

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL: TWO HEPATITIS B OUTREACH TESTING MODELS

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Background: An estimated 77 000 people in NSW have chronic hepatitis B (CHB), but only half of them are diagnosed. Approximately 60% were born overseas with the Asian-Pacific identified as a region of high prevalence (ASHM and VIDRL, Hepatitis B Mapping Project 2011).

Priority action areas in both the national and NSW hepatitis B strategies articulate the need for innovative models of service delivery to reach affected communities, increase access to testing and link patients to appropriate care.

Methods: The Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service worked with two Sydney public hospital liver clinics to provide outreach testing for hepatitis B for two priority communities.

The Hepatitis B Community Testing Clinic Pilot Project, led by MHAHS, targeted the Indonesian community and was held within the context of a community development project.

The Hepatitis B Community Information and Screening sessions, led by St George Hospital Liver Clinic, targeted Chinese-speakers attending a private English-language college.

Both approaches involved a range of partners, included education sessions and were conducted in community languages.

This presentation will compare and contrast the two models trialled.

Results: Both models were well received by community members. They were equally successful in increasing access to testing for people who otherwise may not seek testing, as well as linking them with appropriate management and care. Key factors to the success included providing testing in a community setting, delivering education in community languages and the partnership approach.

Conclusion: Providing hepatitis B outreach testing is a viable and effective way to reach priority communities. In an outreach setting, a partnership approach is vital to ensure community engagement and provision of clinical care in a culturally appropriate manner. No one size fits all. Outreach models need to be adapted to the community, settings and resources available, while seizing opportunities for innovate partnerships.