



## Best Practices in TB Control

# Behavioral and Social Science: Implications for TB Control

May 16, 2013



Sponsored by  
**Global Tuberculosis Institute**



## Objectives

Upon completion of this seminar, participants will be able to:

- Describe at least two behavioral-social science theories that can be used in TB control;
- List factors associated with patient acceptance of treatment for latent TB infection (LTBI);
- List factors which predict TB knowledge and attitudes among foreign-born persons; and
- Discuss characteristics of messages to address common misperceptions surrounding the BCG vaccine



## Faculty (1)



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NJMS Global Tuberculosis Institute  
Newark, NJ



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## Faculty (2)



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Branch  
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Atlanta, GA



## Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – **Rajita Bhavaraju**
- Overview: Behavioral Science and TB Control – **Wanda Walton**
- Using Knowledge and Attitude Variables as Predictors and Outcomes – **Paul Colson**
- Identifying Salient Messages to Address BCG Vaccine Misconceptions– **Joan Mangan**
- Questions and Discussion
- Conclusion and Evaluation



## Handouts

- You can download slides, sign-in sheet and reference materials at the following link:

[http://www.umdj.edu/globaltb/courses/behavior\\_sciencesandtb-handouts.html](http://www.umdj.edu/globaltb/courses/behavior_sciencesandtb-handouts.html)

Or by clicking on the “handouts” icon at the top right of this screen





## Evaluation

- Complete online evaluation at:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Behavioral\\_Social\\_Science](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Behavioral_Social_Science)

Forward link to others who are in the room and have not logged in individually



## Audio

- Program is being recorded
- Archive will be available at:  
<http://www.umdj.edu/globaltb/educationalmaterials/audioarchives.html>
- Phone lines should be muted throughout the lectures
  - Use phone's mute button or \*6



## Questions and Discussion

- Type your questions to host and panelists using the “Q&A” option at the top of your screen
- You can type questions throughout the webinar

## Overview: Behavioral Science and TB Control

**Wanda Walton, PhD, MEd**  
Chief, Communications, Education,  
and Behavioral Studies Branch  
Division of Tuberculosis Elimination

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Division of Tuberculosis Elimination



Tuberculosis is a social disease,  
and presents problems that  
transcend the conventional  
medical approach.

Rene and Jean Dubos  
1952

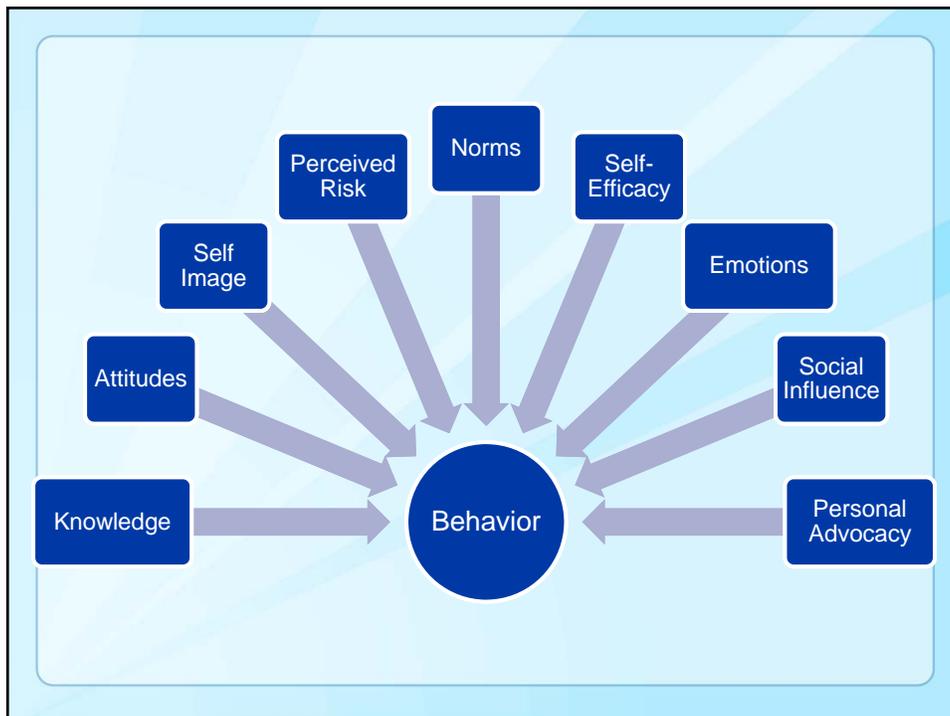
### Behavioral Science and TB Control

- ❑ One of the earliest models developed to explain health behavior, the Health Belief Model, was developed in the 1950s to examine motivators to participation in free TB screening programs.



