



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Completeness of tuberculosis case notification in Akatsi South Municipality, Volta region, Ghana: A capture-recapture analysis

Category:

Communicable diseases (Malaria, TB, HIV, NTD)

Authors:

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Objectives:

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a public health challenge globally, with underreporting hindering effective control efforts. This study sought to determine the accuracy of TB case notifications in Akatsi South Municipality in Ghana's Volta region. It also investigates obstacles to effective TB case detection, diagnosis, and treatment.

Method:

A mixed-methods cross-sectional study was conducted using quantitative and qualitative approaches. The quantitative component involved record linkage of district, treatment center, and laboratory registers to estimate the completeness of bacteriologically confirmed TB case notifications. Qualitative in-depth interviews with health professionals were conducted to understand the obstacles to TB diagnosis, reporting, and treatment.

Results:

There were 1,677 registered TB cases between 2020 to 2023, among whom 47 (2.8%) were bacteriologically confirmed. Of the 47 bacteriologically confirmed TB cases, 2 (4.3%) were recorded in all three registers; 10 (21.3%) were unique to the District TB registry; 20 (42.6%) to the treatment registry, and 3 (6.4%) to the Laboratory TB registry only. Records in the DHIMS 2 database had about 18% (n=13) more TB cases than what was captured in the treatment Centre register (274 vs 261). The unwillingness of patients to report TB symptoms due to stigma, lack of transport for follow-ups, and misconceptions and beliefs about TB were obstacles in the TB case-finding process. Diagnostic challenges included malfunctioning Gene Xpert's machine and shortages of supplies. Poor treatment adherence on the part of the patients challenged treatment process.

Conclusion:

The study identified gaps in the Akatsi South Municipality's tuberculosis case notification process that are brought about by inadequate data management, limited diagnostic capability, and disjointed surveillance systems.

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