



Effectiveness of Community Health Workers in Tuberculosis Case Detection in Democratic Republic of Congo Urban Slums: A Time-Frame Analysis

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Published: 03 August 2013 | **Received:** 01 May 2013 | **Accepted:** 21 June 2013

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18982922](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18982922)

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Abstract

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) urban slums face significant health challenges, including tuberculosis (TB). Community Health Workers (CHWs) play a crucial role in TB case detection. A longitudinal cohort study was conducted with CHWs in five selected urban slums. Data on TB case detection, patient demographics, and contextual factors were collected and analysed using a mixed-methods approach. CHWs detected an average of 15% more cases per month compared to the standard rate, with significant variation across different slums ($p < 0.05$). Community Health Workers significantly enhance TB case detection in DRC urban settings, though performance varies by location. Enhanced training and supportive supervision are recommended for CHWs to optimise their role in TB control efforts. Tuberculosis, Community Health Workers, Urban Slums, Time-Frame Analysis Treatment effect was estimated with $\text{text}\{\text{logit}\}(\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta^{-1} p X_i$, and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

Keywords: *Democratic Republic of Congo, Urban Slums, Community Health Workers, Tuberculosis, Case Detection, Epidemiology, Public Health Strategy*

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