## Why Behavioral Science?

- ❑ Recognition of the limitations of technology in improving health and eliminating disease (e.g., effective treatment for TB has been available for decades)
- ❑ Recognition of the role of human behavior in health outcomes
- ❑ Increasing research on influencers of behavior to health outcomes, including intrapersonal (i.e., individual, social and cultural, health systems, and public policy)



## **Why Behavioral Science?**

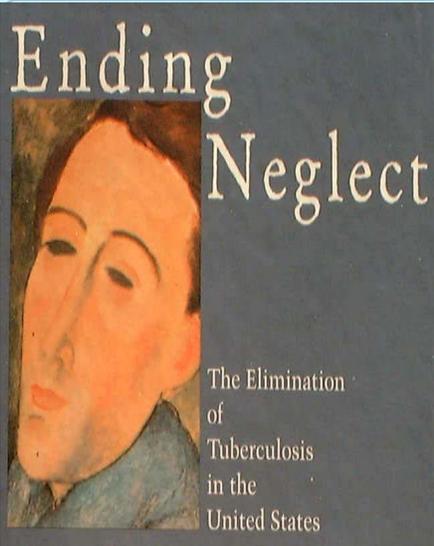
- ❑ **Way to place the interaction of health and behavior in a framework;**
- ❑ **Better understand health behaviors;**
- ❑ **Identify potential points for intervention; and**
- ❑ **Influence behavior in a direction that promotes health.**

## **Why is Behavioral Science Important to TB?**

- ❑ **Due to the lengthy treatment regimen, the control of TB continues to be challenged by patient adherence to LTBI and TB medications.**
- ❑ **Acceptance and adherence to lengthy treatment for the asymptomatic condition of LTBI increases these challenges.**

## Why is Behavioral Science Important to TB?

- ❑ Social and economic factors such as poverty, homelessness, substance use, availability of and accessibility to appropriate care and services, and TB knowledge, attitudes and beliefs, have a significant impact on the personal TB experience.
- ❑ TB control efforts are also challenged by the disparities in communities affected by TB.



“Studies are needed to determine how basic behavioral theories can enhance understanding for the creation of tailored interventions for high risk populations”

–Institute of Medicine Report, *Ending Neglect: The Elimination of Tuberculosis in the United States*, 2000

## IOM Call for Behavioral Science Research

- ❑ Explore impact of behavior change models on health seeking behavior and adherence to treatment
- ❑ Identify cultural barriers to prevention, treatment, and control--and the role of incentives and enablers
- ❑ Tailor adherence interventions to patients' needs, lifestyles, social support systems, and beliefs about health
- ❑ Ensure translation of research into TB programs

## TB Behavioral and Social Science Research Forum



*Planting the Seeds for Future Research*

CDC

## **What's happened in the last 10 years....**

- ❑ **DTBE's behavioral and social science research has focused on**
  - Treatment adherence,
  - Care-seeking behavior,
  - Patient-provider communication,
  - Perceptions of and ways to enhance the effectiveness of contact investigations,
  - Factors influencing acceptance of and adherence to LTBI treatment, and
  - Provider behaviors.
- ❑ **Much of the research includes or targets pertinent high-risk populations, such as minorities, foreign-born, and disenfranchised populations.**

## **TB Behavioral and Social Science Projects**

- ❑ **Developing culturally and linguistically appropriate patient TB education materials**
- ❑ **Assessing the knowledge, attitudes, and culture-specific beliefs about LTBI among several high risk groups**
- ❑ **Identifying barriers to the acceptance, implementation, and adherence to the LTBI guidelines and development of strategies to overcome barriers**

