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Collecting data for analyzing discourses

CITATION

Kigozi NG, Heunis JC, Engelbrecht C, Janse van Rensburg AP & van Rensburg HCJ. 2017. Tuberculosis knowledge, attitudes and practices of patients at primary health care facilities in a South African metropolitan: research towards improved health education. *BMC Public Health*, 17: 795. DOI: 10.1186/s12889-017-4825-3.

ABSTRACT

Background: Health education is important to empower patients and encourage their contribution towards tuberculosis (TB) control. In South Africa, health education activities are integrated into services provided at the primary health care (PHC) level. This study was conducted in a high TB burden metropolitan area in South Africa. The objective was to assess TB-related knowledge, attitudes and infection control practices of patients attending PHC facilities.

Methods: In September and October 2015, a cross-sectional survey using fieldworker-administered questionnaires was conducted among patients older than 17 years attending 40 PHC facilities in the Mangaung Metropolitan. Convenience sampling was used to select patients. Participation in the study was voluntary. Descriptive, inferential and multivariate logistic regression analyses were performed. Statistical significance was considered at $\alpha < 0.05$ and 95% confidence interval.

Results: A total of 507 patients' data were included in the analysis. Most of the patients knew that TB transmission is facilitated by crowded conditions (84.6%) and that pulmonary TB is contagious (73.0%). Surprisingly, the majority of patients also believed that one can get TB from sharing toothbrushes (85.0%) or kissing (65.0%). An overwhelming majority of patients perceived TB to be serious (89.7%), and concurred that taking treatment (97.2%) and opening windows to prevent transmission in PHC facilities (97.0%) are important. Being employed (AOR: 11.5; CI: 4.8–27.6), having received TB infection control information from a PHC facility (AOR: 2.2; CI: 1.5–3.4), and being a TB patient (AOR: 1.6; CI: 1.02–2.46) increased the likelihood of adopting good infection control practices.

Conclusion: These findings highlight the need for health education efforts to strengthen accurate information dissemination to promote sound TB knowledge and attitudes among patients attending PHC facilities. Health education efforts should also capitalise on the positive finding of this study that information dissemination at PHC facilities increases good infection control practices.

Keywords: Tuberculosis, Knowledge, Attitudes, Infection control practices, Free State Province, South Africa