

Hep. B Mentorship Program for Bangladesh Community in Michigan

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Background:

- ▶ Target medically-underserved and hard-to-reach Bangladesh community in three cities: Hamtramck (11,000), Warren (7,000) and Detroit (13,600) with a total of 31,600 in these three cities in Michigan
- ▶ There is no Hep. B program in the Bangladesh Community in Michigan
- ▶ Very isolated small community without any resources and with low knowledge about Hep. B
- ▶ Has never been involved in the national efforts for Hep. B awareness and prevention
- ▶ Purpose: identify and address specific local barriers to HBV awareness, education, and capacity building

Demographics:

- ▶ Occupations: factory workers, restaurant servers and cashiers at grocery stores
- ▶ The average annual household income of the population in Warren is \$22,000, in Detroit and Hamtramck is \$12,000
- ▶ Education level is low, most without a high school diploma or equivalent
- ▶ Unemployment rate of Bangladeshis in these cities is 5.37%

Hep. B Survey:

- ▶ Conducted a first Hep. B survey in the Bangladesh community in Michigan
- ▶ Purpose: understand the knowledge level and awareness about Hep. B among the Bangladesh population
- ▶ 206 people participated in the survey for the first time about Hep. B.



COMMUNITY WELFARE SERVICES OF METRO DETROIT

A Community based study for promoting activities to reduce HEP B V.

Activity : Survey in Bangladesh Community in Hamtramck and its adjacent cities, Detroit and Warren of Michigan

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Midwest Asian Health Association

Background

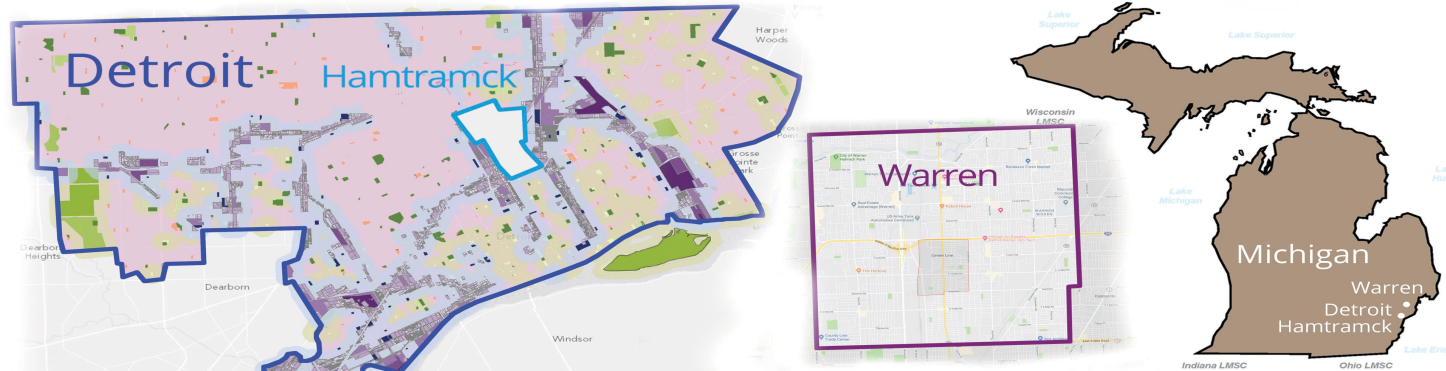
Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) found in their research that at least one-third of Asian Americans living in the United States are unaware of their chronic hepatitis B infection. CWSMD under MAHA survey in the city of Hamtramck, Detroit & Warren within Bangladeshi community found the same scenario. Prompt identification of chronic hepatitis B infection is essential to ensure infected people receive necessary care to prevent or delay onset of liver disease and services to prevent transmission to others. Chronically infected patients have years of life to gain if medical evaluation and/or treatment is initiated early, before symptoms occur.

Objective

In an effort to enhance HBV awareness, Community Welfare Services of Metro Detroit, a non-profit organization under the umbrella of MAHA (Midwest American Health Association) conducted a survey in the city of Hamtramck, Detroit & Warren Michigan. Hamtramck is a Detroit suburb in Wayne County, Michigan. It has a population of 20,000 with a median age of 28.3 and a median household income of \$23,609. The survey was conducted in 2018 and prominently included immigrants from Bangladesh.

Results

Results from the survey depict a gloomy picture of HBV awareness among the participants (Table 1). Majority of the participants were never tested or vaccinated for HBV. They had rudimentary knowledge about HBV but showed interest in HBV screening. Similar picture comes out from sample interrogation among the Bangladeshi American in the City of Detroit and Warren.