## **TB Behavioral and Social Science Projects**

- ❑ **Assessing TB Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs, and Practices Among Private Providers Serving Foreign-born Populations**
- ❑ **Addressing TB Among African Americans in the Southeast: Identifying and Overcoming Barriers to Treatment Adherence for Latent TB Infection and TB Disease**
- ❑ **Determining the acceptability and usability of the IGRAs compared with the TST among patients and providers**

## **Why is Behavioral Science Important to TB?**

- ❑ **Behavioral and social science research in TB has helped us better understand the behavior of TB patients and contacts, as well as that of providers.**
- ❑ **Ongoing research is needed to understand the behaviors of both patients and providers, and the impact of their actions on TB-related care seeking, diagnosis, treatment success, and prevention.**

## Using Behavioral Science Theories and Models in TB Research

- ❑ *Using Knowledge and Attitude Variables as Predictors and Outcomes* - Dr. Paul Colson
- ❑ *Identifying Salient Messages to Address BCG Vaccine Misconceptions* – Dr. Joan Mangan
- ❑ Both used behavioral theories and models to structure and guide the research
- ❑ Both used Health Belief Model that had its origin in TB!

**Thank you for your attendance and the upcoming expert speakers!**

For more information please contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30333  
Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)/TTY: 1-888-232-6348  
E-mail: [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov) Web: <http://www.cdc.gov>

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.

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Division of Tuberculosis Elimination



# Using Knowledge and Attitudes Variables as Predictors and Outcomes

Paul W. Colson, PhD  
Behavioral and Social Science:  
Implications for TB Control  
May 16, 2013

## Fort Washington Men's Shelter, NYC, early 1990s



## Background

- Working at Fort Washington Men's Shelter as part of a Columbia Psychiatry project
- NYC had seen a dramatic upsurge in TB, particularly in congregate settings like shelters and prisons
- Also doing a postdoc at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies
- Was familiar with Knowledge and Attitudes (K&A) studies in HIV but could find few on TB K&A

## Knowledge & Attitudes (K&A)

- Most TB K&A studies in the literature were conducted in developing countries
- US studies focused on high risk populations: drug users, immigrants, the homeless
- Most studies assessed TB knowledge but not attitudes

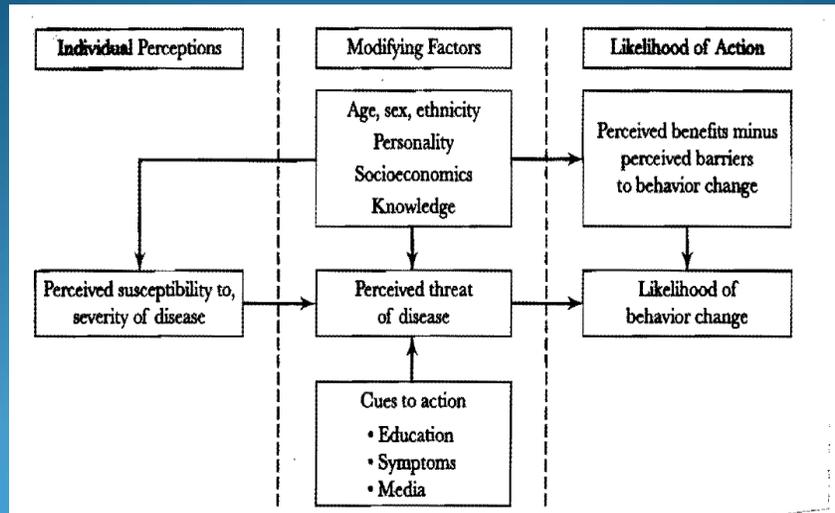
## Instrument Development

- 1) Conducted focus groups with:
  - Homeless men in shelter
  - TB/LTBI patients at Harlem Hospital
- 2) Developed first draft of questionnaire
  - Tested for face validity with physicians, researchers, service providers
- 3) Piloted questionnaire with target respondents re comprehension, understanding, specific language choices

