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Program Evaluation for the Arlington County Tuberculosis Department

Abstract

Program Evaluation is a necessary tool to understanding how an intervention or service can be improved. By evaluating the Tuberculosis (TB) program for Arlington County, Virginia, I hope to identify weaknesses and prompt policy change to improve the overall strength of the TB department. Utilizing 8 of 15 objectives from the 2015 National Tuberculosis Indicator Project, I hope to give guidance and information on how to reach targeted benchmarks. Of the 8 objectives examined Arlington met 6 in 2008 and 5 in 2009, with “Completion of treatment”, “Contact investigation”, and “known HIV status” failing to meet predetermined goals. The program was also examined under the scrutiny of the Virginia Department of Health TB control standards. Suggestions focused primarily on increasing reporting measures via implementation of an electronic database, determining barriers to LTBI treatment completion, facilitating access to care, specifically making HIV test available on site at the TB clinic, and monitoring treatment progress with special attention to completing treatment in 365 days. Data would suggest that the program is on track to meeting the targeted deadline; however, inference is limited, due to small sample size. Continuing annual program evaluation will help ensure policy changes are working properly.