



HEP B UNITED PHILADELPHIA

A COALITION RUN BY THE HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION



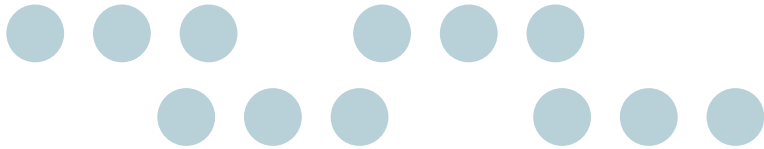
ANNUAL REPORT

2023



www.hepb.org

PHILADELPHIA HEPATITIS B ELIMINATION SUMMIT



The Philadelphia Hepatitis B Elimination Summit took place on May 19th, 2023, at the Cira Center in Philadelphia, PA. This gathering brought together more than 75 participants and partners, including the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), community-based organizations, and health care providers. Discussion focused on progress towards hepatitis B elimination, as well as setting future goals in Philadelphia.



Hep B United Philadelphia



Hepatitis B Foundation launched The Center of Public Health Excellence in 2022 in Philadelphia to tackle hepatitis B and liver cancer in the region. The program's primary objectives and strategies revolve around strengthening public health infrastructure to enhance hepatitis B elimination initiatives in partnership with Hepatitis B Foundation and various internal and external parties.

Strategic Priorities



Provider Education and Training

The Hepatitis B Project ECHO continued to provide medical education on hepatitis B epidemiology, prevention, and treatment to healthcare professionals and public health workers with the support of experts in the field.



Stakeholder Engagement and Community Partnerships

Through partnerships with community-based organizations, Hep B United Philadelphia awarded mini grants to assist with hepatitis B education and screening programs serving Asian American, African immigrant and harm reduction communities.



Hepatitis B Elimination Summit

Stakeholders were convened to discuss best practices and recommendations for hepatitis B prevention and elimination across the city and develop a strategic plan to support efforts toward elimination.



Integration within Health Systems

Improve access to hepatitis B screening and vaccination through integration within health systems using policy, practice change and best practices.

By the numbers.....

6.7% positive for hepatitis B



at risk of hepatitis B reactivation (HBVr)

37% needed vaccination

272
screened

13 community partners

11
screening events

9
education events

>100
educated



OUTREACH IMPACT

Education

Hepatitis B Foundation, through Hep B United Philadelphia, coordinated various educational events throughout the year to improve awareness of HBV epidemiology, prevention strategies, and its impact on the city. Flyers, brochures, and informational materials were shared at community centers, mosques, temples, immunization gatherings, and meetings.

In addition, staff members from the Hepatitis B Foundation participated in tabling and presentations during these events to provide educational sessions for both individuals and groups. In total, 9 educational events were held in 2023, educating more than 100 people on hepatitis B prevention and transmission.

Screening

Hepatitis B Foundation organized hepatitis B screening sessions at various community centers, temples, and mosques in partnership with local organizations. A total of 272 individuals were screened at these events in 2023. Among them, 6.7% tested positive for hepatitis B, 37% needed vaccinations, and 50% tested positive for core antibodies, indicating potential risk of reactivation in the future. All participants who underwent screening received their results by mail, along with a letter outlining the next steps such as further testing, vaccination, or discussing treatment options with healthcare providers. The screening participants represented Mauritanian, East Asians, Afghan, and African immigrant communities residing in Philadelphia.



Community Partnerships

Overview of Mini Grants

Hepatitis B Foundation provided mini-grants to community partners to support capacity building initiatives to address hepatitis B and liver cancer among Asian, African, and harm reduction communities across Philadelphia. Mini-Grant recipients work with the Hepatitis B Foundation to host screenings, educational events, and integrate information on hepatitis B prevention, transmission, and vaccination to community members.

4 Mini grants provided to SHAMS Health Clinic, KITHS, PCDC, and ACANA

\$38,000
Given in mini-grants to partners

Partner Highlights

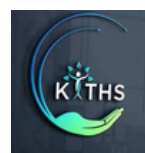
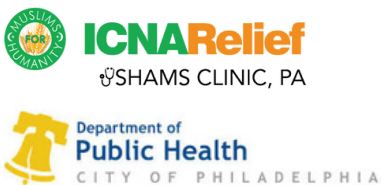


SHAMS Clinic

- Hosted screening events at mosques and at the SHAMS health clinic to improve uptake of hepatitis B testing among south Asian and African immigrant communities.
- Distributed flyers and other educational materials to community members at mosques and to patients at the clinic.

