



Hepatitis B Knowledge & Practices Among Korean Americans:

Results from a Population-Based Survey in Western Washington

John H. Choe, MD, MPH
Acting Instructor of Medicine
Division of General Internal Medicine
University of Washington

APHA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
November 6, 2007

Background: Hepatitis B

- Hepatitis B virus spread
 - Asia: mother to child → chronic infection
 - U.S: sexual / blood contact → acute infection
- Hepatitis B chronic infection – 1:4 →
 - Cirrhosis
 - Primary liver cancer
- Hepatitis B in Asians in U.S.
 - Half of chronic carriers in U.S.= Asian
 - ~4-18% of Asian adults in U.S.= chronic Hep B

Hepatitis B Testing and Vaccination

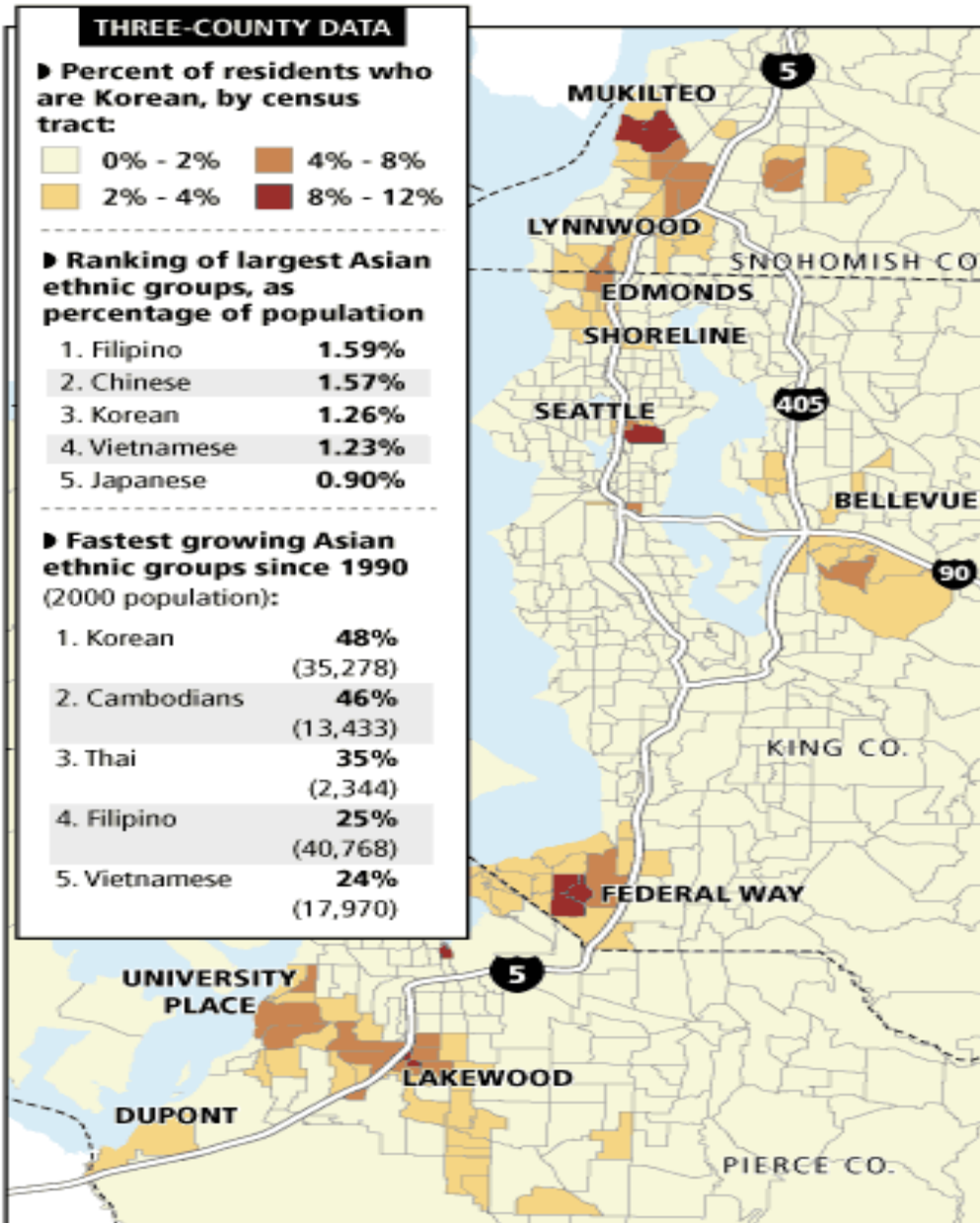
- Reasons for hepatitis B testing
 - Test and vaccinate family contacts
 - Monitor for cirrhosis, liver cancer
 - Advise changes in behavior (e.g. EtOH cessation)
 - Antiviral medications
- Hepatitis B vaccination may prevent cancer

“Holes” in Current HBV Strategy

- U.S. control measures focus on mother→ child
- Most programs to decrease horizontal transmission focus on adults in “high risk” (behavior) populations
- Missed generation of immigrants?
 - Immigration from endemic areas continues
 - Transmission within multigenerational households
 - Language/ cultural appropriateness of programs

KOREANS IN 2000 CENSUS: THREE-COUNTY SNAPSHOT

While the area's Korean population has grown significantly since 1990, other Asian ethnic groups in Snohomish, King and Pierce counties have jumped as well.



