

## Best Practices in TB Control



# TB Among the Homeless: Dealing with Unique Challenges

February 7, 2012





Sponsored by the New Jersey Medical School Global Tuberculosis Institute



### Objectives



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

- Describe the extent of homelessness as a social problem in the US
- Discuss the burden of TB among the homeless population
- Outline effective strategies for prevention and treatment of TB among homeless persons and their contacts
- Discuss how health departments and homeless services agencies can work as partners to coordinate clinical care and contact investigations to effectively prevent TB



# Faculty (1)





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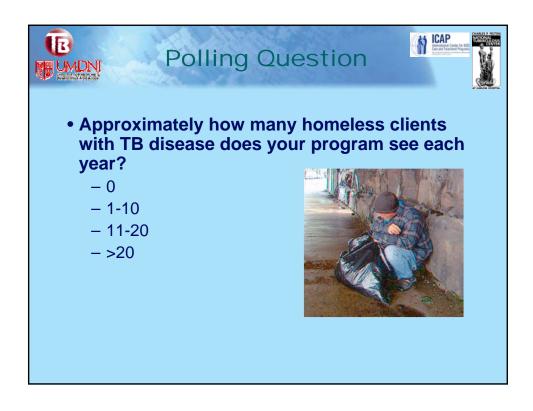
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# Homelessness in the US and the Connections Between Homelessness and TB

James J. O'Connell, MD

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program

February 7, 2012

# HUD Definition of Homelessness December 5, 2011

- (1) Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided (90 days now rather than 30);
- (2) individuals and families who will imminently (within 14 days) lose their primary nighttime residence (home, motel, hotel, doubled up);
- (3) unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition (new category: no lease or ownership within 60 days, or have had 2 or more moves in last 60 days, and who are likely to continue to be unstably housed because of disability or multiple barriers to employment); and
- (4) individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member

Source: Federal Register, 2011

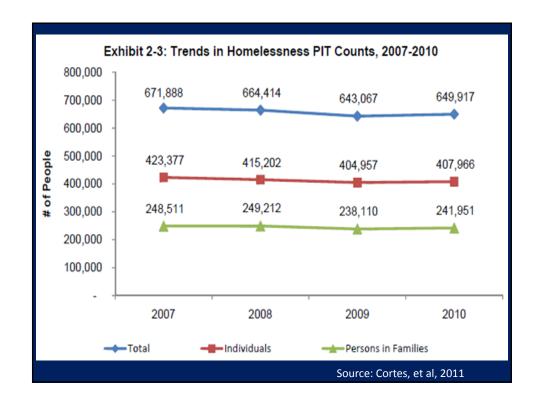
#### **Homeless Persons Point in Time Count 2010**

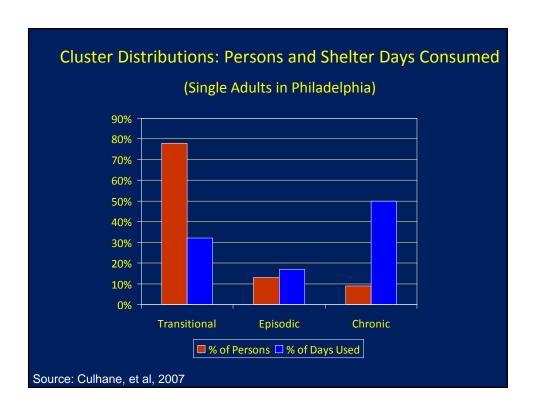
		% of All Homeless		
Household Type	Number	Persons	% of Subcategory	
Total People				
Sheltered <sup>a</sup>	403,543	62.1%		
Unsheltered	246,374	37.9%		
Total	649,917	100.0%		
Individuals <sup>b</sup>				
Sheltered	212,218	32.7%	52.0%	
Unsheltered	195,748	30.1%	48.0%	
Total	407,966	62.8%	100.0%	
Persons in Families				
Sheltered	191,325	29.4%	79.1%	
Unsheltered	50,626	7.8%	20.9%	
Total	241,951	37.2%	100.0%	
Family Households				
Sheltered	62,305	-	78.4%	
Unsheltered	17,141	-	21.6%	
Total	79,446	-	100.0%	

