



# CHECK HEP B PATIENT NAVIGATION PROGRAM

## 2018 REPORT

### BACKGROUND

In New York City (NYC), 100,000 people have been diagnosed with hepatitis B (Hep B), and many more are unaware of their infection. Regular medical care and treatment for Hep B reduces the risk of liver disease, cancer and premature death.

Hep B testing is recommended for people born in Asia, Africa and other regions of the world with moderate or high rates of Hep B. People with Hep B face barriers to accessing care and treatment, such as linguistic and cultural barriers, ineligibility for health insurance, challenges related to migrant work and high cost of care.

Patient navigation can help people with Hep B overcome barriers to accessing care and treatment.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Check Hep B Patient Navigation Program was established in 2014 through funding from the New York City Council and is administered by the NYC Health Department. Funding from the New York City Council allows organizations to train and employ one full-time patient navigator.

The goal of the program is to navigate people chronically infected with Hep B through medical care and treatment to prevent liver cancer.

Patient navigators are trained to provide:

- Hep B health promotion
- Linkage to Hep B care and supportive services
- Navigation through Hep B medical evaluation, treatment and prevention of transmission to others

### HEP B IN NYC AND CHECK HEP B PROGRAM LOCATIONS

The following map shows the rate of newly reported Hep B cases in 2017 by neighborhood tabulation area and the Check Hep B Patient Navigation program locations.

#### Health Centers and Hospitals

1. Bellevue Hospital (H+H)
2. BronxCare Health System
3. Charles B. Wang Community Health Center
4. Montefiore Medical Center
5. NYU Seventh Avenue Family Health Center

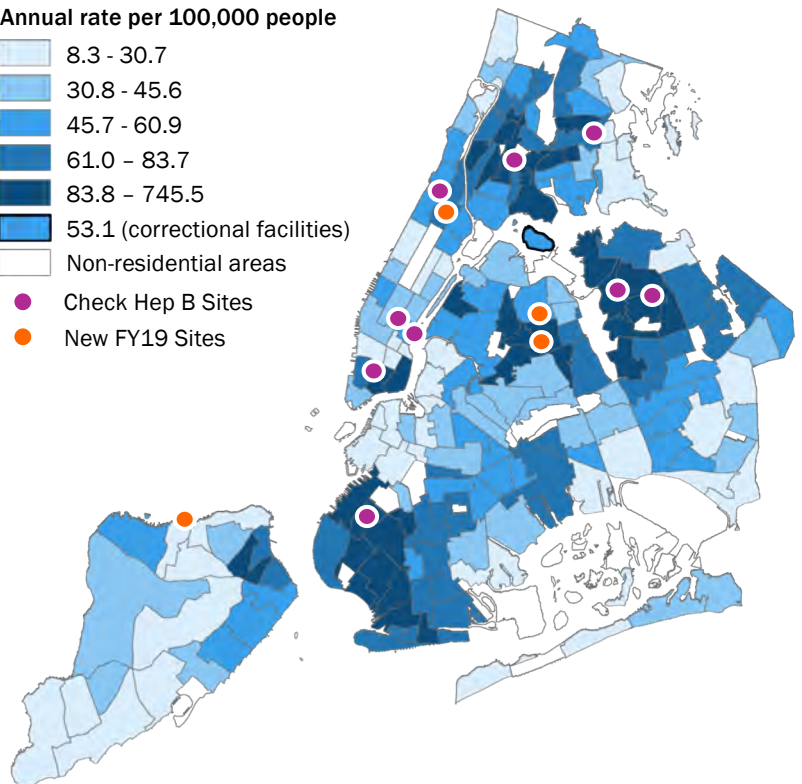
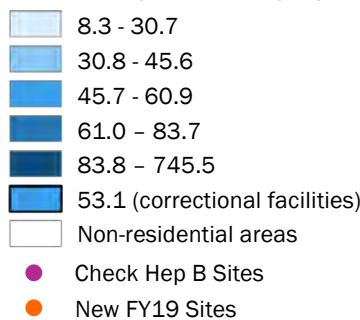
#### Community Organizations

6. African Services Committee
7. Korean Community Services

#### Newly Funded Organizations in FY2019

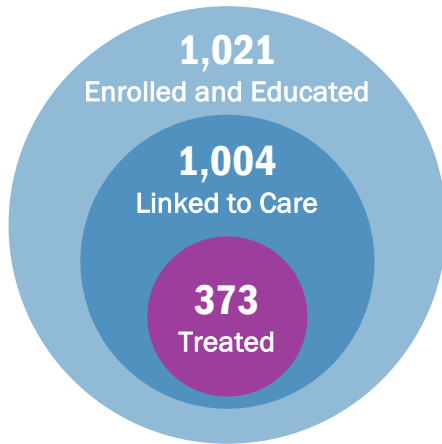
1. APICHA Community Health Center
2. Community Health Action of Staten Island
3. Elmhurst Hospital
4. Harlem United

#### Annual rate per 100,000 people



### PROGRAM OUTCOMES

From January 1, 2015, to June 30, 2018, 1,021 people infected with Hep B were enrolled and educated. Of these, 1,004 were linked to care. Of the 408 patients recommended for treatment, 91% were treated.



### PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS

**28%** uninsured or underinsured

**95%** born outside the United States

**53** countries of birth

**26** languages spoken

**42%** of Hep B patients were recommended for treatment, which is consistent with national rates.

### PROGRAM FINDINGS

Funded organizations identified the following gaps limiting the impact of the program:

- Resources to develop and disseminate public and provider Hep B awareness interventions
- Resources for community organizations to conduct community Hep B screenings
- Resources to pay for lab and evaluation fees including liver cancer screening for people who do not qualify for health insurance



### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

In 2017, Check Hep B program site – Charles B. Wang Community Health Center – developed an eight-page comic book in English and Chinese promoting hepatitis B screening in at-risk populations. The comic book won the Materials Contest Award in the print materials category at the 2018 American Public Health Association meeting and expo.