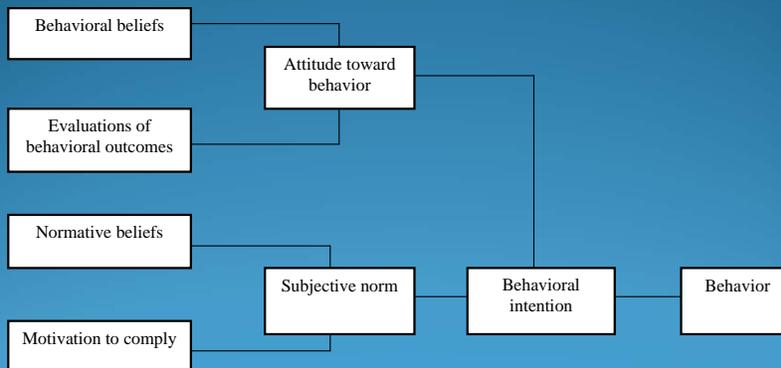
## Knowledge Items

- **True/false items testing respondents' knowledge of:**
  - transmission
  - testing
  - treatment
- Items examined individually and also combined in a score measuring overall knowledge

## Health Belief Model (Becker)



## Theory of Reasoned Action (Fishbein & Azjen)



## Other Attitudinal Factors

- Self-efficacy (Bandura)
- Health Locus of Control
- Stigma
- Acknowledging Status
- Intentions

## My K&A Studies

SOURCE & POPULATION	DESIGN	N
HIV Center: Non-Patients	Cross-sectional	847
Pathways: LTBI Patients	Longitudinal	379
TB Patients	Longitudinal	159
TAPAS: LTBI Patients	Longitudinal	251
Fast Track: LTBI Patients	Longitudinal	153
Physicians at HHC & CUMC	Cross-sectional	134
Task Order 13: LTBI Patients	Longitudinal	1,692
Task Order 9: Foreign-born TB Patients	Cross-sectional	1,475
Task Order 12: TB Providers	Cross-sectional	92
Task Order 23: African-American TB Patients	Cross-sectional	673

## HIV Center Study

### Participants:

- 848 participants in six HIV studies in New York City

### Design:

- Common questionnaire used across studies
- Data collected through face-to-face interviews

## Samples

	<u>N</u>
Mothers of delinquent boys	99
Mothers of depressed girls	71
Women in family planning clinics	331
Gay men in serodiscordant couples	149
Homeless men with mental illness	133
Gay men (vintage cohort)	65

## Findings

- Misconceptions about:
  - Casual transmission
  - Confusion with HIV
  - Confusion about infection & disease
- Association of age and knowledge
- The homeless had more accurate information about testing & treatment

J Immigrant Minority Health (2010) 12:859–866  
DOI 10.1007/s10903-010-9338-4

ORIGINAL PAPER

### **Tuberculosis Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs in Foreign-born and US-born Patients with Latent Tuberculosis Infection**

Paul W. Colson · Julie Franks · Rita Sondengam ·  
Yael Hirsch-Moverman · Wafaa El-Sadr

## TB Adherence Partnership Alliance Study (TAPAS)

### Participants:

- 251 patients receiving treatment for Latent TB Infection (LTBI)
- 66% were foreign-born (FB)
- All FB were from TB-endemic countries; no single country dominated
- Significance:
  - FB represent 62% of TB cases in the US
  - FB represent 73% of people under LTBI treatment

## TAPAS

### Design:

- Randomized controlled trial of a peer-based intervention to enhance adherence to LTBI treatment
- K&A examined at baseline
- The study's main effect is reported in a paper under review
- This analysis compared K&A in US and foreign-born participants

## Findings

### Knowledge:

- Misconceptions re kissing & strangers
- No overall differences between FB & US-born

### Attitudes:

- No difference on 10 of 17 items
- US-born more likely to acknowledge LTBI, be concerned about reaction of family/friends, worry about passing TB germs
- FB more likely to feel “protected”

### Benefits & Barriers:

- No overall differences
- FB more likely to be concerned for family, worried about stigma, find pill-taking difficult

INT J TUBERC LUNG DIS 17(4):1-7  
©2013 The Union  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5588/ijtld.12.0697>