PCDC

- Hosted screening and educational events at the Chinatown Crane Community Center to improve awareness and testing of hepatitis B among Asian communities. Developed incentives such as discounted food vouchers to encourage screening.
- Hosted a luncheon with a local provider in Philadelphia along with HBF staff members to educate community members about the importance of getting tested for hepatitis B on World Hepatitis Day in July.
- Invited a PCDC staff member to the B Heppy podcast to share insights on hepatitis B prevalence in Chinatown, Philadelphia as well as highlight the accomplishments of the mini-grant.
- Distributed flyers, brochures, and fact sheets in English, Chinese, and Mandarin among community members.



HIGHLIGHTS



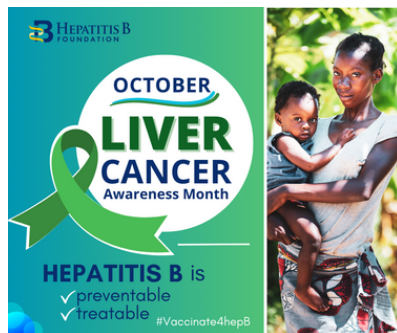
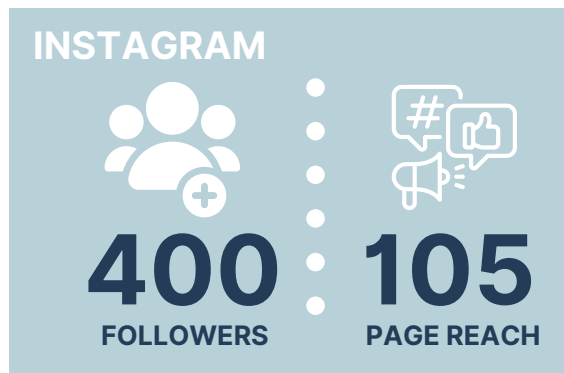
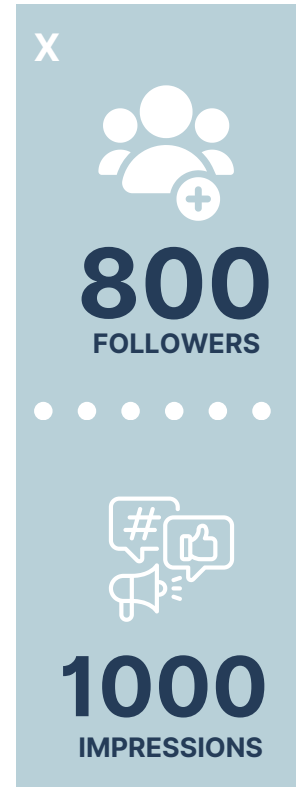
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SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS INSIGHTS



SOCIAL MEDIA

Hep B United Philadelphia maintained a consistent presence across Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter). Most of our social media followers reside in the U.S., Philippines, Egypt, India, and Pakistan. Social media traffic increased significantly during the Hep B United Summit due to reposts and retweets in addition to live stories. The most popular social media posts focused on liver cancer awareness, screening events, and webinars. Hep B United Philadelphia works with partners (with a social media presence) to promote hepatitis B education and screening events.



NEWSLETTERS

The Hep B United Philadelphia e-Newsletter is an important communication tool with over 130 subscribers and helps to maintain contact and share updates with partners and stakeholders (community partners, health care providers and professionals, and storytellers). The newsletter features webinar reminders, hepatitis B related events, educational toolkits and reports, storytelling campaign, and the B Heppy Podcast.



Hepatitis B ECHO



Overview

The Hepatitis B ECHO, run by the Hepatitis B Foundation, focused on addressing knowledge gaps among providers on prevention, transmission, treatment, and management while also improving cultural competency among clinical providers and other health professionals.