Source: 2000 Census Bureau

Community Partners

- Korean Aging Service Coalition
- Korean Community Counseling Center
- Korean Women's Association
- Washington Korean Dry Cleaner's Association
- Korean American Professionals Society
- Asian Counseling and Referral Services
- Kawabe Memorial House
- Washington State Asian & Pacific Islander Task Force on Hepatitis B

한인건강 통계자료 마련

히친슨·하버뷰, 서북미 최초로 600명 방문조사 최준혁 내과의 주도...CDC서 50만달러 지원받아

한인들만을 대상으로 하는 건강 관련 조사가 서북미에서는 처음으로 프레드 히친슨 알펜타의 하버뷰 병원이 의회 공동으로 실시된다.

이들 두 의료기관에서 진료 및 연구요원으로 활동중인 최준혁 내과전문의(미국명 존·35)는 최근 연방 질병통제센터(CDC)로부터 50만 달러 지원금을 받아 그중 일부를 후원자들의 건강유지와 관련한 기초 통계자료를 마련할 계획이다.

2차인 최 전문의는 미국내 한인 이민자들의 건강에 대한 통계자료가 거의 없어 앞으로 6개월 간 시애틀-타코마 지역에 거주하는 한인 500~600명을 방문, 3형 간질 및 간암, 각종 암, 의료보험 가입여부, 병원 방문시 불편한 점 등 정량적인 건강문제를 알아볼 예정이라고 말했다.

최 전문의는 이준언어를 구사하는 10여명의 파르타인 조사원을 이미 채용했다며 앞으로 2주 후부터 전화조사로부터 일의 추종된 간질과 복사 등 한인 생애의 가정을 방문, 약 30분간 설문조사를 벌일 것이라고 말했다.

최 전문의는 설문조사가 끝나는 한인들이거나 20달러의 사별비가 지급되며 조사원이 방문했을 때 집에 아무도 없으면 문에 언제 다시 찾아오겠다는 메모를 남겨줄 것이라고 설명했다.

최 전문의는 그동안 한인 등

에도 꾸준히 참석해왔다.

지난 8일 KASC 정기회에서도 이 연구 프로젝트를 설명한 최 전문의는 프로젝트에 동참하는 기관들이 기금 지원도 가능하다고 말했다.

방문조사 프로젝트를 위해 니콜 리씨가 한국어 번역, 세련전씨가 채용 인터뷰를 각각 맡

고 있다.

한계 국제 보건소의 베르니카 김씨가 한인 유방암 생존자들과의 인터뷰를 통해 유방암 예방 홍보 제작 및 비디오를 제작하고 있지만 한인 건강에 대한 특별한 조사는 이번이 처음인 것으로 알려졌다.

(2면에 계속·김희숙 기자)



한인 건강 연구 프로젝트 홍보물



최준혁 내과전문의(가운데)가 세련 전 인터뷰 담당자(왼쪽) 및 니콜 리 번역 담당자와 한인건강 조사 프로젝트에 대해 논의하고 있다.

보잉 '호황시대' 진입

올 들어 5개월만에 직년 전체 수주량 확보

나. 이는 종전 예상치보다 7백대(1천억달러) 가량 늘어난 수치이다.

특히, 급격한 소득증가와 함께 지난 2년 새 새로운 항공사가 37개나 탄생한 위도를 포함,

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Example Questions

- C4. Have you ever had a blood test to see if you have ever been exposed to hepatitis B?
- D11. Do you think hepatitis B can be spread from person to person by eating food prepared by an infected person?
- D20. If someone is infected with hepatitis B but he or she looks and feels healthy, do you think that person can spread hepatitis B?

Sampling & Recruitment

Korean names to identify homes in selected cities from online telephone directory



Addresses grouped by zip code, randomly assigned as male/female



Field bilingual interviewer conducted surveys at homes in Korean or English, ~30 minutes

Survey Collection

- 466 completed interviews
- 2255 households approached
- First surveys:
 - Federal Way
 - Tacoma, Lakewood, University Place
 - Kent, Des Moines, Auburn
- Next surveys:
 - Shoreline, Bothell, Mountlake Terrace
 - Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mill Creek
 - Mukilteo, Everett

Results

Age & Gender

- 198 (43%) Male; 268 (57%) Female
- Age: average 45
- Marital Status: 83% married

Education, Employment, Income

- Education: average 14 yrs; 71% \geq college
- Employment: 31% unemployed
- Among the working: average 40 hrs/ week
 - Part-time: 30%
 - \geq 60 hrs: 14%
- Household income: \$40,000 – \$50,000

