LONDONASSEMBLY

Health Committee



Londoners' perceptions of tuberculosis

October 2015

Survey respondents

A diverse group of 1,006 Londoners were included in our survey. The sample was weighted to reflect the population profile of London as below.

Gender



Age group



Ethnicity





Research conducted between 14th and 20th August 2015.

High-risk boroughs for tuberculosis in London are Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hounslow and Newham

Awareness of TB

A majority of Londoners say they know where to get information about TB but only a minority are confident they know the symptoms and risk factors.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements on tuberculosis (TB)?



Means of transmission

We tested Londoners' knowledge about how TB is transmitted. The responses from the list show that there are some common misconceptions about the ways the infection can be spread.

In which of the following ways, if any, do you think TB can be passed from person to person?



Symptoms of TB

We tested Londoners' perceived knowledge of TB symptoms. While most people correctly identified a cough, other symptoms were less well known. Almost a fifth of people said they didn't know any symptoms from the list tested.

Which of the following, if any, do you think are symptoms of infectious TB disease?



Stigma around TB

While most people say TB wouldn't affect relationships with friends and relatives, significant numbers would be scared or worried to admit to a diagnosis.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about TB?

Agree

People with TB deserve the same support as cancer patients If a friend or relative had TB it wouldn't affect our relationship People with TB should avoid other people while being treated I would be worried if I had to tell my employer I had TB I would be happy to spend time with someone who has TB I would be scared to tell my friends and family if I had TB I would be embarrassed if I had TB People catch TB because of poor lifestyle choices 0%



Knowledge of TB

We tested Londoners' knowledge of TB. Many had some background knowledge, although there is misplaced confidence in a TB vaccine.

For each of the following statements about TB please indicate if you think the statement is true or false

Severe cases of TB can lead to death Most cases of TB can be treated and cured with antibiotics TB is more common in people born outside the UK You can have TB for years and not experience symptoms You can have TB without being infectious There is a vaccine that is 100% effective for infectious TB If you have TB once, you can never get it again



Percentage of respondents answering 'True'

Testing for TB

Of the options listed, Londoners told us they are more likely to be tested for TB if it is part of a routine health check, or if advised to do so by a trusted person.



More likely

No difference

Less likelv

What impact, if any, would each of the following have on how likely or unlikely you

Further information

For full survey findings and to read the Health Committee's report on tuberculosis in London please visit our website: <u>www.london.gov.uk/assembly</u>

Health Committee Members

Dr Onkar Sahota (Chair)	Labour
Andrew Boff (Deputy Chair)	Conservative
Kit Malthouse	Conservative
Murad Qureshi	Labour
Valerie Shawcross	Labour

Methodology

ComRes survey results, August 2015, commissioned by the Health Committee. ComRes interviewed 1,006 London adults online between 14th and 20th August 2015. Data were weighted to be representative of all adults in London aged 18+ by age, gender and area. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. The full polling results are available on the ComRes website at http://www.comres.co.uk/

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