Denny Fe Agana

Tuberculosis (TB) has a much larger burden in countries outside of the US. Statistics do support a disproportionate load of tuberculosis is from foreign-born immigrants, therefore, focusing TB control on this population. This creates negative stigma against certain cultural groups, one of them being the Haitian population. In 2006, Haiti had a TB incidence of 299/100,000 and a TB prevalence of 402/100,000 (5). Concern also arises because of the high proportion of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) Haitians contribute (3). In 2006 in Haiti, 1.9% of new TB cases were MDR TB and 9.0% of previously treated TB cases were MDR (5). In South Florida, TB focus has been on the Haitian population, partially because of the large Haitian immigrant population; in 2006, 42.4% of Haitian immigrants moved residence to Florida (5). This does not include undocumented immigrants, therefore excluding a potentially larger Haitian population. This can be an issue for Florida because of the high cases of MDR-TB and latent TB cases that come from this country. Many social factors in Haiti such as: lack of pharmaceutical national policy, a recent major earthquake, negative stigmatization of TB, and misconceptions of TB, contribute to TB in this population; however, there is little information on an epidemiological link between the Haitian population and TB. This project will focus on studying 200 Haitian TB patients versus 3000 non-Haitian TB patients and analyzing 70 variables between these two groups, to find biological links of TB in the Haitian population in South Florida. Then, educational materials would be created with the target audience being physicians and health care workers. The educational materials would come in the form of Webinars. This will assist medical personnel in attuning skills in identifying and better treating this population, therefore, resulting in a more holistic approach in attacking the issue of TB in the Haitian population.