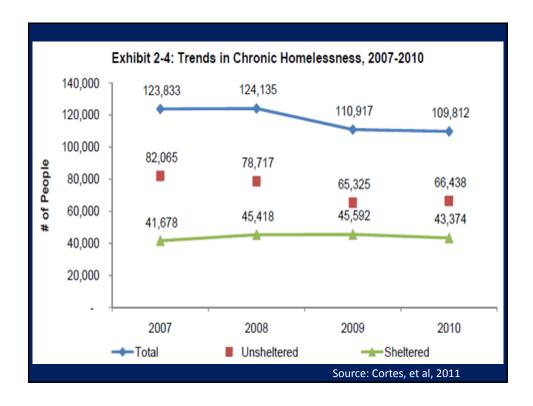
a The sheltered homeless count includes people using safe havens.

Source: 2010 Contimum of Care Applications: Exhibit 1, CoC Point-in-Time Homeless Population and Subpopulations

b Individuals includes persons in households without children and persons in households with only children.







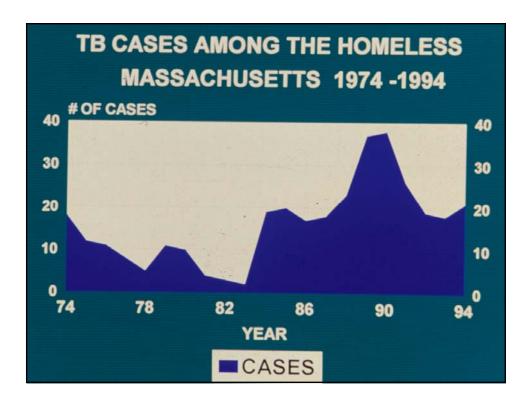
## **Characteristics of Outbreaks**

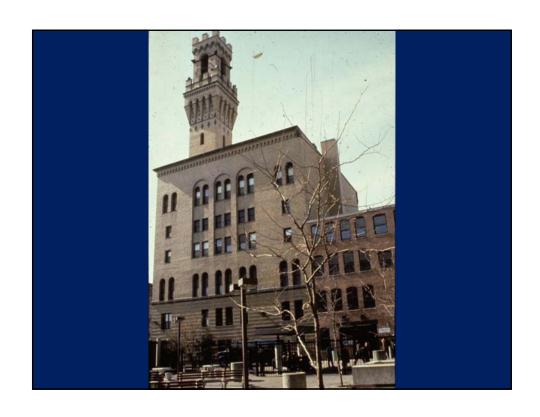
- Lax screening policies at shelters
- Unrecognized infectious cases
- Mobility of guests between shelters and other facilities (jails) and jurisdictions (NY)
- Inability to provide preventive treatment to high-risk, infected persons (contacts)
- High costs of screening and follow-up
  - Personal costs: TB morbidity
  - Actual screening costs: Dollars
    - » NY 1,093 contacts; 4 cases found
    - » ME 1,069 contacts; 0 cases found
    - » WA 471 contacts (+ intensified screening); 11 cases found

# TB and Homelessness in Boston

- Tuberculosis (TB) among homeless persons traditionally is a great public health concern
- Boston's Pine Street Inn (PSI) shelter has been the center of several TB outbreaks
  - Outbreak in mid-1970's triggered Public Health Nurse intervention: on-site clinical TB services
  - Following a 2<sup>nd</sup> outbreak, with a peak incidence of 29 cases of active disease in 1990, rates have declined to approximately 4-8 annually
  - A recent one-year increase (15 Boston cases in 2000) likely represented coincident reactivation of latent infection
    - 11/15 similar RFLP; no epi contacts
- Targeted Public Health Intervention:
  - Increased surveillance
  - Development of a specialized, public health TB clinic at Pine Street

