TB Control Laws in the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands

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Experience:

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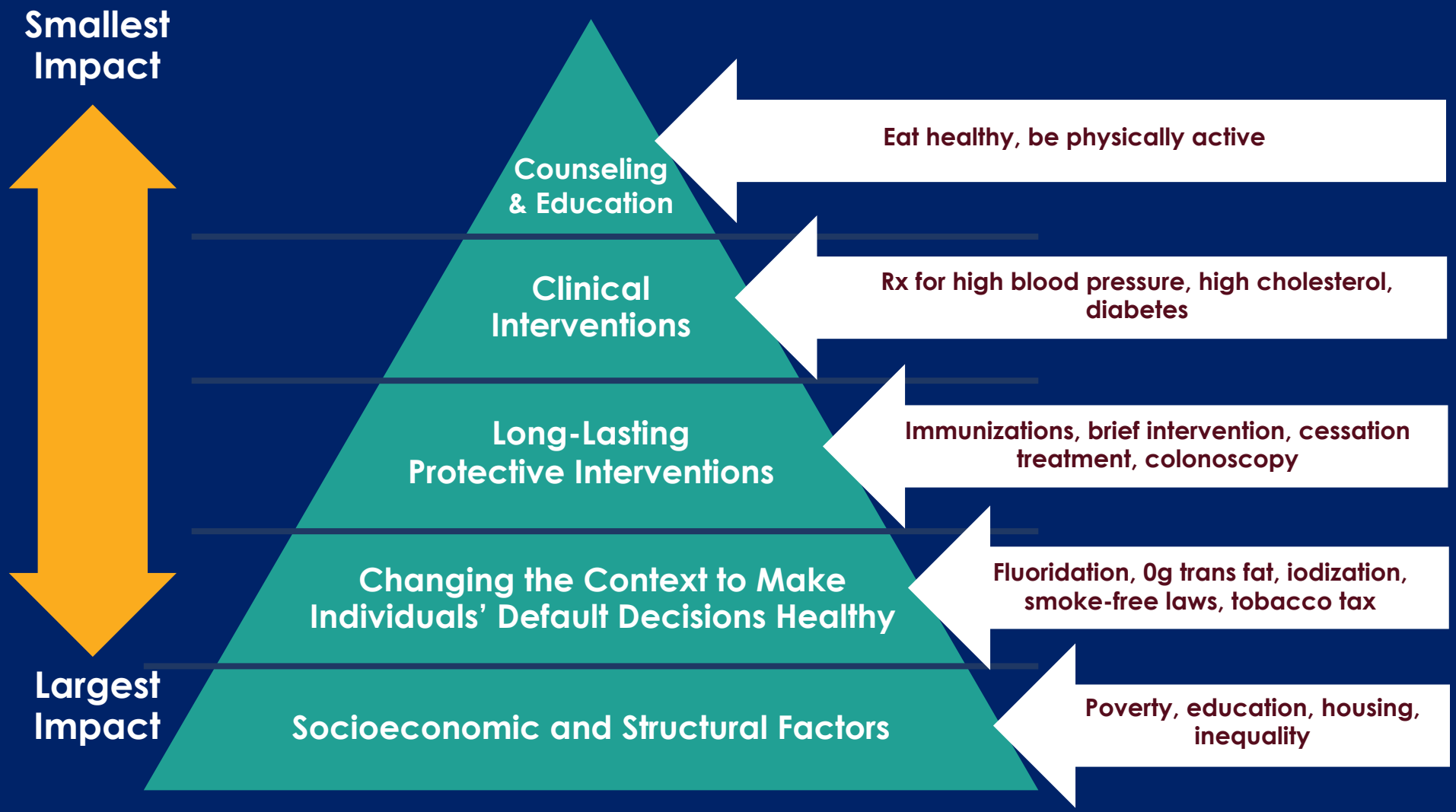
Public Health Institute

Agenda

- Why PIHOA invests in legal and policy infrastructure
- Elements of the PIHOA TB control law and policy project
- Findings and recommendations
- Discussion about the report



Factors That Affect Health



Thomas R. Frieden. A framework for public health action: the health impact pyramid. Am J Public Health 100(4):590–5 (2010).

