



# OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO ADULT HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

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**NOELE NELSON, MD, PHD, MPH**

*Chief, Prevention Branch*

Division of Viral Hepatitis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



**BOATEMAA NTIRI-REID, JD, MPH**

*Director, Hepatitis*

NASTAD



**CAMILLA GRAHAM, MD, MPH**

*Co-Director, Viral Hepatitis Center*

Division of Infectious Disease, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



**JASON STERNE**

*Chief Operating Officer*

Hepatitis Education Project



# About Us



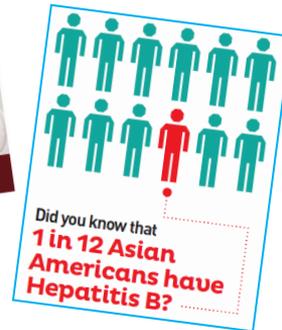
- The **Hepatitis B Foundation** is the only national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide.
  - ▣ Outreach and Education
  - ▣ Public Health Research
  - ▣ National Advocacy
- **Baruch S. Blumberg Research Institute**
  - ▣ Biomedical Research

# About Us



**Hep B United** is a national coalition, established and co-chaired by HBF and AAPCHO, dedicated to reducing the health disparities associated with hepatitis B by increasing awareness, screening, vaccination, and linkage to care for high-risk communities across the United States.

- 40+ partners in 20 states and DC
- Collectively screen over 20,000 people each year
- Voices for local and national advocacy
- Co-brand the multi-lingual Know Hepatitis B campaign with CDC



# Thank You to Our Partners & Co-Hosts



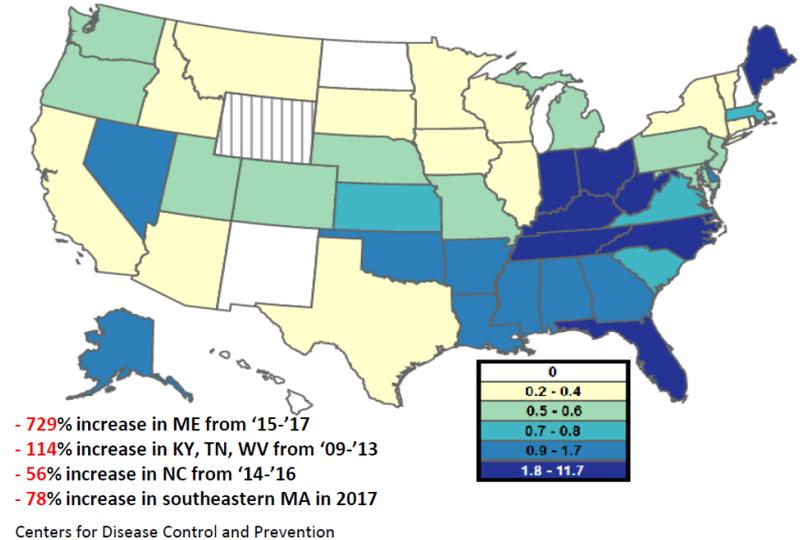
# Background

- Modern hepatitis B vaccine was introduced in 1985
  - ▣ Widely used and among the safest and most effective vaccines in the world
  - ▣ Requires 3 doses over 6 months
- New 2-dose vaccine was approved in 2017
  - ▣ Highly effective in populations that may be harder to vaccinate
  - ▣ Requires only 2 doses over 1 month
- **Yet, the overall adult HBV vaccination rate remains at only 25%**

# Background

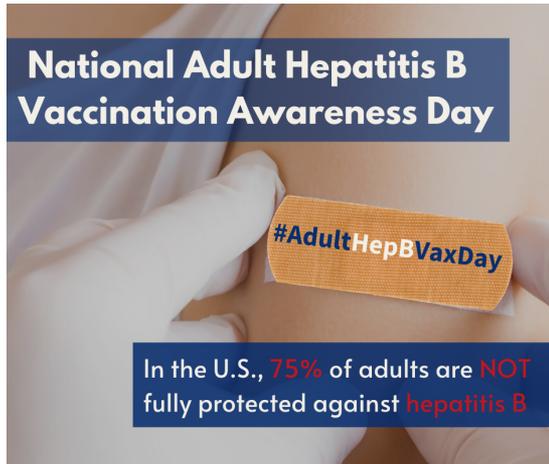
- From 2006 to 2018, increases in reported cases of acute HBV infection ranged from 56% to 457% in states heavily impacted by the opioid crisis
- 1 in 4 individuals with unmanaged chronic HBV will develop cirrhosis, liver failure, or liver cancer – the 2<sup>nd</sup> deadliest cancer in the U.S., with a 5-year survival rate of only 18%
- Hepatitis B is the #1 cause of liver cancer globally

Acute HBV Rate by State - 2017



# Background

- **National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day** was proposed on April 30, 2019 by companion resolutions:
  - ▣ H.Res. 331, introduced by Rep. Hank Johnson (GA) and Rep. Grace Meng (NY)
    - Co-chairs of the Congressional Hepatitis Caucus
  - ▣ S.Res. 177, introduced by Sen. Mazie Hirono (HI) and Sen. Angus King (ME)



- The resolutions recognize the importance of:
  - ▣ increasing HBV testing, vaccination and linkage to care;
  - ▣ encouraging a commitment to increasing adult HBV vaccination rates and maintaining childhood HBV vaccination rates;
  - ▣ and promoting greater awareness among providers and the general public

# COVID-19 Considerations

- Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on people living with viral hepatitis
- Strengthening and enhancing immunization infrastructure in the context of COVID-19
  - In preparation for a forthcoming COVID-19 vaccine, we must simultaneously ensure that our health system can effectively manage ongoing routine vaccination efforts, such as HBV and flu
- Securing funding from Congress for the CDC to ensure state and local public health agencies can prepare for and carry out mass vaccination
  - Resources for Immunization Information Systems (IIS) enhancements that will allow for accelerated and expanded provider registration, vaccine distribution, vaccine accountability, dose administered reporting, patient recall if a second dose is needed, and adverse event tracking
  - Resources for additional staffing needed to onboard providers and assure orderly vaccine distribution that is consistent and targeted to priority populations
- Continued messaging around the importance of routine preventive health and standards of immunization care to address existing gaps in vaccine confidence and trust in vaccines

# Calls to Action: Congressional Asks

- Join the [Congressional Hepatitis Caucus](#)
- Support the National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day resolutions: [H.Res. 331](#) and [S.Res. 177](#)
- Increase CDC funding for viral hepatitis programs and for infectious disease consequences of the opioid epidemic
- Improve collaboration and coordination of federal efforts around adult vaccination – programs and resources to support education and awareness (including among health care providers), testing, vaccination, and linkage to care

# Calls to Action: Community Advocacy

- Join our [grassroots network](#) to receive policy updates; federal, state, and local advocacy news; and action alerts (<http://www.hepbunited.org/advocacy>)
- Check out our [new blog post](#) to learn more about adult hepatitis B vaccination – and stay tuned for more info about HBF’s new prevention policy program!
- Use our [social media toolkit](#) and the hashtags #AdultHepBVaxDay and #BVaccinated to help raise awareness
- Know your hepatitis B status – [get tested](#) and [get vaccinated](#) if you’re not already protected!

# Thank You!

Connect with us at [info@hepb.org](mailto:info@hepb.org) or [connect@hepbunited.org](mailto:connect@hepbunited.org)