Immigration & Language

- Birthplace: 97% born in Korea
- Immigration: average 19 yrs in U.S. (1988)
 - ≤ 10 years: 22%
- English speaking:
 - 17% speak fluently or very well
 - 46% speak not well or none
- English reading:
 - 24% read fluently or very well
 - 38% not well or none
- 91% completed survey in Korean

Insurance and Health Care

- Insurance: 35% with no insurance
- Has source of usual medical care: 66%
- Has primary doctor: 59%
- Ever traveled to Korea for medical care: 10%
- Self-described health:
 - 23% excellent / very good
 - 32% good
 - 44% fair / poor

Sources of Health Information

1. Family (79%)
2. Friends (76%)
3. Korean newspaper (70%)
4. Doctor (67%)
5. Church (59%)
6. English TV (52%)
7. Korean TV (51%)
8. English newspaper, Internet, radio (<50%)

Factors that Help / Hurt Hep B

Increase Hep B risk

1. Fatigue
2. Alcohol
3. Unclean food
4. Relatives with Hep B
5. Smoking cigarettes

Decrease Hep B risk

1. Clean hygiene
2. Good attitude
3. Being religious

Factors that Spread Hep B

1. Sharing toothbrush (89%)
2. Sharing eating utensils (79%)
3. Childbirth (78%)
4. Sharing razors (76%)
5. Sexual Intercourse (60%)
6. Eating food prepared by someone with Hep B (51%)

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Knowledge of Hepatitis B

- Easier to spread Hep B vs. AIDS (*Hep B*): 41%
- Hep B can be spread without symptoms (*Yes*): 81%
- Hep B can be lifelong (*Yes*): 53%
- Hep B can cause cirrhosis (*Yes*): 80%
- Hep B can cause cancer (*Yes*): 84%
- Hep B can cause death (*Yes*): 82%
- Hep B can be treated with medications (*Yes*): 75%

Hepatitis B Testing or Vaccination

- People who suggested Hepatitis B testing:
 - Doctor: 14%
 - Family: 13%
 - Friends or Employer: 5-6%
- People who suggested Hepatitis B vaccination:
 - Doctor: 26%
 - Family: 18%
 - Friends or Employer: 7%

Hepatitis B History

- Ever had hepatitis: 7.5%
- Ever had hepatitis B blood test: 48%
- Ever had hepatitis B vaccination: 46%
- Ever told that he/she is hepatitis B carrier: 6%
- Any family members with chronic hepatitis B: 11%

Factors Associated with HBV Testing

- Sociodemographic factors
 - Current or previous marriage
 - Fewer number of years spent in the U.S.
- Health care access factors
 - Having a serious chronic health condition
 - Having received past OB care in Korea

Factors Associated with HBV Testing

- Knowledge factors
 - Understanding that HBV can cause cirrhosis
 - Understanding that HBV can cause cancer
- Social / family supports
 - Having a family member who is an HBV carrier
 - Having family or employer recommend HBV test
- Communication with medical provider
 - Having doctor recommend HBV test or vaccination
 - Having asked doctor for HBV test

Other Cancer Prevention

- FOBT in past year (age ≥ 50): 3%
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy in past 5 years: 6%
- Colonoscopy in past 10 years: 13%
- PSA test (men ≥ 50): 5%
- Mammogram in past year (women ≥ 50): 41%
- Tobacco > 5 packs/ lifetime: 36%

Summary: Health Care Access & Info

- Despite high level education and long work hours, more than a third do not have health insurance
- More than half have a primary doctor, but 10% have traveled to Korea for medical care
- Health information comes from newspaper, family, friends more than doctors; more than half receive health info from church

Summary: HBV Testing

- Less than half report previous HBV testing
- Less than a third have had doctor recommend hepatitis B vaccination or testing
- Despite good overall knowledge, many mistaken beliefs or ideas about hepatitis B and how it is spread
- Understanding that hepatitis B causes cirrhosis and cancer is associated with having HBV testing
- Recommendations from physicians, family members are associated with having HBV testing
- Korean Americans underutilize other recommended cancer prevention and screening measures

Next Steps

- Develop and test educational intervention to improve knowledge about hepatitis B
- Acceptable community sites of health educational programs may include churches, other sites
- Important barriers to care must be accounted for with cancer prevention programs for Korean Americans

Acknowledgements

- Vicky Taylor
- Beti Thompson
- Jeffrey Harris
- Shin-Ping Tu
- Carey Jackson
- Scott Ramsey
- Yutaka Yasui
- Roshan Bastani

Community Advisory Board members and supporting
community organizations

CDC Health Promotion Research Initiative – K01 CI000302

National Cancer Institute and the Asian American Network for
Cancer Awareness, Research and Training (AANCART)



한인 건강 연구 과제
Korean Health Project

University of Washington
Harborview Medical Center
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

(206) 667-2954

(206) 667-7569

한국어

English

<http://www.u.washington.edu/~khp>