What do we mean by law & policy?

Law includes:

- Ordinances
- Legislation
- Regulations that codify and institutionalize government policy



Policy includes:

- Laws
- Regulations
- Procedures
- Administrative actions
- Incentives
- Voluntary practices of governments and other institutions



Two Types of Laws

Legislation

- **Introduced by:** Lawmakers
- **Altered by:** Legislature
- **Can be stopped by:** Stalling/Failing in Legislature
- **Finalized when:** Passed by Legislature & Signed by President (or other head of state)
- **Has the effect of:** Law

Regulation

- **Introduced by:** Administrative Agencies to interpret laws
- **Altered by:** The Public through a notice and comment period
- **Can be stopped by:** Legislature/the Public
- **Finalized when:** Published
- **Has the effect of:** Law

PIHOA TB Law + Policy Project: Key Elements

Objectives

Conduct a comprehensive inventory of existing TB laws and policies across USAPIs

Provide recommendations

Inform the development of a regional dashboard of TB prevention and control laws

Tasks

Conduct online legal research

Complete key informant interviews with TB program teams

Facilitate workshop at Oct. 2023 PITCA meeting

Monthly engagement with PIHOA and CDC

Deliverables

Final report that summarizes the findings of research

Six jurisdiction specific memos

Track laws and list all available legal citations

Presentation summarizing project

PIHOA TB Law & Policy Project: High-level findings

June 2023 to December 2023

Variability of legal provisions

Jurisdictions' legal codes and regulations vary in terms of specificity and online availability

Opportunities to engage in policy process

Opportunities exist to engage in strengthening policy related to TB control

Consensus around certain issues

Example: the need for assistance and support in enforcing provisions related to TB control

Opportunities for cross-jurisdictional learning

Most jurisdictions have some strong provisions that are unique

Structure of the Final Report

- Scope of the project
- Review of best practices
- Overview of laws in USAPI
- Recommendations
- Limitations of Research



Legal Elements and Best Practices

- WHO Regional Framework
- CDC resources
- Research framework that assessed nine core areas



Bright Spot: RMI's TB Control Plan



Finding

Very few of the USAPI have detailed, publicly available TB control plans.

The WHO has found that the existence of a TB Control plan is one method of ensuring accountability.

RMI has two important resources to aid with accountability:

- A strategic plan for health services with management, training and patient care goals
- National guidelines for the treatment & management of TB.

Legal Categories

- Relevant definitions
- Authority and accountability of public health officials
- Reporting TB cases and contacts
- Screening TB cases and contacts
- Examining TB cases and contacts
- Treatment
- Isolation and quarantine
- Due process and patients’ rights
- Interjurisdictional coordination



Bright Spot: Reporting TB Cases



Finding

Provisions related to reporting TB cases and contacts varied across the USAPI



The codes of American Samoa, CNMI & Guam lay out:

- The timeframe for reporting
- Who has a duty to report
- What information must be reported

Recommendations for TB Control Laws

Contact Tracing. Develop provisions related to contact tracing.

Reporting. Ensure reporting requirements are clear.

Enforcement. Specify the process for enforcement of TB control requirements.

TB Registries. Make information about TB registries available online.

Travel and TB Control. Clarify provisions related to detaining individuals arriving in the USAPI with suspected TB.

Isolation and Quarantine Revise law to reflect changes in I and Q practices.



Bright Spot: American Samoa's Regulations



Finding

Few USAPI have detailed regulations interpreting their public health laws.

American Samoa recently completed a project to improve their rulemaking processes.

- All regulations have been reviewed and updated.
- Clear process for providing input into regulations.
- Regulations to be updated every two years.

Recommendations for TB Control Policy

- Increase Inter-Agency Collaboration
- Spotlight Medicaid for Entire Population
- Build on Mass Screening Initiatives
- Regional Dashboard on TB Control Laws



Challenges & Limitations

- Lack of access to complete and current laws online
- Lack of access to TB control plans and policies
- Lack of TB control plans
- Inability to complete key informant interviews with all jurisdictions



Questions & Discussion



- Additional recommendations based on your experience?
- Thoughts about next steps?

Thank You

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