- from John Bernardo, MD

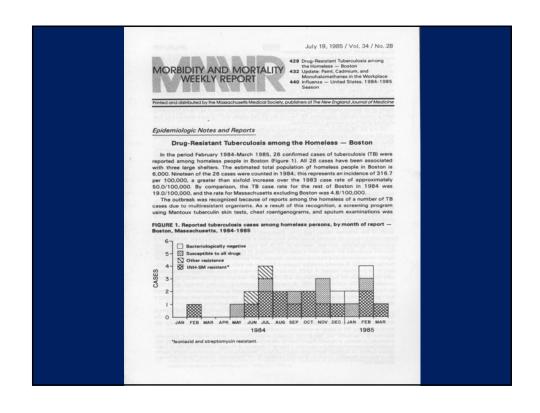




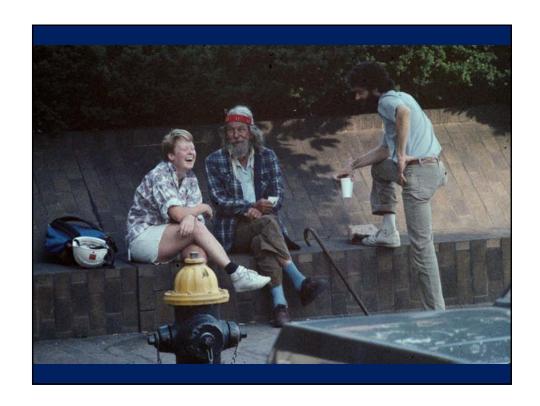






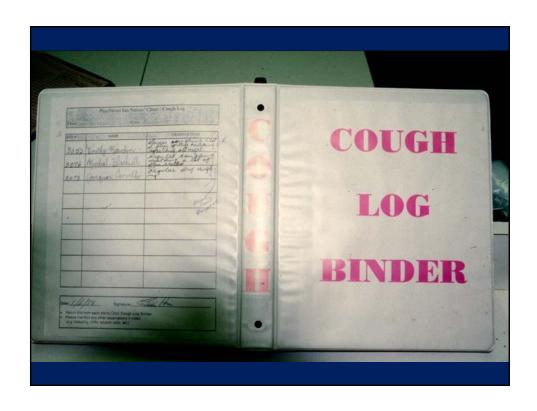


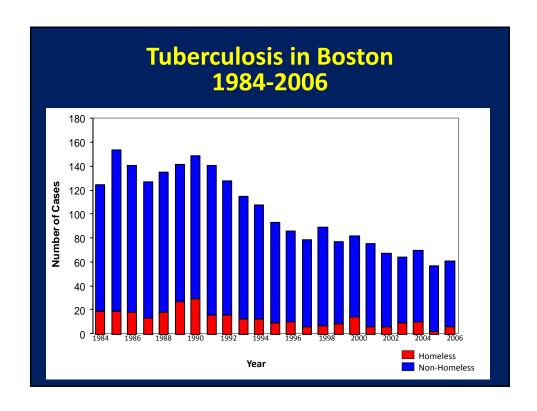




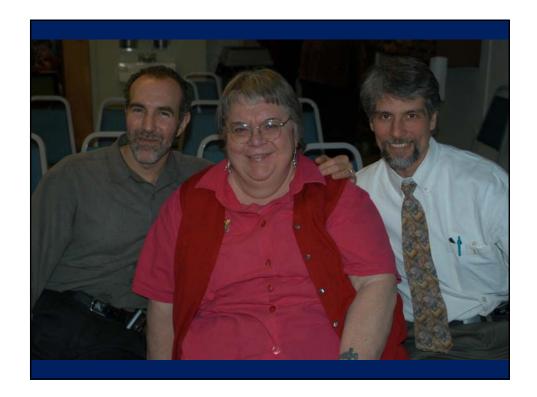












# References

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  - http://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1069&context=spp\_papers
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# PERSPECTIVE OF SHELTER STAFF DEAN CARPENTER FNP-BC FEBRUARY 7, 2012



"Always within Reach..."