PROVIDER TRAINING

Address gaps in hepatitis B knowledge and best practices through virtual didactic presentations targeted towards:

- primary care providers
- nurse practitioners
- physician assistants
- community health workers

CASE STUDIES

Provide case studies or presentations to encourage dialogue and discussion around best practices to prevent, treat, and manage hepatitis B and liver cancer. Case studies consist of sharing the clinical history of a patient

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Comorbidities with HIV and Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis B reactivation
- Hepatitis B and Delta testing
- Hepatitis B and pregnancy
- Liver Cancer Surveillance

WIDER REACH

The goal of the ECHO is to improve provider capacity to prevent, treat, and manage hepatitis B by educating healthcare providers. The ECHO lectures are recorded and uploaded on YouTube to reach a wider audience

>7500

Views on YouTube



35 to 45 participants
attend each live
session



300

Subscribers

Summary

Participants included public health workers, community health workers, primary care providers, physician assistants, and nurses. Experts in hepatology and liver disease provided lectures on hepatitis B epidemiology and transmission, risk factors, reactivation under immunosuppression, HBV and pregnancy, and liver cancer screening.

Next Steps in Provider Training: Mini ECHO Series

The Hepatitis B Foundation is developing a targeted ECHO model within health systems. The Foundation is proposing to implement approximately four-session intensive mini ECHO series. Through our provider experts, we will recruit and engage new provider champions on hepatitis B. The goal of this is to create new networks of providers to improve overall regional capacity for vaccination, testing and management, ultimately to identify more individuals who need vaccination and those living with hepatitis B infection to prevent end stage liver disease.

SPEARHEAD Project



The Hepatitis B Foundation received a grant from Gilead Sciences (SPEARHEAD) to conduct research pertaining to hepatitis B and D among people who inject drugs (PWID) in collaboration with Prevention Point Philadelphia, an organization working in the harm reduction space. The goals were to 1). Identify barriers in hepatitis B and D knowledge and care delivery among PWID and 2). Address the rising burden of hepatitis B and D among PWID communities through community outreach and health education campaigns. Results indicated high prevalence and low awareness among public health workers and PWID about hepatitis B transmission, risk factors, and vaccination.

Barriers to HBV and HDV Screening

Provider-level barriers

Barriers included lack of time and capacity, confusion about insurance coverage, lack of knowledge about HDV diagnostic and HBV screening recommendations, limited phlebotomy access, and challenges with vaccine administration.

Community-level barriers

Stigma related to drug use and harm reduction posed a significant barrier to providing care for PWID along with lack of knowledge about risk factors and HBV epidemiology. Limited access to culturally competent educational materials is also a challenge in this community.

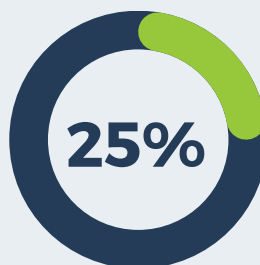
HBV AND HDV Status among PWID

A total of 498 individuals were screened for hepatitis B and Delta. Among them, 127 individuals required vaccinations as they lacked immunity to hepatitis B. Additionally, nine individuals tested positive for hepatitis B, with one having a co-infection of hepatitis B and Delta. The study's findings highlight the susceptibility of PWIDs to HBV and HDV infections. History of incarceration was a significant risk factor for hepatitis B infection. Experiences with homelessness and engaging in transactional sexual encounters were linked to past hepatitis B exposure.

Among those tested, 89 individuals were found to have recovered from previous exposure

500

screened



need vaccine



>2% HBV prevalence rate in PWID

Resources and Links

Follow HBUP Social Media Handles

- Follow us on social media to get updates on local events happening around Philadelphia related to hepatitis B

[Instagram](#)



[X](#)



[Facebook](#)



Join the HBUP Newsletter

- Subscribe to our newsletter to stay up-to-date on important activities related to hepatitis B in Philadelphia



B Heppy Podcast

- B Heppy is a Hepatitis B Foundation podcast aimed to inform and help individuals living with hepatitis B through discussing various topics related to hepatitis B.



Previous HBUP Reports

- 2022 HBUP Annual Report



Mini ECHO Survey

- Fill out the survey [here](#) if you or your healthcare system is interested in participating in the mini ECHO series.

ECHO Registration 2024

- Register for the 2024 Hepatitis B Foundation ECHO [here](#).