



Updates from the field, April 19th, 2018

Up to 2.2 million Americans and more than 204 million people worldwide are chronically infected with HBV. Hepatitis B is the world's most common serious liver infection and the deadliest vaccine-preventable disease in the world. Hepatitis B is transmitted through direct bodily fluid contact and most commonly throughout the world through mother to child transmission. However, the current rise of injection drug use and the opioid epidemic is contributing to the rise in acute hepatitis B cases. As a result of the opioid epidemic, cases of hepatitis C and HIV are also rising, and the rise of hepatitis B is often under recognized throughout the public health community.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 20,000 new cases of hepatitis B occurred in 2014, an increase from an estimated 18,800 in 2011. In 2006-2013, the number of hepatitis B cases increased by 114% among persons who inject drugs (PWID) in three states (West Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky). Additionally, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health recently issued an advisory about the alarming rise in hepatitis B outbreaks associated with PWID citing a 78% increase in acute hepatitis B cases in 2017. In North Carolina also found new cases of hepatitis B increased by 56% between 2014 and 2016. The acute rates for hepatitis B linked to PWID are prevalent among adults aged 30 to 49 who were not vaccinated as children. The hepatitis B vaccine offers lifelong protection, however, data from 2013 found that only 32.6% of adults between the age of 19 and 49 years old were fully covered with the three-dose vaccine series. Coverage is estimated to be even lower among PWID, thus contributing to the rise in acute cases of hepatitis B.

The Hepatitis B Foundation encourages those at risk especially PWID to get tested for hepatitis B and vaccinated if they are not protected against the hepatitis B virus. In Philadelphia, Federally Qualified Health Centers provide free or low cost vaccination for hepatitis B and information on where to get vaccinated can be found here: http://cap4kids.org/philadelphia/files/2012/03/Phila_FQHCs-201311.pdf.

Hep B United Philadelphia is a public health awareness and education campaign that addresses the severity of hepatitis B and liver cancer in the U.S. The primary goals of the Philadelphia campaign include the following: (1) Raise the profile of hepatitis B and liver cancer as an urgent health priority; (2) Promote hepatitis B testing and vaccination, particularly among at-risk populations; and (3) Stimulate community engagement and involvement to improve access to care for both prevention and treatment to reduce the local burden of hepatitis b and liver cancer.

Hep B United Philadelphia (www.hepbunitedphiladelphia.org) is led by the Hepatitis B Foundation (www.hepb.org). Currently, HBUP has over 70 coalition partners, including the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, social service providers, health care professionals, nonprofit advocates, community organizations, and providers of human services to Philadelphia's Asian, Pacific Islander and African immigrant communities. We also have the support of the PA Governor's Commission on Asian American Affairs and the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs. Since 2008, we have reached over 10,000 Philadelphians; provided in-person education for over 5,000; offered free hepatitis B screening to 3,500; administered over 500 free doses of hepatitis B vaccine; and found medical homes for 85% of infected individuals in our program.

Data References:

- Harris AM, Iqbal K, Schillie S, et al. Increases in Acute Hepatitis B Virus Infections — Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia, 2006–2013. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2016;65:47–50. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6503a2>
- Hepatitis B, C on the Rise in N.C.; Health Officials Encourage Precautions, Testing. <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/hepatitis-b-c-rise-nc-health-officialsencourage-precautions-testing>, May 2017.
- Surveillance for Viral Hepatitis– United States, 2015. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2015surveillance/commentary.htm>.
- Viral Hepatitis and Young Persons Who Inject Drugs. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/featuredtopics/youngpwid.htm>.



Hep B United Philadelphia April 19th Coalition Meeting
Sang Kee Peking Duck House
Chinatown, Philadelphia

Agenda

- 12:00 PM Welcome and Introductions
- Hepatitis B Foundation #JustB Storytelling Campaign
- 12:10 PM Philadelphia Department of Public Health Adult Vaccination Updates
Nichole Danzler MBA(c)
Philadelphia Department of Health Adult Immunization Coordinator
- 12:30 PM Updates on the Two-Dose Hepatitis B Vaccine
John Youhanna PharmD, RPh
Regional Director, Medical Affairs/Medical Sciences
- 1:00 PM Hep B United Philadelphia Updates and Announcements
- Presentation of the Hep B Hero Award
- 1:05 PM Member Updates and Announcements
- 1:15 PM Networking
- 1:30 PM Conclusion

Save the Date:

May 19th: Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C Continuing Education for pharmacists, physicians, and nurses, 9AM-12PM at the Sheraton Hotel Downtown, to register contact Catherine.Freeland@hepb.org

June 3rd Philadelphia Dragon Boat Race, contact Kristine.Alarcon@hepb.org to register