

Executive Summary

Tuberculosis is a debilitating and life threatening illness which poses a huge public health problem in Nigeria. Nigeria is Africa's most populous country with the fourth largest TB burden in the world. Though there is little information available about TB in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), a 2010 sero-prevalence study by the Federal Ministry of Health showed that the FCT has an HIV prevalence of 8.7% for urban areas and 8.2% for rural areas (National HIV Sero Prevalence Sentinel Survey Technical report 2010). HIV/AIDS potentiates the spread of the TB infection. In 2008, the FCT had one of the highest TB case notification rates in Nigeria (National TB and Leprosy Control Program Annual report 2008).

The purpose of this study is to assess the knowledge, attitude and practices of the residents of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC). The sample population of 200 respondents was drawn from five residential areas within AMAC. These are Garki, Gudu, Lugbe, Nyanya and Wuye. The hypotheses for the study were as follows:

- Residents of Abuja are knowledgeable about TB transmission, symptoms and treatment
- There is stigma associated with TB in the Abuja Municipal Area Council

The overall goal of the study is to assess the Knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) of AMAC residents.

The objectives of the study are as follows- To determine

- TB related knowledge, attitude and practice among AMAC residents
- Differences in knowledge, attitude and practices among men and women living in AMAC
- If there is any stigma associated with TB in AMAC
- Differences in knowledge, attitude and practices among different age groups in AMAC
- Differences in knowledge, attitude and practices among people of different levels of education in AMAC

The following questions guided the inquiry

- Are residents of certain areas in AMAC more knowledgeable than others with regards to TB?
- Do the residents of AMAC know the signs and symptoms of TB?
- Is there any stigma connected to TB in AMAC?
- What do the residents of AMAC do if they think they or someone else has TB?

The data for the study was collected using a pre-tested structured questionnaire administered to males and females of 18 years and older. The data was analyzed using Epi info and presented in the form of tables.

Respondents in the sample population were of diverse ages the vast majority of who were younger than 50 years old. They were also quite well educated with all of them possessing a minimum of a primary school education. They practiced different religions such as Christianity, Islam with a number of respondents claiming to be atheists.

Information obtained from analyzing the data showed that a number of the residents do not possess adequate knowledge about TB. They did not know the cause of the infection and how it is transmitted. Many respondents did not know the symptoms of the infection nor how they can prevent it. Data also showed that many respondents did not know about the availability of free TB services in public hospitals.

With regards to attitudes, the data showed that some of them would avoid a person with TB, the majority from fear of catching the disease. One other finding from the study is the fact that a vast majority of the respondents would go to a hospital or clinic first if they thought they had TB or TB symptoms. Data collected showed that the most frequently cited source of TB information by the respondents was the print and electronic media.

Based on the findings from the study, the researcher was able to make some recommendations which include the need for greater use of the media as a tool to provide information on TB prevention as well publicizing the available and free TB services; increased collaboration with other health providers such as pharmacists and traditional healers who are sometimes the first port of call for some respondents.