#### **NSO SERVICES**

- Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Services
- Older Adult Service
- Emergency Telephone Service
- Harper-Gratiot Multi-Service Center
  - Food bank
  - Clothing
  - Utilities
- Youth Initiative Project
- Gambling Addiction Treatment
- Employment Training Services
- Life Choices (developmental disabilities)
- Homeless Services
  - Supportive Housing
  - Road Home
  - Tumaini Center





#### **NSO TUMAINI CENTER**



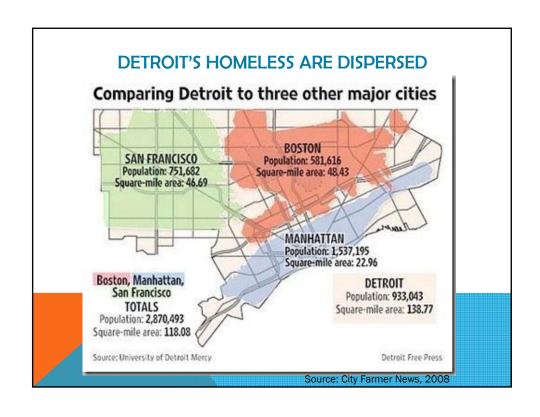
The shelter of last resort in the Cass Corridor

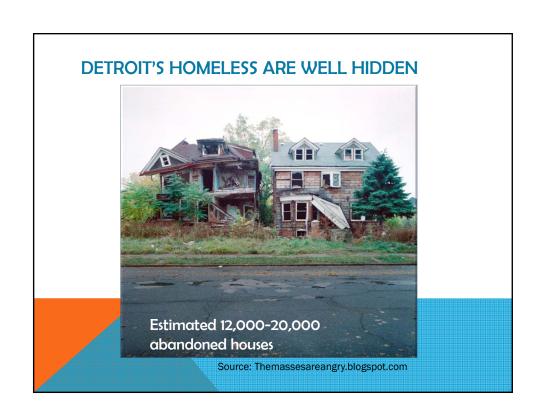
#### **SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM**





- Estimated 19,000 homeless in Detroit
- Unemployment rate 27% (officially)
- Jobless rate near 50%
- 17 FQHC's, no public hospital





#### **DETROIT'S HOMELESS ARE VULNERABLE**

# Vulnerability Index: Homeless Death Prevention Study April 2010

Risk indicator	Nationally	Detroit
Sample Size	8575	211
Tri-morbid	54%	51%
3x ER or Hospital last year	34%	66%*
3x ER last 3 months	25%	43%*
> 60 years old	20%	13%
HIV+/AIDS	6%	7%
Liver Disease	19%	10%
Kidney Disease	9%	9%
Cold/Wet Weather Injury	15%	21%*
% vulnerable	42%	51%*
* Indicates higher than national avera	ge Source : Corporation	for Supportive Housing, 2010

# DETROIT'S HOMELESS ARE TRANSIENT



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#### LEGAL/SOCIAL BARRIERS TO SERVICE

- Parole violators/open warrants
- Escaping domestic abuse
- Asylum seekers/illegal immigrants
- "Going ghost"
- Use of 'street' names
- Mental illness
- Organic brain disease
- Substance abuse
- Traumatic brain injury











#### TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY



Source: Detroit Free Press 2011

#### Detroit Free Press

Fame, fortune have faded away for Detroit boxer Willie Edwards

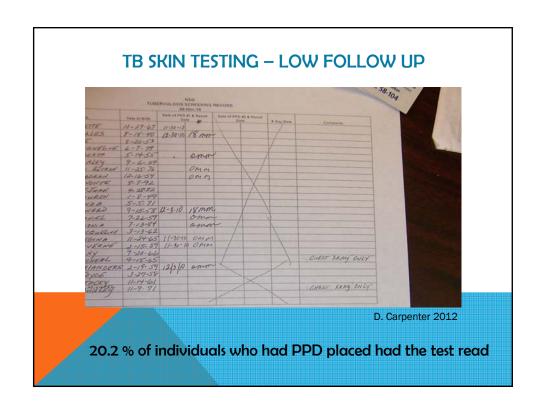
MIKE BRUDENELL DETROIT FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER JUNE 12. 2011

He had a wife, two children and a dynamite right hand that could put you to sleep.

Willie (the Sandman) Edwards had the world at his feet and many opponents as well, whom he knocked down during his colorful boxing career in Detroit and across the country in the 1980s. Now the Sandman hides in a dark corner of a downtown homeless shelter, where his most precious possessions are an old folding chair and a few memories of his ring career.

