

Public Health Interventions to Reduce TB Risk in Homeless Populations

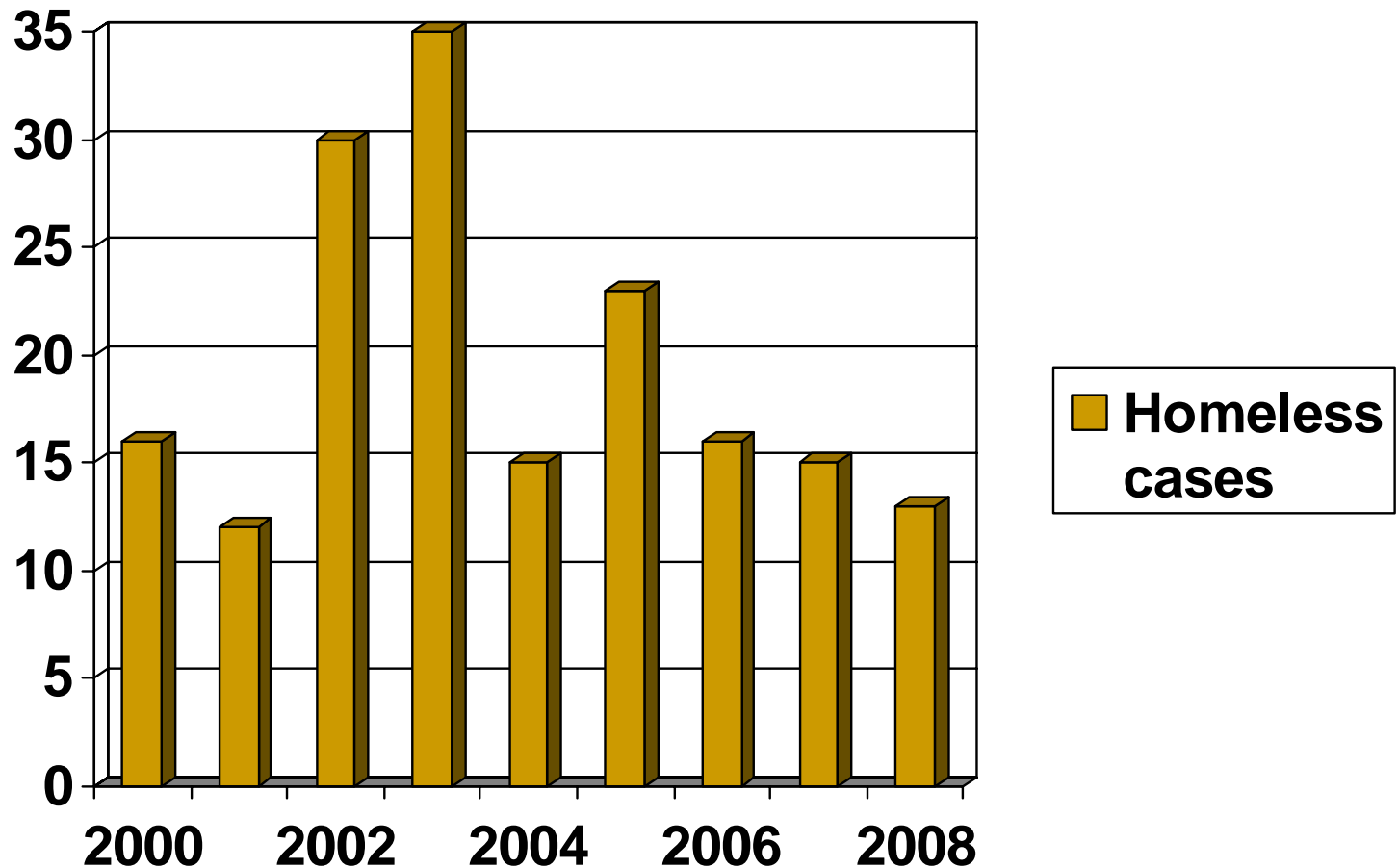
International Union Against TB and Lung Disease:
Nursing Assembly
Marcia Stone, Public Health Nurse
Health Care for the Homeless
Public Health—Seattle & King County

