Using Implementation Science in Tuberculosis Epidemiologic Studies Consortium (TBESC-III)

Laura Vonnahme, Senior Epidemiologist
Epidemiology Team
CDC Division of Tuberculosis Elimination

27th Annual Conference of the Union-North America Region
February 22, 2023
Tuberculosis Epidemiologic Studies Consortium (TBESC)

Mission: To assist TB Elimination efforts in the U.S. by designing and conducting epidemiological research studies to answer the most important questions to guide policy and practice.

TBESC-III
2021-2026

• Launched in October 2021
• 4.5-year contract
TBESC-III: Mission Statement and Objective

- **Mission:** To assist TB Elimination efforts in the United States centered on LTBI among non-U.S.–born populations at higher risk seeking care in primary care settings

- **Objective:** To use implementation science to identify primary care interventions that increase LTBI targeted testing and treatment that are both effective and efficient
TBESC-III: Specific Aims

Identify primary care settings serving non-U.S.–born persons at higher risk for LTBI

Implement clinical and patient centered interventions to improve measures across LTBI care cascade

Collect electronic medical record (EMR) data

Monitor and evaluate intervention performance over time
Sites have implemented interventions that improve adoption of CDC LTBI recommendations:

- Increase targeted testing of non-U.S.–born population
- Use of IGRAs for TB testing
- Use of rifamycin-based short course treatment regimens for LTBI
The Role of Implementation Science in TBESC-III

- Address the gap between knowledge and practice
- Why are interventions improving or NOT improving LTBI care cascade outcomes?

Example:

Increase targeted testing of non-U.S.–born population

Intervention: EMR alert for patients who should be screened for TB infection

Has testing increased among the non-U.S.–born population?

Why is testing increasing, decreasing or remaining stable?

- Provider surveys: Why was EMR alert adopted or not?
- Aggregate data:
  - How was alert being used?
  - Who was using it?
Questions?

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.