

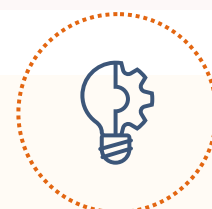
KNOW YOUR TUBERCULOSIS EPIDEMIC- is it time to add tuberculosis infection surveys back into global surveillance?



WHY THE STUDY?

- Tuberculosis (TB) is increasingly concentrated in vulnerable populations
- Disease prevalence surveys for TB are extremely resource intensive, and provide information many months or years after TB transmission has occurred
- With changing epidemiology, TB infection (or "immunoreactivity") surveys using new tools could help understand trends, and tailor dynamic public health responses.

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WHAT WE DID

We searched and reviewed the historical and contemporary scientific literature to understand how TB infection surveys could be used by public health programmes, what their limitations are, and how new advances in testing approaches, implementation, epidemiology could help improve TB care and prevention.

02



HOW WE ANALYSED

- A narrative approach to synthesising evidence and programmatic experiences.
- Using key epidemiological parameters and simple models, we projected how TB infection surveys may be more efficient than disease prevalence surveys
- We critically assessed evidence for acceptability of TB infection testing and treatment approaches, if they were to be implemented in surveillance programmes
- We summarised key outstanding methodological and practical issues which need to be addressed

03



WHAT WE FOUND

- TB infection surveys were widely used historically to evaluate TB burden when incidence was falling
- Several new TB infection tests becoming available mean that TB infection surveys might be a more efficient and acceptable approach to getting "real-time" epidemiological data on TB trends
- More operational evidence for implementation, and study design and interpretation is urgently required

04



WHAT THIS MEANS

Integrating TB infection measurement into global TB surveillance may offer a feasible and affordable way to track trends and target efforts towards underserved populations.

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SCAN TO
VIEW