February 26, 2009

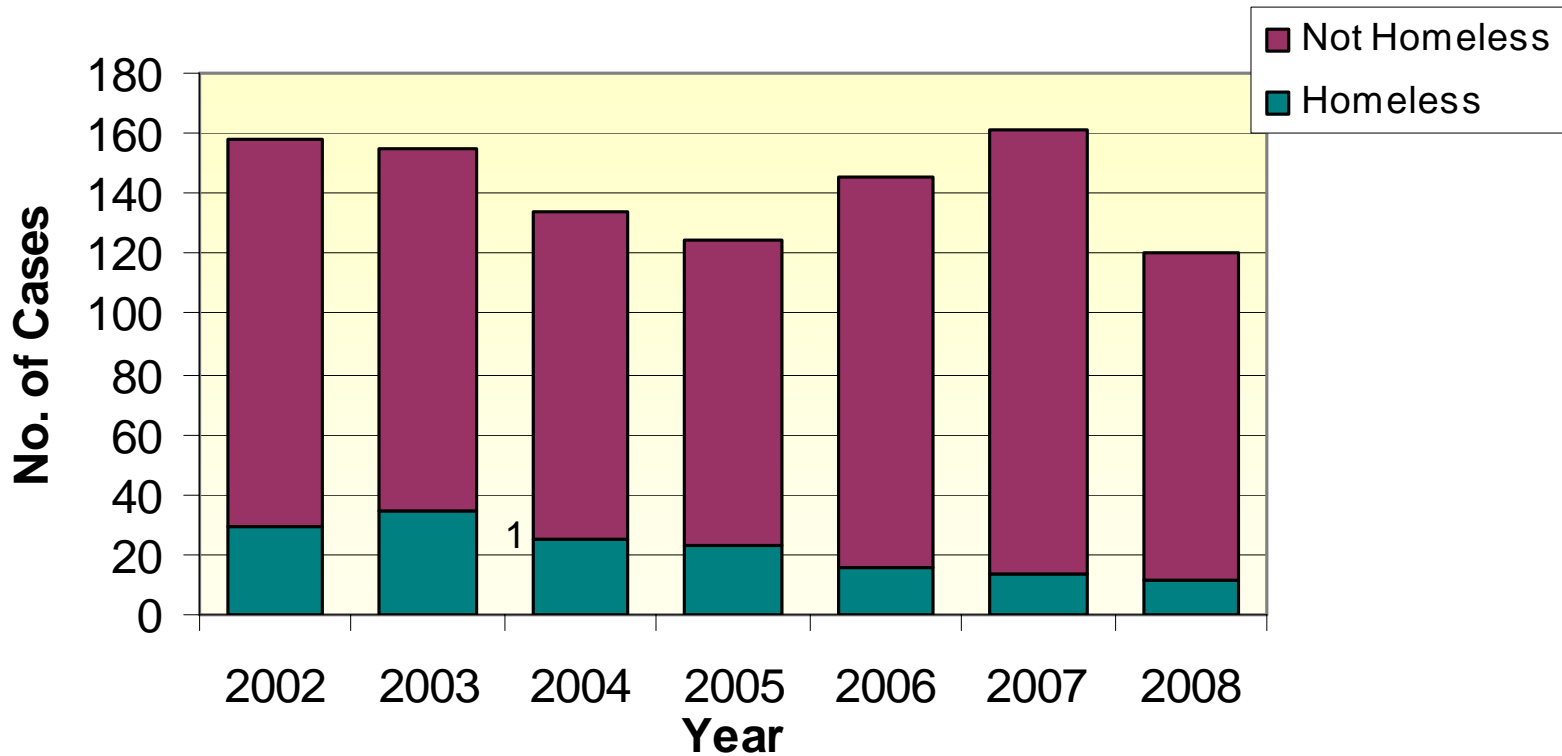
Acknowledgements

- Eyal Oren and Margaret Ragland—
epidemiologists
 - TB Control Program, Public Health–Seattle
and King County
- Health Care for the Homeless staff and
community partners
- All the dedicated and conscientious staff
of the many homeless service agencies in
King County

TB Outbreak Among the Homeless in Seattle-King County



Homeless Cases by Year



Seattle & King County Homeless Outbreak Tracking

- 88 cases have been linked by genotype in KC
 - 2002: 2 non-homeless individuals
 - 2007: 5 non-homeless individuals
- Over 1500 contacts screened in relation to ANY case matching this strain since 2002
 - Estimated 500 contacts not found
- **187** contacts identified in 2008 (all homeless cases)
 - **92** contacts screened in 2008

Homeless in Seattle (King County)

- Nearly 8500 people enduring homelessness
 - Jan. 2008 One Night Count
- Day programs, hygiene centers, recovery programs, shelters, transitional housing
- Large and small agencies
- Single adult, family, youth, gender specific
- Many funding sources and philosophies
- 32 programs receive funds from City of Seattle
 - Several high risk programs NOT funded by City
- **High staff turnover**

