



# Philadelphia Impact Report

SEPTEMBER 2017-SEPTEMBER 2018





HBUP participated in 38 health fairs, education, and screening events from September 2017 to 2018 and directly reached 1,337 individuals, providing screening to over 600 high-risk individuals and linking all positive cases of hepatitis B to care. Those in need of hepatitis B vaccine in the African immigrant community have been linked directly to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's) in the city for free vaccine through our partnership with the African Family Health Organization (AFAHO).

## THE CURRENT STATE OF HEPATITIS B IN PHILADELPHIA

Hepatitis B is still a concern in Greater Philadelphia with an estimated 20,000 hepatitis B infections in the City, according to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (1). The Hepatitis B Foundation, along with our Hep B United Philadelphia (HBUP) coalition partners, continues to work in high-risk communities to raise awareness, promote prevention, increase the number of high risk individuals who get tested for hepatitis B and link infected individuals to care.



1) <https://hip.phila.gov/DataReports/Hepatitis>



In the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, we are working directly with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health to provide linkage to vaccination with Chinatown Medical Services in an ongoing effort. Through partnership, HBUP was able to reach communities that are traditionally underserved and considered high-risk for hepatitis B including individuals from the following countries: Vietnam, Sierra Leone, China, Korea, Burma, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and Nepal.

## RECOGNIZING HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH

On May 19th, 2018, for Hepatitis Awareness Month, HBUP, in partnership with the National Task Force on Hepatitis B, provided free hepatitis B and hepatitis C Continuing Medical Education (CME) to 25 local health care providers. Providers in attendance included pharmacists, physicians, and nurses throughout the city who serve high-risk communities. HBUP also hosted its' annual "Lunch and Learn" in May 2018 and had record breaking attendance for sessions on the Adult Immunization Program and Heplisav-B., the new two-dose hepatitis B vaccine.



# THE ALPHABET STUDY

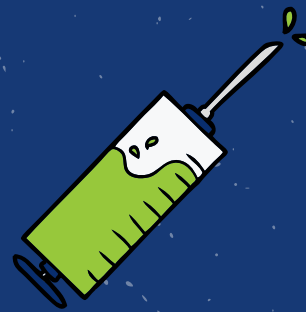
## AN OVERVIEW OF HEPATITIS A, B, C, & D IN PHILADELPHIA

In partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), HBUP and Prevention Point Philadelphia (a harm reduction non-profit organization in Philadelphia) 400 high-risk persons who inject drugs (PWID) were screened for hepatitis A, B, C, and D. Findings from this study show that those with a history of injection drug use, homelessness and incarceration have high infection and exposure rates, and low immunization rates for hepatitis B. While this population is often difficult to reach and hard to follow up with, HBUP will work in partnership with the PDPH to advance immunization for hepatitis B within this community.

## Past or present Hepatitis B Infection Prevalence by Risk Factor\*



**36%**  
are currently  
homeless



**48%**  
have a history  
of injection  
drug use \*\*



**40%**  
have a  
history of  
incarceration

*\*includes only those at risk for hepatitis B  
- excludes those with vaccine immunity  
\*\* statistically significant difference*

# Event Participation and Grants

Throughout the year, HBUP participated in regional advisory and working groups on immunization and hepatitis prevention including the Asian Health Collaborative, AIDS Education Month Planning Committee, Hepatitis C Allies of Philadelphia (HepCAP) Philadelphia Corporation for Aging's Asian Advisory Committee, Asian American Pacific Islander Health Forums, Temple Research Day and the Adult Immunization Stakeholder Committee. This participation ensured that hepatitis B was actively discussed at key meetings and programming throughout the city.

HBUP successfully applied for grants to expand reach and services to those in need. In August 2018, we were awarded a community grant from the Prevent Cancer Foundation, which provides funding for a partnership between HBF, AFAHO and HepTREC to improve screening, education and linkage to care for hepatitis B and C in African Immigrant communities in Philadelphia. The ultimate goal of this partnership is to reduce the prevalence of liver cancer in African local communities. In partnership with Drexel College of Public Health and Vietlead (a Vietnamese community non-profit organization), we are

working on an assessment of Vietnamese Nail Salon workers knowledge, attitudes and perspectives of hepatitis B – and conducting a policy assessment of nail salon licensing requirements in PA. The goal is to have a better understanding of current needs and practices to develop future interventions within this hard to reach community.

Overall, through the Hep B United Philadelphia coalition, the Hepatitis B Foundation has effectively expanded our reach in Greater Philadelphia through education, screening and outreach especially in high-risk communities. We could not accomplish our goals without the dedication and expertise of over 125 coalition partners throughout the city and we look forward to continuing to grow and expand our reach in Philadelphia.



# The Future Direction of Hep B United Philadelphia

## *Prevention/Vaccination*

From our efforts within high-risk communities, HBUP has identified key areas of interest within prevention and will continue to work on addressing these gaps. Through the screening with Prevention Point Philadelphia, we have identified that there are significantly low vaccination rates among homeless populations, PWID, and recently incarcerated communities. Many of those identified as not vaccinated through this study were between the ages of 30-40. There is a need for improved vaccination interventions within this population.

Additionally, studies have shown that those with HIV are not being vaccinated against hepatitis B. We hope to continue to expand our partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and other non-profits serving this community to enhance vaccination rates.

In a past screening event we found that individuals coming from Myanmar, Nepal, and Cambodia are not vaccinated for hepatitis B. This community is relatively new to the U.S. and we hope to determine why this community is not adequately vaccinated as they are high-risk for hepatitis B and should be vaccinated and screened for hepatitis B on arrival into the U.S.

In partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, we also hope to expand vaccination services through a "Vaccine Clinic or Day" at Chinatown Medical Services to provide direct medical care and vaccination to those that have been non-immune at our past screening events over the past 2-3 years.

## *Programmatic*

At the conclusion of our hepatitis B assessment within nail salon technicians, we hope to produce a pilot intervention based on the findings of our study. We also hope to provide recommendations to the Nail Technicians state board and licensing for further education on hepatitis B.

We will continue to screen within the African immigrant and Asian American and Pacific Islander communities of Greater Philadelphia and provide education and linkage to care for those in need. We hope to publish our community screening data within the next year to provide a better estimate for the city and other comparable cities nationwide. We also hope to take the lead on a Pennsylvania State Elimination Plan for Hepatitis and are actively discussing this with the Governor's Advisory Council on AAPI Affairs and African American Affairs.



*Hep B United Philadelphia is a community-owned coalition led by the Hepatitis B Foundation. We aim to: Raise the profile of hepatitis B and liver cancer as an urgent health priority; Promote hepatitis B testing and vaccination; And stimulate community engagement improve access to care for prevention and treatment.*