# **Among Korean Americans in New York City**



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## Findings from a Large-Scale, Community-Based Hepatitis B Screening Program Sung Tae Kim, MIA; Heesoo Yeo; Jinny Jihyun Park; April Lee; Daniel Park, DO; Chul S. Hyun, MD, PhD; Simona Kwon, DrPH, MPH

#### Background

Previous studies have indicated the disproportionate disease burden of hepatitis B (HBV) on Asian Americans. Reportedly, 10-15% of Asian Americans are infected while less than 1% of the general U.S. population has HBV (Pollack, et al., 2005). This study focused on a particular subgroup of the Asian American population, Koreans living in New York City, where the second-largest population of Korean Americans live in the U.S. (Census, 2000).

### Objectives

- 1. Assess the HBV prevalence rate from a community-based sample of Korean Americans living in New York City.
- 2. Identify the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants with high-risk of HBV infection.
- 3. Utilize findings from the study to improve current HBV screening programs and develop evidence-based strategies to tailor the needs of high-risk groups within the Korean community.

#### Methods

Serologic screening was provided between 2008 and 2010. All participants were tested for hepatitis B surface antigen and surface antibody. Self-administered questionnaires were employed to evaluate demographic and epidemiologic characteristics.

#### Eligibility:

- Self-identified as Korean
- Living in the NYC metropolitan area

#### Demographics (N=1200)

Age		
Under 18	15	1.25%
19 - 24	49	4.08%
25 - 34	171	14.25%
35 - 44	231	19.25%
45 - 54	352	29.33%
55 - 64	248	20.67%
65 and over	134	11.17%
Gender		
Female	748	62.23%
Male	452	37.77%
Country of origin		
Korea	1,044	87.00%
China	115	9.58%
US	17	1.42%
Other	9	0.75%
No response	15	1.25%
Education		
Elementary school	41	3.42%
Junior high school	85	7.08%
High School, Technical/Vocational	440	36.67%
College/University	511	42.58%
Post-graduate school	90	7.50%
No response	33	2.75%
Previously screened for hepa	titis B	
Yes	476	40.00%
No	518	43.00%
Not Sure	206	17.00%



cost mass screenings, and providing vaccination, follow-up care and treatment services if necessary at no or low cost. Collaborating partners include the New York University School of Medicine Center for the Study of Asian American Health of the Institute for Urban and Global Health, Bellevue Hospital Center, Gouverneur Healthcare Services, NYU Downtown Hospital, Community Healthcare Network, Chinese and Korean Units of the American Cancer Society, Korean Community Services, and the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center.

• Develop educational materials that incorporate the study findings and disseminate to related community access points. Reach out to other community organizations / clinics to form partnerships and expand low/no-cost screening and vaccination programs. Educate community members how getting screened and vaccinated can prevent HBV infection.

