



Community Health Workers' Impact on Tuberculosis Control in South African Townships: A Qualitative Analysis

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Abstract

South African townships face significant challenges in tuberculosis (TB) control due to socio-economic factors such as poverty and limited access to healthcare. A qualitative study employing semi-structured interviews with CHWs and community members to explore perceptions and experiences related to TB control efforts. Community health workers reported a significant increase (30%) in TB case detection rates among their communities, attributed to proactive outreach strategies and improved communication channels. Themes emerged around the need for ongoing training and support for CHWs to sustain their effectiveness over time. CHWs play a pivotal role in enhancing TB control efforts within South African townships by facilitating early diagnosis and treatment adherence. Investment should be prioritised in expanding CHW networks with adequate resources, including ongoing professional development opportunities to maintain high standards of care and efficacy.

Keywords: *African Geography, Community Health Workers, Cultural Barriers, Ethnography, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Qualitative Research, Social Determinants of Health*

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