

**Project DELIVER:**  
**Decreasing and Eliminating Liver Cancer by**  
**Increasing Viral Hepatitis Testing & Educational**  
**Resources**



**By: Halimatou Konte, MD; Danait Yemane, MPH; Prashant Puttagunta B.S; Mulusew Bekele, MPH; Kim Nichols, ScM, MPH**

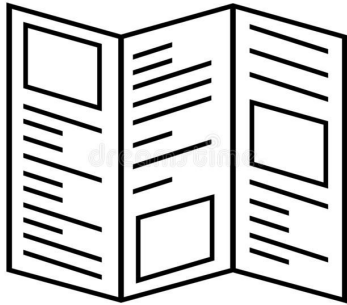
# Outline

- Goals and Objectives
- Background
- Methods
- Results
- Limitations
- Conclusion
- Next Steps: Future Work
- Acknowledgments
- Thank you



# Goals and Objectives

- To increase liver cancer prevention awareness through viral Hepatitis B and C **education, early screening, and vaccination** within the underserved African-born population of New York City



# Background

- Primary liver cancers are a leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide
- Chronic Hepatitis B & C infections are responsible for 80% of hepatocellular cancers
- Viral hepatitis is endemic to 8-20% of the African continent
- Members of the African immigrant community are often unaware of their status, lack insurance, and suffer from language barriers and cultural differences with health practitioners



# Methods

- Hosting community awareness and screening events in each borough of New York City with participants receiving Hepatitis B and C education
  - To promote these events, ASC and CHIPO-NYC conducted outreach to African-born community members using radio ads on African stations, promotional materials, and collaborating with community leaders and faith-based organizations serving the target population
  - ASC staff provided culturally competent education on viral Hepatitis in African immigrant languages
  - Hepatitis positive participants received free navigation to care and medical evaluations
  - Hepatitis B susceptible participants received a free two-dose Heplisav B vaccine at ASC



ASC staff providing testing at the Senegalese Association

# Results

- Between August 1st, 2019 and January 1st, 2020 the results were as follows:
  - 8 total community events with 97 Hepatitis B and C tests conducted
  - 90 Hepatitis B and C tests conducted at the ASC office in Harlem
  - 21 total clients tested positive for Hepatitis B (10 at the offsite events and 11 within the office). All positive clients were linked to care.
  - 10 total clients received the Hepatitis B vaccine, with more scheduled to return for vaccination.
  - 0 clients tested positive for Hepatitis C RNA.



ASC staff providing testing at the ASC Office



# Limitations

- Most offsite testing events were in Manhattan and the Bronx and mostly at religious places of worship.
  - To broaden our target audience to non-religious community members and the remainder of New York City, we will need to find other places to screen individuals in the remaining three boroughs: Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island
- The majority of clients screened were men.
  - Increasing outreach and screening for women in particular is extremely important
- Cultural and language barriers for some clients who are new to the US and do not speak English or languages common to ASC staff
  - Improving our cultural competency with more diverse staff/skills will be beneficial for future outreach efforts



ASC Staff providing Hepatitis education at a local church

# Conclusion

- Community based outreach and education methods are powerful tools in engaging our target population in cancer prevention awareness
- Each of our events helped break down stigma surrounding Hepatitis B and C; and raised awareness regarding liver cancer risks and prevention
- ASC believes culturally competent education, screening, and navigation remain powerful and essential early prevention tools in protecting underserved immigrant populations from liver cancer

# Next Steps: Future Work

- Increase outreach and screening events in the remaining boroughs (Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island) and target more community organizations instead of places of worship
- Diversify ASC staff skills/competencies in terms of languages commonly spoken by African immigrant populations
- Increase outreach and screening for women in particular
- Establish community partnerships/ties for future events on a consistent basis



# Acknowledgments

- The Prevent Cancer Foundation for the generous support
- Religious and community leaders for their support and collaboration
- Other ASC Partners



# Thank you for listening!

- Are there any questions or comments?