### Acceptance of treatment for latent tuberculosis infection: prospective cohort study in the United States and Canada

P. W. Colson,\* Y. Hirsch-Moverman,\* J. Bethel,<sup>†</sup> P. Vempaty,<sup>‡</sup> K. Salcedo,<sup>§</sup> K. Wall,<sup>¶</sup> W. Miranda,<sup>#</sup>  
S. Collins,\*\* C. R. Horsburgh,<sup>††</sup> for the Tuberculosis Epidemiologic Studies Consortium

## Task Order 13: Prospective Study of LTBI Treatment

### Participants:

- 1,692 persons offered LTBI treatment in 30 clinics in the US and Canada

### Design:

- Prospective study examining:
  - Demographics
  - Life Circumstances
  - Knowledge & Attitudes
  - Experiences with Health Care, including TB/LTBI
  - Clinic Characteristics

## Multivariable Predictors of LTBI Treatment Acceptance

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	Reg. coeff.	SE	Adj. OR	95% CI	P-value
Intercept	-0.2035	0.7352	--	--	0.787
Participant believes that s/he can personally spread TB germs	0.7018	0.2401	2.02	1.26 - 3.23	<b>0.004</b>
Higher TB knowledge score (per correct response)	0.1184	0.0414	1.13	1.04 - 1.22	<b>0.004</b>
Inconvenience of clinic schedule:					
No inconvenience (vs. big inconvenience)	1.074	0.2731	2.93	1.71 - 5.00	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Small inconvenience (vs. big inconvenience)	0.4586	0.3135	1.58	0.86 - 2.92	0.144
Acculturation *					
Low	1.1826	0.3393	3.26	1.68 - 6.34	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Medium	-0.0393	0.2830	0.96	0.55 - 1.67	0.890
High	-0.7713	0.2499	0.46	0.28 - 0.75	<b>0.002</b>
Healthcare worker	-0.7473	0.3145	0.47	0.26 - 0.88	<b>0.018</b>
LTBI treatment recommended in the past	-1.2533	0.2401	0.29	0.18 - 0.46	<b>0.001</b>
Believe that taking TB medications will be a problem	-2.8294	0.2398	0.06	0.04 - 0.09	<b>&lt;0.001</b>

## Examining the Impact of Patient Characteristics and Symptomatology on Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs Among Foreign-born Tuberculosis Cases in the US and Canada

Paul W. Colson · G. Lance Couzens · Rachel A. Royce · Tracy Kline · Tamara Chavez-Lindell · Sharon Welbel · Jenny Pang · Amy Davidow · Yael Hirsch-Moverman · the Tuberculosis Epidemiologic Studies Consortium (TBESC)

## Task Order 9: TB Among the Foreign-born

### Participants:

- 1,475 foreign-born persons diagnosed with TB in 22 sites in the US and Canada

### Design:

- Cross-sectional study examining:
  - Demographics/socioeconomic status/health insurance
  - TB diagnosis and symptoms
  - Health-seeking behaviors
  - Knowledge and attitudes
  - Missed opportunities for detection and diagnosis of TB

## Analytic Plan

- **Prior Studies:**
  - Descriptive, comparing US and foreign-born
  - Predicted treatment outcomes using K&A and other variables
- **This Study:**
  - Used factor analysis to identify K&A factors
    - Knowledge and Perceived Risk / Stigma
  - Examined variables predicting Knowledge and Perceived Risk / Stigma used multivariable techniques

## Significant Predictors of TB Knowledge

- Region of origin (esp. Mexicans, Latin Americans)
- Higher education
- Higher income
- Older
- Undocumented status
- BCG vaccinated
- Greater number of TB symptoms

## Significant Predictors of Perceived Risk/Stigma

- Region of origin (esp. Mexicans)
- Middle-aged
- English fluency
- 2-3 years in the US/Canada
- Greater number of TB symptoms
- Living in crowded conditions

## Next Steps

- Application of these analytic techniques to other populations, particularly US-born African-Americans compared to US-born whites (TBESC Task Order 23)
- Comparison of K&A across populations using common questionnaire items
- Longitudinal analysis: pre-treatment vs. post-treatment

# Addressing BCG Vaccine Misconceptions

**Joan M. Mangan, Ph.D., M.S.T.**

Behavioral Scientist

Communications, Education, and Behavioral Studies Branch

Division of Tuberculosis Elimination

Webinar: Behavioral and Social Science: Implications for TB Control  
May 16, 2013

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Division of Tuberculosis Elimination



## Overview of Presentation

- ❑ Outline the impact TB myths and misconceptions have on TB control.
- ❑ Review misconceptions TB suspects and contacts commonly report related to the BCG vaccine, and TB testing and treatment.
- ❑ Discuss results from a project that aimed to identify effective messages addressing misperceptions surrounding the BCG vaccine.



