



# PROMOTING HEALTH IN HOMELESS SHELTERS (PHHS)

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# Program Goal

Increase adoption of infection prevention and health education policies and procedures within homeless shelters to:

- Reduce transmission of TB and other communicable diseases
- Promote holistic health within their employees and clients

# Program Rationale

- Outbreaks of TB in homeless shelters across the U.S.
  - *Jacksonville, Florida*
  - *Kane County, Illinois*
  - *Los Angeles, California*
  - *King County, Washington*
  - *New York, New York*
  - *Portland, Maine*
  - *Atlanta, Georgia (3 dead)*
- DOH has conducted mass TB screenings in local shelters due to exposure to infectious cases

# Program Scope

- Emergency Shelters (ES)
- Transitional Housing (TH)

# Participating ES/TH Agencies

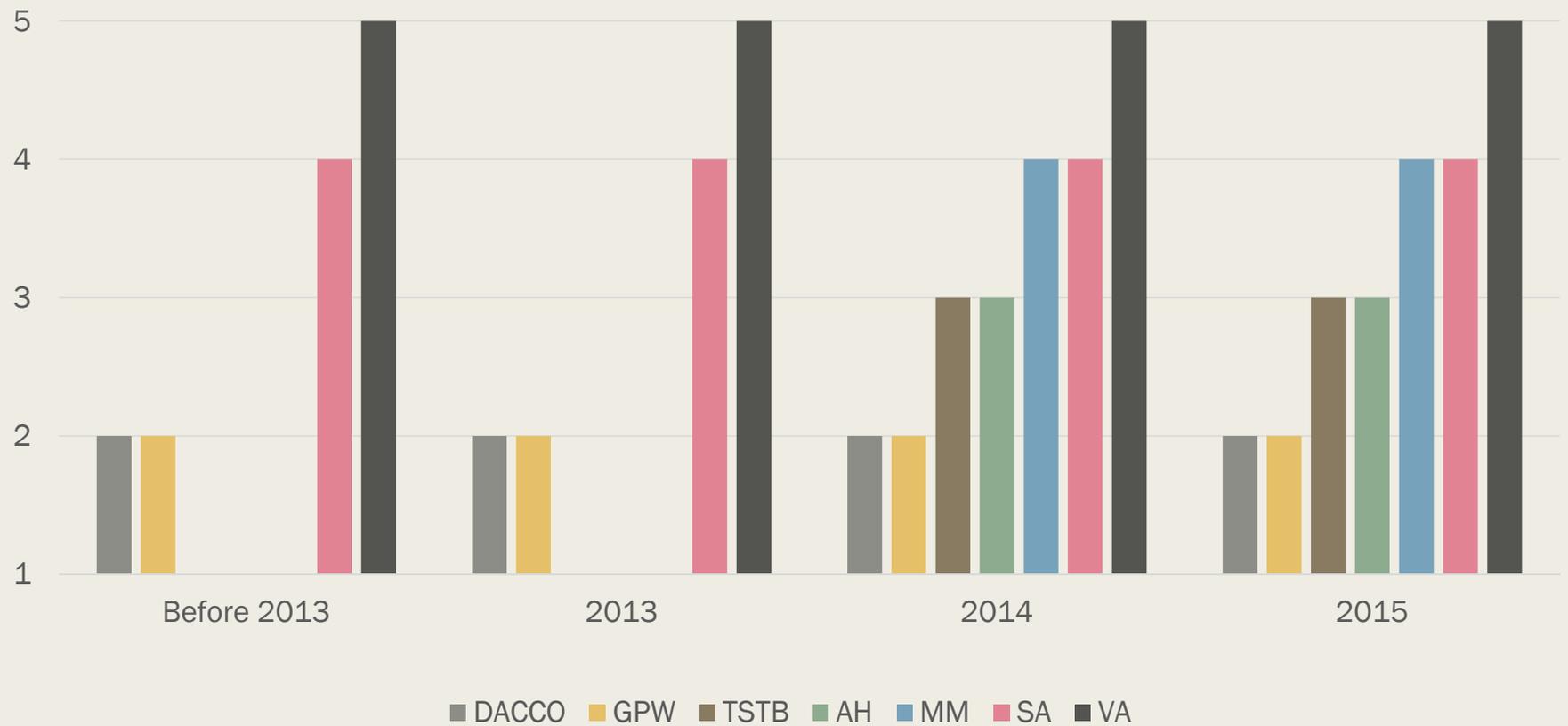
- Alpha House of Tampa
- Catholic Charities
- DACCO
- Family Promise of Greater Brandon
- Gracepoint Wellness, Inc.
- Mary & Martha House
- Metropolitan Ministries
- Salvation Army
- St. Vincent de Paul
- The Spring of Tampa Bay
- VA Transitional Dormitory & Domiciliary

# Participating Non-ES/TH Agencies

- Florida Department of Health
- Hillsborough County:
  - *Board of County Commissioners*
  - *Healthcare Services*
  - *Homeless Services*
- Iasis Healthcare (Humana)
- Magellan Complete Care
- Staywell Medicaid MMA
- Tampa General Hospital
- USF AHEC/COM



# ES/TH Agency Progress



# Health-Related Outreach

- Operation Reveille 2014/2015
- World TB Day 2013/2014/2015/2016
- Operation Stand Down 2014

# Deliverables

- Infection Prevention Plan
  - *Symptom screening template*
  - *Referral form for TB testing to DOH TB Center*
  - *Cough alert log/Line list*
  - *Shelter Assessment Form*
- Health Promotion Toolkit
  - *Information on a variety of health issues that disproportionately affect those experiencing homelessness*
- Both can be found on the THHI website

# What Can You Do to Prevent TB?

- The workgroup members decided what measures should be feasible for any shelter without using any additional resources
  - *Maximum space between beds*
  - *Arrange beds “head to toe”*
  - *Maintain bed logs/lists and keep them for 1 year*
  - *Provide tissues for clients and staff who are coughing or encourage coughing into their elbow*
  - *Provide TB education for staff, clients, and volunteers*
  - *Post signs to promote cough etiquette and proper handwashing*

# Time and Resources

- Prevention saves time and resources than response
  - *Day-to-day duties*
    - Track bed log/list
    - Symptom screening at intake for clients
  - *Most other responsibilities are one-time duties or occur annually (e.g. arrange beds head-to-toe, infection prevention plan, and shelter assessment)*
  - *Easier to respond to a TB exposure in shelters with these policies/procedures and partnerships in place*

# What Can Your Organization Do?

- Encourage your administration to:
  - *Attend a quarterly PHHS workgroup meeting*
  - *Review the infection prevention plan template and health promotion toolkit on THHI's website*
  - *Consult with the Department of Health TB Center*
  - *Evaluate your organization's already established health-related services, education, and policies*

# Learn from Other Counties

- Communities with TB outbreaks have widely adopted these policies and procedures as a **response**
- In Hillsborough County, we would like to see organizations adopt these policies and procedures as a **prevention measure** to avoid a TB outbreak
- We don't want any organization to receive negative attention if a TB outbreak were to occur within their facility