

Equity Report Card

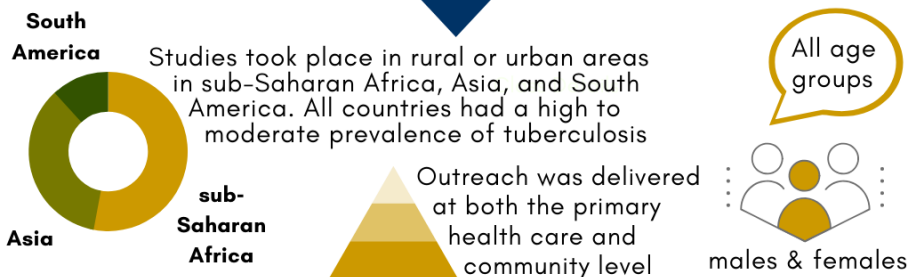
Tuberculosis Outreach Screening

Health workers or community volunteers provide outreach screening, such as house-to-house visits, to screen individuals presenting with symptoms of tuberculosis, an infectious disease.

IMPORTANCE FOR EQUITY

Low-income countries are more likely to develop and die from tuberculosis. People who have tuberculosis may not seek treatment due to stigma, high treatment costs and distance to health services. Outreach screening may improve access to care by providing screening close to a person's home and reduce financial barriers.

CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES



FINDINGS

Equity	Findings and Interpretation	Quality Rating
	Outreach household screening and outreach clinics may increase tuberculosis detection in areas where undiagnosed tuberculosis is high	Low-certainty evidence
	The number of tuberculosis patients who are cured and complete treatment may increase from outreach screening	Low-certainty evidence
	Insufficient evidence to determine whether health promotion activities alone increase tuberculosis case detection or whether improvements in case detection impact long-term prevalence of tuberculosis	Very low-certainty evidence

GAPS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Types of interventions that are more or less effective for different population groups or settings.
- Effectiveness of active case detection interventions for patients with co-morbidities such as HIV, diabetes and malnutrition.
- Whether nutrition and poverty-related interventions improve tuberculosis case detection.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Outreach household screening and outreach clinics may increase tuberculosis detection and treatment success

APPLICABILITY

- Intervention effects might disappear or even reverse with different cultural norms, different attitudes toward tuberculosis or different timing or settings for clinics or home visits.
- Level of resources may be fewer than those available in the research setting.
- Programs need to be designed to fit local context.
- Consider:
 - 1) Who may benefit from community outreach screening.
 - 2) Financial and organizational resources available to deliver community outreach screening such as doctors and nurses.
 - 3) Economic context and affordability.