## Why Do We Care?

- ❑ **When individuals are provided information that appears inconsistent with existing beliefs or behaviors, the resulting dissonance may lead some to:**
  - Purposefully avoid or ignore new information
  - Downplay importance of the information
  - Add interpretations consistent with existing beliefs, behaviors, or personal characteristics
- ❑ **These responses enable “biased optimism” – belief that a person will stay well, despite their risk**

## Misconceptions Surrounding Bacille Calmette–Guérin (BCG) (1)

- **Currently, the only medically available TB vaccine**
- **Distributed since the 1920s**
- **More than 3 billion persons vaccinated worldwide**



Albert Calmette and Camille Guérin

\* E.M. Agger, P. Andersen, A novel TB vaccine; towards a strategy based on our understanding of BCG failure . Vaccine 21 (2002) 7–14

## Misconceptions Surrounding BCG (2)

- **A number of countries employ large-scale vaccination campaigns (including BCG) to control infectious diseases**
  - Campaigns are supported by mass media promotions
  - Extol the benefits of vaccination
  - Include appeals to parents to ensure their children's health

## Misconceptions Surrounding BCG (3)

- **Whereas these campaigns ensure high vaccination rates, they may also contribute to three common misconceptions:**
  1. The BCG vaccine protects a person from becoming sick with TB throughout their entire life.
  2. A “positive” TB screening test result is caused by having been vaccinated with BCG, *not* from TB infection.
  3. If BCG vaccinated, treatment for TB infection is not necessary.

McEwen, M. M., & Boyle, J. S. (2007). Resistance, health, and latent tuberculosis infection: Mexican immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. *Research and Theory for Nursing Practice*, 21(3), 185-197.

Poss JE. The meanings of tuberculosis for Mexican migrant farm workers in the United States. *Soc Sci Med*. 1998 Jul; 47(2):195-202.

## Project Aim



Discern salient messages to mitigate the dissonance Hispanic persons may experience relative to having been vaccinated with BCG and subsequently being informed they should be tested and/or treated for TB infection.

This project is supported by a Social Behavioral Research Grant (SB-160793-N) from the American Lung Association and the American Lung Association of the Southeast

## Project Overview

**PHASE 1:**  
Collect Messages from Providers

Organize Message Statements into Thematic Groups

**PHASE 2:**  
Validate Message Statements

Select Statements for Further Testing

**Phase 3:**  
Test Message Statements with Hispanic Persons

- 2 Groups**
- Previously Diagnosed with TB/LTBI
  - Never Diagnosed

**Phase 4:**  
Combine Statements to Create Comprehensive Educational Messages and

Test w/ Target Audience of Never Diagnosed Persons

## Phase 1

- **Staff (n=60) from 5 TB programs**
  - Reviewed 3 common BCG misperceptions
  - Transcribed messages they have used to persuade BCG vaccinated TB suspects and contacts to undergo TB testing and treatment
- **Investigators**
  - Conducted a systematic analysis of messages
    - Identified messages/themes repeated across the 3 misperceptions
    - Organized statements into 7 thematic message groups

## 7 Thematic Message Groups from Staff Messages

1. **In general, why BCG is given**
  - Where the vaccine is used
  - Who is given the vaccine
  - Why children are given the vaccine
2. **BCG helps to decrease the risk of developing severe forms of TB**
3. **Why the vaccine is not completely effective / protection wanes**
4. **Evidence the vaccine's protection wanes**
  - Incidence of TB around the world
  - Testing outcomes
  - The "Clinical Picture" (signs and symptoms of illness)
5. **Reasons for getting tested for TB**
  - The vaccine's limitations
  - Know your test results
  - What you gain from being tested
  - What you can lose from not being tested
6. **The TB testing process and test results**
7. **Treatment**