"I don't want to cry about anything,"





#### STEPS TAKEN TO MITIGATE OUTCOMES

- Improving Filtration
- Utilizing database for screening, referral and contact investigation
- Switching from TST to interferon γ release assay (IGRA) testing
- Establishing close relationship with Detroit Health Department/other homeless service providers

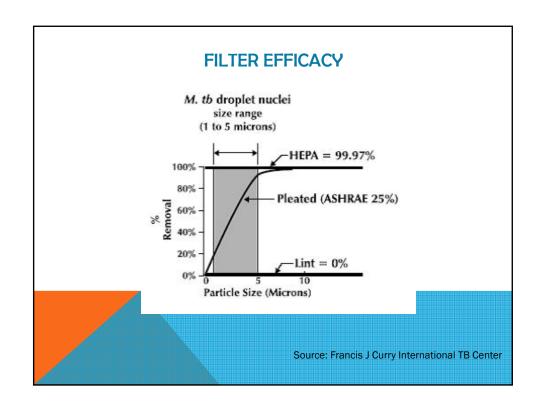
#### **VENTILATION**

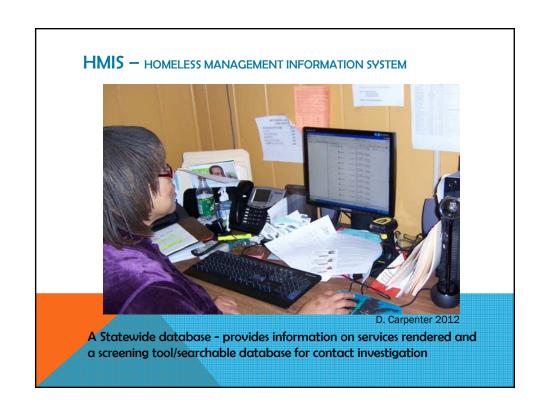




D. Carpenter 2012

- Fiber filters capture no pathogens
- UVGI and HEPA filters are cost-prohibitive
- Pleated filters show some efficacy are affordable









#### TB TESTING - DETROIT HEALTH DEPARTMENT



D. Carpenter 2011

The "Crew" – providing not only Quantiferon TB testing, but also HIV and syphilis testing.

#### **RESULTS OF TESTING**

- 92 Registered and screened
- 61 Tested (66.3%)
- 31 Refused (33.7%) or not available
- 5 Positive (8%)
  - +2 cases from contact investigation (not homeless and previously identified)
- O Active disease in reactors
- 1 Positive syphilis (1%)
- 0 Positive HIV test



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# Case Study: TB and Shelter Staff

A TB Control and Case Management
Perspective
Monica Heltz, RN MPH
February 7, 2012



# Day 1

- "David," a 31 year-old man, presented to a local emergency department from the street with a two-month history of productive cough, fevers, night sweats and shortness of breath
- Chest X-ray showed infiltrate in left upper lobe, CT showed cavitation
- Had been staying in local homeless shelter
- Admitted for TB rule-out