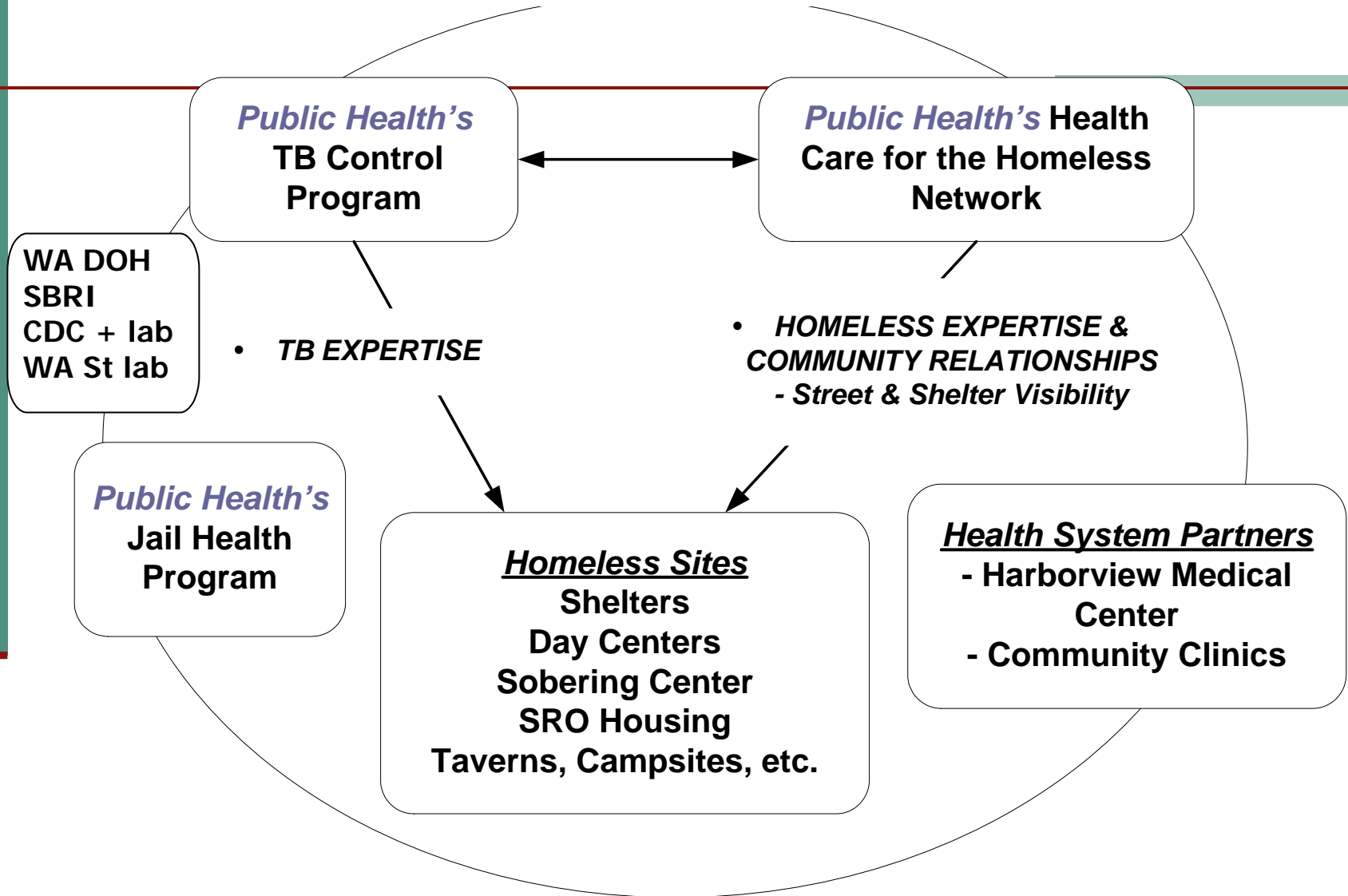
Why such a large outbreak?

Contribution of social conditions:

- Homelessness/marginally housed/poverty/substance abuse
- Crowded living conditions
- Multiple highly infectious patients resulted in intense exposure in multiple homeless facilities and shared motel rooms
- Mobility of population:
 - Move frequently between different shelters, staying with friends and family, motels, multiple day programs
 - Urban Indian population frequently visits friends and family 'back home' in other counties and states

Response to Outbreak: The Partnership Approach

Public Health the Focal Point



Public Health Interventions

- TB and Homelessness Coalition
- TB Guidelines for Homeless Service Agencies
- City funds tied to minimum health standards in shelters
- HCH TB prevention nurse for homeless service agencies
- Focus group of those affected
- TB satellite site—DOPT for contacts
- Incentives—bus tickets, assistance with housing and other social services; cash discontinued
- Discharge planner/housing specialist in TB Clinic
- Resources for shelters

