

B53

Difaa Majrud MPH

Advisor(s): Simone Reynolds Ph.D.

Co-author(s):

The barriers and factors associated with low rates of Hepatitis B vaccination among non-US born NYC residents.

Hepatitis B is a chronic liver infection caused by hepatitis B virus (HBV) affecting 350 million people and causing 600,000 deaths yearly. However, it is a preventable disease with proper care and vaccinations. About 2.4 million Americans are infected with hepatitis of which 50% are Asian Americans. As of 2019, 70% of 243,000 chronic hepatitis B infected persons in NYC are non-US born, non-Hispanic Asians. Non-US born, non-Hispanic Asians face many challenges such as language barriers preventing them from vaccinations which can eliminate the disparities of hepatitis B within the community. This is a major public health concern given no known studies directly examine the association between language barrier and vaccinations rates for hepatitis B.

Methods: Using the New York City Health and Nutritional Survey (NYCHANES) 2013-2014, 1,459 participants were included in the finale analysis. A bivariate analysis of Chi Square was used to look at demographic categorical variables such as vaccination status, race, gender, insurance, education, hep B diagnosis and language. A t-test was used for age. A Chi-square test was conducted to observe the difference between vaccinated and non-vaccinated, and a logistic regression OR examined at the relationship between the outcome and predictors.

Results: There was a statistical significance in US-born, age, education, and language. A p-value of <0.05 is considered statistically different. Those with a high school education had a lower odd of 37.9% being vaccinated. Those who identified as Black had 61% higher odds of being vaccinated. Those who identified as Hispanic had 64% higher odds of being vaccinated.

Conclusion: The impact of language, education and race on vaccination rates needs to be researched more to understand how we can increase vaccination rates. There are gaps in research for non-US born Asians and vaccinations rates of hepatitis B. More research is needed.