**ELUCIDATING A SILENT ILLNESS: HEPATITIS B KNOWLEDGE IN NORTHEAST OHIO**

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**BACKGROUND:** In the United States, Asian Americans (AA) make up less than 6% of the population but make up more than half of the nation’s two million cases of chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV). The purpose of this investigation is to identify risk factors for low HBV knowledge.

**METHODS:** The 34-question survey was offered in English, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. The 6-page study instrument is based off of similar studies conducted by Taylor et al. and Chu et al. and included questions about demographics, healthcare access, and HBV knowledge.

**RESULTS:** Knowledge score was calculated as the total number of questions a participant answered correctly on the knowledge test, out of 11. The most common knowledge score was 0 (23.6%), while the least common knowledge score was 11 (0.57%). Thus we conducted comparisons of participant knowledge by knowledge score of zero against one or greater. Compared to those who scored zero, participants with at least one correct response were younger (38.3% vs 61.7%, p = 0.003), lived in the US (29.3% vs 7.3%, p = 0.004) and Ohio (35.9% vs 12.2%, p = 0.004) more briefly, and felt a better knowledge about hepatitis B (p < 0.001). They were also more likely to graduate from college or higher education (27.1%, 9.8%, p = 0.21), to visit doctors speaking their preferred language (75.8% vs 50.0%, p = 0.002), to have hepatitis B vaccine (51.1% vs 12.2%, p < 0.001), to have hepatitis B test (49.6% vs 9.8%, p < 0.001), and to hear of hepatitis B (87.2% vs 51.2%, p < 0.001).

**CONCLUSIONS:** Knowledge deficits existed in our study population regarding transmission and epidemiology, whereas knowledge was adequate regarding outcomes (>80% participants correct). Education efforts should be designed around these deficient topics and toward individuals with risk factors outlined above.

**CONTENT CATEGORY:** Cross sectional survey

**KEYWORDS:** *hepatitis B, community knowledge, health education, survey study, Asian American*