## Phase 2

- **All staff message statements, in each thematic group, reviewed by TB experts**
  - Deleted inaccurate messages
  - Edited to improve reading ease / comprehensibility
  - Established content validity
  
- **Staff messages in each thematic group were then selected for:**
  - Accuracy
  - Representativeness of all messages in the group
  - Strength from a theoretical perspective
    - Health Belief Model
    - Elaboration Likelihood Model
    - Framing of Actions

## Phase 3

- **To discern the most persuasive staff message statements:**
  - Semi-structured interviews
    - 10 foreign-born Hispanic persons previously diagnosed with TB disease or latent TB infection
  - Four semi-structured focus group interviews
    - 43 Hispanic persons who worked with, or sought services from, a community organization assisting migrant workers
    - No prior diagnosis of TB disease or LTBI

### Results: Phase 3

#### The Focus of Selected Messages Statements

- Focus attention on obtaining a positive result

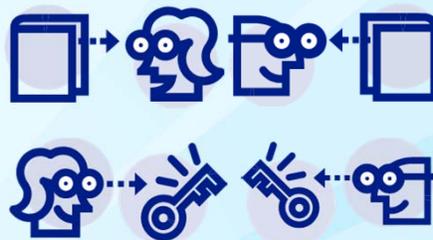
Positive  
Action  
Framing

- Address perceived susceptibility

Health  
Belief  
Model

- Encourage a person to evaluate the issue by drawing upon prior experiences and knowledge

Elaboration  
Likelihood  
Model



**Considerations: Constructing Educational Messages from Preferred Statements**

<b>Readability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aims:</b></li> <li>• Grade Level 6-7</li> <li>• Flesch Reading Ease <math>\geq</math> 70% (fairly easy)</li> </ul>
<b>Long vs. Short</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descriptive / Informative / Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overwhelming / Complex</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Less-is-More <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unconvinced</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Positively Framed vs. Negatively Framed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive words, terms, phrases</li> <li>• Negative words, terms, phrases</li> </ul>
<b>Gain Framed vs. Loss Framed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advantages of adherence</li> <li>• Disadvantages / consequences of non-adherence</li> </ul>

### Why Consider Message Framing?

Framing can lead to different decisions and behaviors

 <p><b>Get the best care available and stay healthy.</b></p> <p><b>Take the LTBI treatment.</b></p>	 <p><b>Don't get sick with a disease that can kill you.</b></p> <p><b>Take the LTBI treatment.</b></p>
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## Framing Health Information



**Prevention-oriented**  
better promoted by  
**positively-framed**  
**messages**

- LTBI Treatment

**Detection-oriented**  
better promoted by  
**negatively-framed**  
**messages**

- Testing for TB Infection

Rothman, A. J., & Salovey, P. (1997). Shaping perceptions to motivate healthy behavior: The role of message framing. Psychological Bulletin, 121, 3-19.

### **Long Comprehensive Message "A"**

Statements earned most votes in each of the 5 thematic groups

Both Positively and Negatively Framed Statements

### **Short Message "B"** Primarily Negatively Framed

### **Short Message "C"** Primarily Positively Framed

### **Short Message "D"** Both Positively and Negatively Framed Statements

## The Feedback



## Phase 4 Respondents

Recruited through a community-based organization serving migrant workers

(N=8)	
<b>No prior diagnosis of TB or LTBI</b>	100% (n=8)
<b>Vaccinated with BCG as a Child</b>	Yes: 75% (n=6) No: 13% (n=1) Unsure: 13% (n=1)
<b>Gender</b>	Male: 25% (n=2) Female: 75% (n=6)
<b>Age Range</b>	27-56 yrs Average: 35.9 yrs
<b>≤ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Education</b>	38 % (n=3)
<b>Resided in U.S. &gt; 5 yrs</b>	75 % (n=6)
<b>Countries of Birth</b>	75% (n=6) Mexico 13% (n=1) Honduras 13% (n=1) U.S. *

## Long Comprehensive Message "A"

- 13 Sentences
- Presented as 6 message statements
- Each statement read & discussed during interviews ...
- investigators examined concepts reflected in participant responses