Survey questions	% Yes	% No	% Not sure
1 Have you heard of HBV?	66.67%	27.78%	5.56%
2 Do you know what HBV is?	5.56%	66.67%	27.78%
3 Do you know how to check for HBV?	11.11%	66.67%	22.22%
4 Do you know how HBV is spread?	11.11%	83.33%	5.56%
5 Do you know how to protect yourself from HBV?	16.67%	66.67%	16.67%
6 Do you think anyone you know has heard about HBV?	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%
7 Have you been tested for HBV?	5.56%	38.89%	55.56%
8 Have you been vaccinated for HBV?	5.56%	55.56%	38.89%
9 Have you or your family members been treated for HBV?	8.33%	86.11%	5.56%
10 Has a doctor or anyone ever told you that you have HBV?	44.44%	16.67%	38.89%
11 If yes, have you ever been given treatment for HBV?	55.56%	22.22%	22.22%
12 Would you be interested in getting screened for HBV?	38.89%	27.78%	33.33%
13 Are any of your family members HBV carriers?	38.89%	33.33%	27.78%

Conclusions

Multiple medications have been approved for treatment of adults with chronic hepatitis B. Identifying people with chronic hepatitis B also allows for primary and secondary prevention. Close contacts can benefit from vaccination if never infected, or medical management if living chronic hepatitis B. Bangladeshi Community want to be the part of W HA target 'NOHEP 2030'. And it is necessary to work on this program in the Bangladeshi Community. Good news is people enthusiastically want to be educated, screened and vaccinated for HEP B.

References

- [1] WHO global hepatitis report 2017
- [2] <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/populations/api.htm>
- [3] <https://www.hhs.gov/hepatitis/learn-about-viral-hepatitis/hepatitis-b-basics/index.html>
- [4] Mamun-Al-Mahtab, EJOHG, 10.5005/jp-journals-10018-1164, Past, present and future of HBV in Bangladesh

6 % Know what is HBV
28 % not sure



66 % do not know what is HBV

11 % Know how it spreads
5% not sure



83 % do not know how it spreads

17 % know how to protect themselves from HBV
17% not sure



66 % do not know how to protect themselves from HBV



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Needs of the Bangladesh Community

Outreaching and
educating the
Bangladeshi community

Screening for Hepatitis B

Preventative
measures/vaccination

Hep. B Program Achievements:

- Conducted a first successful community survey project on Hep. B
- Formed a first Hep. B Advisory Board consisting of 10 community members
- Joined the Hep. B United Coalition representing the Bangladesh community (first time)
- MAHA assisted with developing Hep. B presentations and flyer translated into Bangla
- MAHA provided on site training on Hep. B screening, immunization and follow-up care
- Started a local campaign through distributing Hep. B information and flyers in religious institutions, local grocery stores, and also used social media such as Facebook and Twitter to educate children
- Provided community outreach education using various strategies and locations
- As a result of the education and awareness, community members have showed an interest in education, screening and vaccination for Hep. B

Formed the first Bangladesh Hep. B Advisory Board consisting of 10 community members:



MAHA Provided On-Site Hep. B Training:



Best Multi-Approach Outreach Strategies:

- **Social Media:** There are 5 group phones consisting 80 members in each group. Once we put any message, flyer or information on any group it goes out to 80/85 people of our community.
- **Event:** Invite the people in any local hall where the experts give speech to educate the people on different subjects.
- **Religious Institute:** Masjid where Muslim pray 5 times a day and on Friday many people participate to perform Friday prayer.
- **Group Discussion:** Using other existing program in the organization to provide Hep. B group education on Hep B twice a month.
- **Muslim Festivals:** Muslim people celebrate 2 festivals each year called EID, one is Eidul Fitr, and other is Eidul Azha. It is on 1st day of 10th month of the Lunar Calendar, and another one on the 10th day of 12th month of the Lunar Calendar. Muslim of all ages get together and pray to God in a large open field or Masjid. Leader give speech after prayer.

Challenges and Barriers to Health Information and Care

- Severe shortage of bilingual primary care doctors who are the reliable sources of health information and care for this community
- Low health literacy and lack of knowledge regarding patient's rights and responsibilities
- Language and cultural barriers to health care and compliance
- Lack of knowledge among the health care providers regarding Hep. B testing and risks
- There are few public hospitals in the areas serving the needs of the population
- Lack of infrastructure for Hep. B screening, immunization, and follow-up care
- Lack of funding resources to provide free Hep. B screening and immunization

Recommendations for Future Efforts:

- Continue to provide community education and awareness in a culturally and linguistically competent manner
- Build infrastructure for Hep. B screening, immunization and resources for follow-up care
- Educate providers about Hep. B screening among the high-risk populations
- Empower the patients to talk to their providers and initiate a request for Hep. B testing
- Increase efforts to partner and participate in the local and national advocacy activities
- Improve fundraising efforts to sustain the program