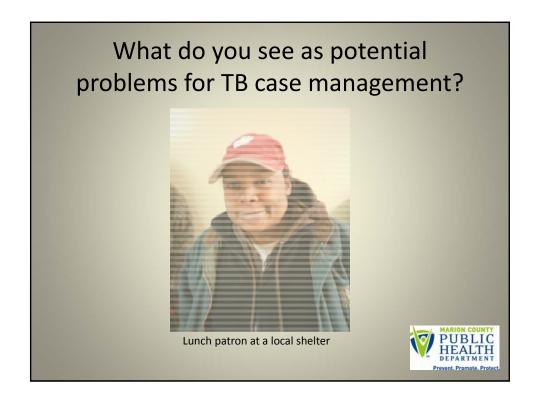


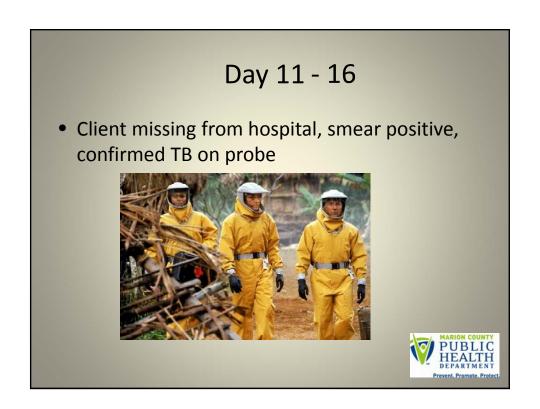


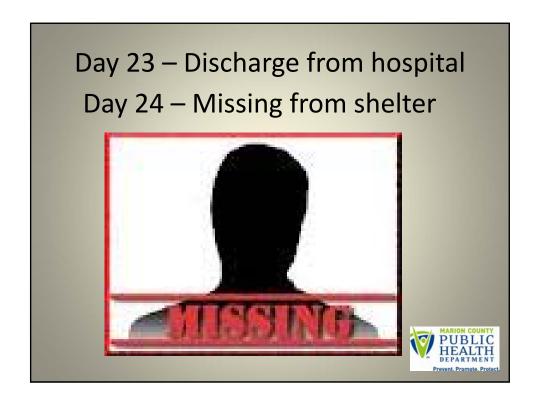
# David's History

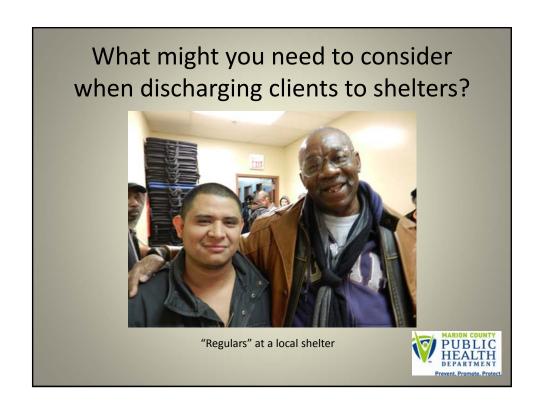
- Positive Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) nine months prior, no treatment
- HIV positive for three years, no treatment, lost to follow-up
- Bipolar and schizophrenia, for which he received disability
- Alcohol addiction
- Incarceration
- Recent hospital encounters for: stab wound, suicidal ideation, TB rule out two and five months prior with negative X-rays
- Seen 1 week prior in emergency department for same. CXR showed patchy airspace opacities















# Summary of this case

- 3 shelters involved: 1 day shelter, 1 discharge shelter, 1 overnight shelter
- Multiple interactions with health care system prior to diagnosis, but little follow-up
- Multiple co-morbidities
- Reluctance or inability to give up contacts
- Multiple challenges completing therapy
- Challenging contact investigation
- Completed therapy



## If we could do it all over...

- Bed lists
- Use shelter staff
- Social work
- Communications
- Housing
- Alerts to providers



Lunch patron at area shelter



# **Regarding Homeless Clients**



TB testing patron and me

- Be persistent
- Follow through on promises
- Be creative with incentives & enablers
- Housing is good, but don't forget food and other associated factors



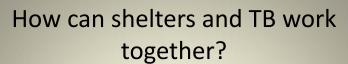
# **Regarding Shelters**



Resident and staff at a local shelter

- Resources, roles and rules are variable
- Education
- Respect
- Consistency
- Expertise





- Inclusive planning
- Teamwork
- Regular contact
- Capitalize on skills and services



Sign on door of room at local shelter



Local shelter director and I showing off our great working relationship



# **Planning for Homeless Clients**



- Housing and food
- Social work involvement
- Contact investigations
- Notification systems
- Incentives & enablers
- Trust building



## **Outbreak Prevention**

- Plan for homeless clients
- Maintaining relationships
- Technical assistance
- Screening
- Environmental measures
- Communicable disease code



TB Clearance Card for shelter residents



# **Outbreak Response**



Providing TB testing with IGRA

- Targeted testing with immediate follow-up
- Incentives given only for follow-up
- Epi link investigation
- Short course therapy treatment DOT for LTBI
- Data management plan
- Data sharing plan
- Housing
- Ventilation improvements



# Take Home

- The more you work with and involve your community partners, the easier it will be to find creative collaborative solutions when the need arises
- Trust-building is <u>the</u> most valuable activity you can perform





