

# Hepatitis B: Confronting Stigma and Dismantling Discrimination

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# Stigma (health)

- Being devalued by individuals or communities on the basis of real or perceived health status

# Discrimination (health)

- The legal, institutional and procedural ways people are denied access to their rights because of their real or perceived health status

More general definition:

- The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex

Why is there stigma and discrimination associated with a vaccine preventable disease?

# Toolkit: Understanding and Combating Stigma

- Developed by the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) and Hep B United partners
- Target audience:
  - Healthcare Providers
  - Community Health Advocates
- Small group activities/discussion topics
  - Develop skills to confront stigma and discrimination

# Stigma Toolkit

- Modules to practice ways to share health information
- Ways to take action to address stigma and discrimination
- Hepatitis B Fact Sheets
- How to create stigma-free healthcare and other environments
- Identify necessary system level changes

# Overcoming Structural Barriers

- Provide Enabling Services
  - Multilingual services
  - Transportation
  - Outreach
- Address Social Determinants of Health
- Create Safe Space
- Normalize hepatitis B testing, vaccination, and treatment
- Show that Hepatitis B does not define individuals

# Stigma: Who should be held accountable?

- Perpetuated by fear and discrimination
- Need to change perceptions
- Ensure access to accurate information
- Speak up if you witness stigma or discrimination



# Definitive Cure for Hepatitis B Related Stigma

- Empower individuals and communities
- Eliminate institutional discrimination at the societal level

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AAPCHO Stigma Toolkit:

[www.aapcho.org/resources\\_db/understanding-and-combating-stigma-a-toolkit-for-improving-care-and-support-for-people-affected-by-hbv/](http://www.aapcho.org/resources_db/understanding-and-combating-stigma-a-toolkit-for-improving-care-and-support-for-people-affected-by-hbv/)