



HEP B UNITED PHILADELPHIA

# Annual Report

A COALITION RUN BY  
THE HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION



# 2024

# Overview

The Hepatitis B Foundation (HBF) established the Center for Public Health Excellence to enhance awareness, prevention and testing efforts for hepatitis B while improving care access in Greater Philadelphia. By collaborating with local health entities, the Center aims to create a supportive network for prevention and treatment. Throughout 2023, the HBF continued to expand on the goals and objectives of the Center for Public Health Excellence to increase awareness, partnerships and public health efforts surrounding hepatitis B. This report describes the key activities and achievements related to these goals in Greater Philadelphia through the coalition.

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This program emphasizes research and data collection to tailor interventions for diverse communities.

Educational workshops and outreach programs are vital in reducing stigma and promoting proactive health behaviors.

The Center strives to reduce hepatitis B and liver cancer rates, ultimately improving community health and well-being.

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## 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.

### Community Partnerships

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

### Integration within Health Systems

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

# Community Outreach

**6**  
screening events

**199**  
people screened

**14**  
community partners

**750**  
people educated

The 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.

Additionally, educational events focused on HBV epidemiology, screening and testing, and vaccination reached over 750 individuals in the Philadelphia region, including medical students, African immigrant communities, people who use drugs (PWUD), community health workers and patient navigators, and peace corps volunteers, as well as people who were tested at health fairs and screening events.

The Hepatitis B Foundation organized hepatitis B screening sessions at various community centers, temples, and churches in partnership with local organizations. A total of 199 individuals were screened at these events in 2024. Among them, 5.5% tested positive for hepatitis B, 40% needed vaccinations, and 45% 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, and African immigrant communities residing in Philadelphia.

**5.5%** positive for hepatitis B

**40%** needed vaccination

**45%** at risk of hepatitis B reactivation



# Partner Highlights



## Hep Free PA Coalition

Hep B United Philadelphia participated in quarterly meetings with the Hep Free PA Coalition to stay informed about the state's viral hepatitis elimination planning progress, explore new funding opportunities, and identify potential partners for collaboration on Hepatitis B-related initiatives in the city.

## African Family Health Organization (AFAHO)

Through a grant provided by Hepatitis B Foundation, AFAHO organized multiple health screening and educational events aimed at raising awareness about hepatitis B within the community and enhancing the rate of hepatitis B testing. The Hepatitis B Foundation collaborated with AFAHO for three screening and educational events.

## Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC)

With a grant from the Hepatitis B Foundation, PCDC organized health screenings and educational activities at community health fairs aimed at raising awareness about hepatitis B and liver cancer, with a focus on the elevated rates of hepatitis B and liver cancer within Asian American communities. The Hepatitis B Foundation hosted a screening and educational booth at PCDC's annual health expo.



# Hep B ECHO



## Overview

The Hepatitis B Foundation developed a Project ECHO model to decentralize hepatitis B care and management from specialist to primary care. The program has been running since 2021 and in 2023 focused on a condensed five-session intensive mini ECHO series. Through provider experts, we recruited and engaged new provider champions on hepatitis B with the goal to create new networks of providers to improve overall regional capacity for vaccination, testing and management. Ultimately this program aimed to identify more individuals who need vaccination and those living with hepatitis B infection to prevent end stage liver disease.



## Project ECHO Participants

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, treatment guidelines, and screening recommendations along with case studies.



## Mini-ECHO Intensive Sessions

- 1 Updates on WHO Clinical Guidelines for Hepatitis B
- 2 HBV Testing, Interpretation, and Treatment Initiation
- 3 Hepatocellular Carcinoma and Clinical Considerations for Special Populations
- 4 HBV Management in the Setting of HIV Care and Prevention
- 5 HBV Management in the Setting of HIV Care and Prevention



**300**

Subscribers

**35 to 45**  
participants  
attend each live  
session

**>2200**



Views on YouTube

# Social Media and Newsletter

Hep B United Philadelphia actively engages on Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter), with followers primarily from the U.S., Philippines, Egypt, India, and Pakistan. Key social media posts highlighted liver cancer awareness, screening events, and webinars. The organization collaborates with partners to enhance hepatitis B education and promote screening events and share information on local activities and events.

## Instagram

**64**  
engagements

**118**  
posts published

**452**  
followers

## X (Twitter)

**2000**  
impressions

**118**  
posts published

**941**  
followers

## Facebook

**85**  
clicks

**118**  
posts published

**967**  
followers

## Newsletter

The Hep B United Philadelphia e-Newsletter is an essential communication tool, currently featuring over 100 subscribers. It enables continuous engagement and the sharing of updates with partners and stakeholders, such as community collaborators, healthcare practitioners, professionals, and storytellers. The newsletter covers invitations for webinars, details on hepatitis B-related events, educational toolkits and reports, a storytelling campaign, as well as the B Heppy Podcast.

# Resources Overview

[Facebook](#) 

[Instagram](#) 

[X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) 

- Follow HBUP social media handles to stay up to date on local activities and events related to hepatitis B and liver cancer

[Subscribe to HBUP Newsletter](#) 

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

[B Heppy Podcast](#) 

- The B Heppy podcast aims to inform and help individuals living with hepatitis B through discussing various topics related to hepatitis B

[ECHO Recordings](#) 

- Listen to previous ECHO recordings on HBF YouTube channel

[Harm Reduction Screening Guide](#)

[Provider Resources for HBV Vaccine](#)

[Provider Resources for HBV Screening](#)