, difficult to reproduce at the national level, largely because of the high cost and the lack of human resources.

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