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Title: Active case finding among contacts of sputum smear positive tuberculosis patients in rural and urban Sindh Pakistan

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Body: Introduction: Household contacts sputum smear positive tuberculosis patients have much higher rates of active TB. In Pakistan it is done passively.; patients to bring their contacts to the diagnostic facility Objective: This study was done to see the yield of Active case finding among household contacts of sputum-smear positive (SS+) TB cases Methods: In 07 urban and 15 rural public facilities lay workers were provided an incentive to counsel new SS+ TB cases about household contacts screening. Household members were verbally screened. TB suspects were escorted to TB center for sputum examination. Diagnosed SS+ TB recieved monthly food baskets, reminders SMS and home visits. Results: 3608 SS+ new TB patients registered in 2011. The results are summarized in table 1

Table1 Summary of active TB contact tracing findings in Sindh, Pakistan 2011.

	7 Urban Facilities	15 Rural Facilities	Total
Index cases	1869	1168	3037
Contacts screened	11426	7765	19191
Number of contacts / household	6.1	6.6	6.3
No of TB suspects	1244	2234	3478
suspects to contacts ratio	10.9%	28.8%	18.1%
No. sputum microscopy done	1119	1041	2160
suspects tested%	90.0%	46.6%	62.1%
Contacts tested%	9.8%	13.4%	11.3%
SS+ Detected	176	314	490
Smear Positivity	15.7%	30.2%	22.7%
SS+ TB Prevalence among contacts/ 100,000)	1540/100K	4044/100K	2553/100K

Out of 490 SS+ females and males were 242 and 248. 16% index cases had one SS+ household contact Overall 393 were cured, 87 completed treatment, 5 died and 6 were treatment failure, with no difference between the urban and rural setting Conclusion Active contact tracing of SS+ve index cases have high yields in Sindh, Pakistan. The intervention has resulted in improved compliance.