Flesch-Kincaid Grade level:  
6.55

Gunning Fog Index:  
7.66

Flesch-Kincaid Reading Ease score: 74.99  
"Fairly easy"

Fernandez-Huerta score  
93 "Very Easy"



## Long Message "A"

1. BCG is used in countries where many people are sick with tuberculosis (TB). Small children have an immature immune system. **Because they may be exposed to persons with TB, the vaccine is given to babies and small children.**
2. **Many people think the BCG vaccine will protect them from TB for their entire life. However, the vaccine does not always prevent tuberculosis.**
3. If a person breathes in TB germs, the vaccine helps lower the chance a person will develop severe forms of TB or die from TB. So, people who have had the BCG vaccine can still get sick with TB.
4. We have tested other people from your country who were given the vaccine; their tests were negative. This shows that **a positive test is probably the result of contact with a person sick with TB disease, and not from the vaccine.**
5. **Do not take a chance with your health. If the tests show the TB germs are in your body, take the treatment, because TB can kill you.**
6. With no treatment, you can get sick and spread TB germs to your family and friends. **Get treated, stay healthy, and keep those you love safe from TB.**

\* 50% or more of participants reiterated the statements in bold, black font

When asked to report their thoughts as they listened to Message A...

- Half of the participants indicated they contemplated their own, or family member's susceptibility to TB.
- Others discussed increased perceptions of disease severity.
- Some expressed the belief that when they immigrated to the US they had left the problem of TB behind in their country of birth.



What information needs to be clarified?  
What information should be added?

- Define "immature immune system"
- Explain whether a person with LTBI could infect others
- Explain how TB germs get in the air
- Explain who is at greater risk for becoming sick with TB disease
- Explain the difference between the vaccine and the test \*\*\*



When invited to state what they liked best about the messages, participants indicated.....



- (1) The explanation that the vaccine lowers a person's chance of developing severe forms of TB if the germs are inhaled
- (2) The advice that a person not take a chance with their health
- (3) The encouragement to take treatment to protect loved ones



Each statement read & discussed during individual interviews.

Participants asked to select the message they liked best.

- 1 liked B
- 3 liked C
- 3 liked D
- 1 liked D, but reported they better understood C

Selected messages were discussed further.



**Short Message "B"**  
Primarily Negatively Framed

**Short Message "C"**  
Primarily Positively Framed  
Lowest Literacy Demand

**Short Message "D"**  
Both Positively and Negatively Framed

**English Version  
Message C:  
Positive / Gain Framed**

(Text in English)

**Gunning Fog index: 6.95**  
Years of formal education  
needed

**Flesch Kincaid Grade Level:  
5.86**  
U.S. grade level needed

**Flesch Reading Ease: 77.52**

**Fernandez-Huerta Reading  
Ease (Spanish): 100**

- ❑ We still have a lot of TB disease in the world. Most of the TB is found in countries that use the BCG vaccine.
- ❑ If the vaccine protected a person for life, tuberculosis would not be a problem in the world.
- ❑ “Knowledge is power,” and we can protect ourselves from disease.
- ❑ Knowing the protection from the vaccine wears off, it is important to be tested for TB. Find out if TB germs are in your body, and if you need medicine.
- ❑ If your tests show TB germs are in your body, you need to be treated.
- ❑ Treatment will help you stay healthy and keep those you love safe from TB.

**“Take Home Lessons” (1)**

- ❑ **Positive and gain framed messages**
- ❑ **Illustrate personal susceptibility**
  - How people are infected (we all breathe)
  - Who is at higher risk for infection and disease
- ❑ **Encourage evaluation based on prior knowledge**
  - If the BCG vaccine worked perfectly – no one would have TB

## **“Take Home Lessons” (2)**

- ❑ **Check for cognitive dissonance**
  - Ask patients to repeat information back in their own words
  - Invite patients to talk about what the provided information means to them

## **“Take Home Lessons” (3)**

- ❑ **Explain the differences between the BCG vaccine and the TST test**
  - Placing a TST is not a treatment or re-vaccination
- ❑ **Be mindful of the literacy demand**
- ❑ **Use the systematic process for health education**
  - Needs assessment → Develop → Pilot test → Implement → Assess

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## Thank you

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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.

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Division of Tuberculosis Elimination

