

Hepatitis B & the Department of Health & Human Services

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March 27, 2012



Viral Hepatitis in the US: An Urgent Public Health Concern

- An estimated **4.5 million Americans** live with viral hepatitis
 - About 15,000 people die from the disease each year
 - Asian Americans, African Americans, and baby boomers suffer disproportionately
- Viral hepatitis is the **number 1 blood-borne infection** in the U.S. and the leading cause of liver cancer
 - Chronic hepatitis is often “silent” until liver damage severe
 - Most (65% to 75%) chronically infected people are unaware of infection
 - Blood tests can detect the virus, but too few get tested
- Treatments are available that can **eliminate the virus** and reverse liver damage, and new treatments offer even more hope for a “cure”

HHS Is Taking Action

- Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy (new name)
- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Infectious Diseases: Ron Valdiserri, MD, MPH
 - Corinna Dan, RN, MPH
Viral Hepatitis Policy Advisor
 - Responsible for implementing the Viral Hepatitis Action Plan
 - Participate in the HHS Workgroup on Asian, Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander Issues

Combating the Silent Epidemic of Viral Hepatitis

“HHS is committed to ensuring that new cases of viral hepatitis are prevented and that persons who are already infected are tested; informed about their infection; and provided with counseling, care and treatment.”



Viral Hepatitis Action Plan Goals

- Increase from 33% to 66% the proportion of persons who are aware of their HBV infection
- Increase from 45% to 66% the proportion of persons who are aware of their HCV infection
- Reduce by 25% the number of new HCV infections
- Eliminate mother-to-child HBV transmission

Viral Hepatitis Action Plan Topics

- Educate Providers and Communities to Reduce Health Disparities
- Improve Testing, Care, and Treatment to Prevent Liver Disease and Cancer
- Strengthen Surveillance to Detect Viral Hepatitis Transmission and Disease
- Eliminate Transmission of Vaccine-Preventable
- Reduce Viral Hepatitis Caused by Drug-Use Behaviors
- Protect Patients and Workers from Health Care-Associated Viral Hepatitis

Chronic Hepatitis B Infection: health outcomes and burden on the health system

- 800,000-1.4 million chronically infected persons
- An estimated 65% of people are unaware of their infection
- 50% of chronically infected individuals are Asian American & Pacific Islanders
- Liver Cancer rates are increasing - chronic hepatitis B often causes liver cancer
- There is a safe and effective vaccine to prevent hepatitis B
- Universal infant vaccination has been recommended since 1991
- HBV treatments have been shown to be cost effective
- Average cost/year = \$761 or \$600M-\$1B/year

Hepatitis B in 2012 and Beyond

- OHAIDP is committed to addressing both hepatitis B and hepatitis C as described in the Action Plan
- Late 2012/early 2013 the US Preventive Services Task Force will review hepatitis B testing recommendations
 - Opportunity to provide comments on the questions and data
- Blog posts on www.AIDS.gov/hepatitis on hepatitis B in AAPIs- request your support to disseminate these messages
- Exploring opportunities to improve prevention, identification, care and treatment of HBV
- **Support for May 19th National Hepatitis Testing Day**

Thank you!