Hepatitis B Screening & Vaccination Behaviors in a Community-based Sample of Chinese & Korean Americans in New York City

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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?

- To understand Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) screening and vaccine behaviors in Chinese and Korean Americans in New York City (NYC).
- To identify factors that either encourage or discourage HBV screening and vaccine use in Chinese and Korean Americans living in NYC.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV) that can be prevented. HBV was found to overly affect Asian Americans because they make up half of all HBV cases in the United States.
- A high number or percentage of Chinese Americans and Korean Americans in the United States have HBV.
- Despite the high number of Chinese Americans and Korean Americans with HBV, screening and vaccine use is low in these communities. Having a better understanding of the factors that influence HBV screening and vaccine behaviors in Asian American communities is needed.

WHAT ARE THE FINDINGS?

- Chinese and Korean Americans in NYC have high HBV screening and vaccine rates.
  - Approximately 71% of Chinese Americans and 70% of Korean Americans have been screened for HBV.
  - 61% of Chinese Americans and 60% of Korean Americans have taken the HBV vaccine.
  - Among those who got the HBV screening, 8% of Chinese Americans and 13% of Korean Americans self-reported having HBV infection.

Based on the people in this sample:

- Chinese Americans were more likely to screen for and get the HBV vaccine if they said that they: have health insurance, have heard of HBV, were younger in age, have a high school or vocational school education (compared to having less than a high school education), and most
importantly, were told by a doctor (received a doctor’s recommendation) to get HBV screening and the HBV vaccine:

- Among Chinese Americans, females and males who were told by a doctor to get HBV screening were 12 times and 14 times more likely to get screened for HBV, respectively.
- Among Chinese Americans, females and males who were told by a doctor to get the HBV vaccine were 16 times and 47 times more likely to get the HBV vaccine, respectively.

- Korean Americans were more likely to screen and take the HBV vaccine if they said that they: had a college education or higher, had heard of HBV, and most importantly, had been told by a doctor to get HBV screening and the HBV vaccine:
  - Among Korean Americans, females and males who were told by a doctor to get screened were 14 times and 6 times more likely to get screened for HBV, respectively.
  - Among Korean Americans, females and males who were told by a doctor to take the vaccine were 41 times and 12 times more likely to get the HBV vaccine for HBV, respectively.

Most study participants were aware of HBV but many did not know how it passes from person to person.

- Reasons why people did not screen for HBV: feeling well/having no health problems, not being told by a doctor to get screened, not knowing a lot about HBV, having no insurance, not having time, and not knowing where to get screened.
- Reasons why people did not get the HBV vaccine: feeling well/no health problems, not being told by a doctor to take the vaccine, lacking knowledge about HBV, and not knowing one should get the vaccine.
- Findings from this study suggest that community-based strategies are needed to teach about HBV and to address doctor-, patient-, and resource-related barriers.

**WHO SHOULD CARE MOST?**

- Researchers and policymakers who are interested in developing culturally-specific programs to promote awareness and education for HBV prevention and management in Asian American communities.
- Healthcare facilities, community organizations, researchers, health care providers, and policy workers working with Asian American communities in the United States and the New York metropolitan area.
- Health advocates working in Asian American communities.

**HOW DOES THIS PUBLICATION ADVANCE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH?**

- This study provided insight on predictors and barriers of HBV screening and vaccine use among Chinese Americans and Korean Americans.
This study highlighted the need for differential strategies in boosting HBV screening and vaccine use among Chinese American and Korean American populations.

**CITATION**


**LINKS**

- CSAAH Community Briefs: [https://med.nyu.edu/asian-health/resources/community-briefs](https://med.nyu.edu/asian-health/resources/community-briefs)