Ongoing Community Partnership

TB and Homelessness Coalition

Created

Convened by Public Health: Health Care for the Homeless and TB Control Program

With American Lung Association of WA

Participants

- Homeless Agencies
- TB Control Program
- Health Care for the Homeless
- Substance Abuse Programs
- Housing Programs
- Health Clinics
- Local Government Staff

Functions

- Establish TB Prevention and Control Guidelines
- Identify training and TA needs
- Share info—BOTH WAYS
- Expand to other health topics as needed

TB and Homelessness Coalition

- Meets 3 times per year
- Update on status of TB outbreak/cases
- Agency update on implementation of shelter guidelines and other changes
- Guidance for LTBI prevalence study among homeless
- Smoking and TB
- Other health topics—bed bugs, pan flu prep
- Screened new video
- Opportunity for agencies to provide feedback to PH
 - Discussion/clarification of TBCP role in testing shelter staff

Health Care for the Homeless TB Prevention Nurse

- Funded by City of Seattle
- Assure agencies meet minimum health standards for TB
- Technical assistance to homeless service agencies
- TB and Homelessness Coalition
- Advocacy: provide information on agencies, key informants, and intricacies, subtleties and predictable social patterns in homeless world
- TB liaison between agencies and TB Control Program

Minimum Health Standards for TB Prevention

- Implement TB Guidelines for Homeless Service Agencies
- TB policy
 - Written and available to staff
- Annual risk assessment
- Annual staff training/client education
- Reasonable progress toward action plan and commitments
- Symptom screening for shelter guests—
TSTs not required to stay in shelters

TB Risk Assessment

- TB Prevention and Control Guidelines for Homeless Service Agencies in Seattle–King County
- Risk assessment:
 - Checklist developed from TB Guidelines
 - Educational tool
 - CDC Guidelines for Health Care Settings
- Review populations served, services provided, TB policy, physical layout, ventilation, client records, bed maps, TB education for staff and clients

TB policy

- Staff training, including new staff
- Client education
- TB screening for staff
- Environmental measures
- Agency response to illness
 - cough alert policy and masks
 - employee illness
 - isolation procedures

Changes?

- Bed maps
- Improvements in record keeping
- Refinements in client intake screening questions
- Annual staff screening
- Annual staff education
- Increased awareness of ventilation and maintenance
- Improvements in shelter ventilation
- Participation in TB Coalition

Focus Group Data

- TB clinic location a barrier
- Alternative screening sites needed
- Incentives important
- Find site in ride-free bus zone

TB Satellite Site

- Partnership: TB Control Program and large centrally located homeless service agency
- PHN 3 days a week
- Screening for high-risk contacts
- DOT, DOPT and case management
- Access to database for contact investigation
- Ride-free bus zone
- Opportunities for partnerships with downtown community clinics and service agencies

Resources

- Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Guidelines for Homeless Service Agencies in Seattle–King County, Washington
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/hch>
 - Sample policy
 - Ideas for posters
 - TB Fact Sheet for Staff

Resources

“Shelters and TB: What Staff Need to Know”
Second Edition: CD and Viewers’ Guide

<http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/products/index.cfm>

TB in Homeless Shelters: Reducing the Risk
through Ventilation, Filters, and UV

<http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/catalogue/downloads/tbhomelessshelters.pdf>

Resources

■ Maine Tool Kit for Shelters

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/documents/word/tool%20kit.doc>

- “What Your Shelter Can Do to Prevent TB”
- “Assessing Your Shelter Guests’ Risk for TB”
- Cough Alert Policy
- “Think TB” Materials
- Stop TB Poster
- Cover Your Cough Poster
- Resources

Resources

- National Health Care for the Homeless Council

<http://www.nhchc.org/>

Advocacy, Research, Training, Clinical Resources, Respite, Consumers, Publications

- Healing Hands--HCH Clinicians' Newsletters

<http://www.nhchc.org/healinghands.html>

- Homelessness Resource Center, SAMHSA

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Default.aspx>

- Seattle King County Coalition for the Homeless: One Night Count

<http://www.homelessinfo.org/onc.html>

Reference

Outbreak of tuberculosis in a homeless population involving multiple sites of transmission. Lofy, McElroy, et al. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis 10(6):683–689

Contact Information

Marcia Stone, Public Health Nurse
Health Care for the Homeless
Public Health—Seattle & King County
marcia.stone@kingcounty.gov
206-263-8340