

CHECK HEP B HIGHLIGHTS AT AFRICAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Ibrahima Sankare
Outreach and Testing Assistant
African Services Committee
Phone 212-222-3882
email:ibrahimas@africanservices.org



Headlines

- 1. History**
- 2. Outreach**
- 3. Main Services**
- 4. Check HepB Program**

1. History

African Services Committee (ASC) is the oldest non-profit serving the African immigrant community in New York City.

Established in 1981 by Ethiopian refugees, African Services was initially set up to provide comprehensive resettlement assistance to African refugees and asylum seekers.

Today, African Services provides health, housing, legal, educational and self-sufficiency services to African and Caribbean immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers affected by war, poverty, global health disparities, political oppression, and social persecution based on sexual orientation or HIV status.

2. Essential Outreach



Outreach and Awareness:

In person outreach: community health workers in community events, bus terminal, community gathering places, countries associations, masjids, churches etc.

Digital outreach: community radio ads, Whatsapp client groups, social media, website, etc.

Collaborating with community leaders, associations, imams, priests, etc ...

Word of Mouth

3. Main Services Utilized

Testing, Referral and Navigation:

In 2022, ASC provided HIV, STI's and Hepatitis testing to more than 600 migrants primarily from West Africa (Senegal, Guinee, Burkina Faso).

In 2023 as we have tested approximately 900 migrants for HIV, STI's and Hepatitis B and linked to care where needed

2% HIV positivity rate (new and previously diagnose)

20% for STI'S and Hepatitis B

Navigation and referrals to healthcare providers who are familiar with the specific needs of migrant communities, scheduling appointments, and accessing appropriate social services

Legal Services: immigration workshops, asylum applications, work authorization
ASC Legal Hotline 212-222-3882 x2173

Social support groups at ASC: LGBTQ support group, women's support group, "Souper sans Stress, ESOL classes

African Services LGBTQ Program

- Focusing on recent African Diaspora immigrants and asylum seekers.
- Program enrollment more than doubled in 2023.
- Offers weekly support groups and health and wellness workshops.
- Offers monthly group art therapy sessions.
- Offers individual mental health counseling.



Souper Sans Stress (Stress-Free Supper)

- New York City Community Engagement Alliance 6-month mental health mini-grant to provide innovative interventions or projects that promote mental well-being and resilience services for new migrants



4. Check HepB Program at ASC

- Outreach
- On site testing is conducted on walking basis
- Testing events are organized in community venues with high Hep B prevalence (shelter) at faith based or cultural activities (church, Masjid)
- Referral and Navigation to to healthcare provider.
- Applying for medical insurance, scheduling appointments and offering translation

Check Hep B Program at ASC

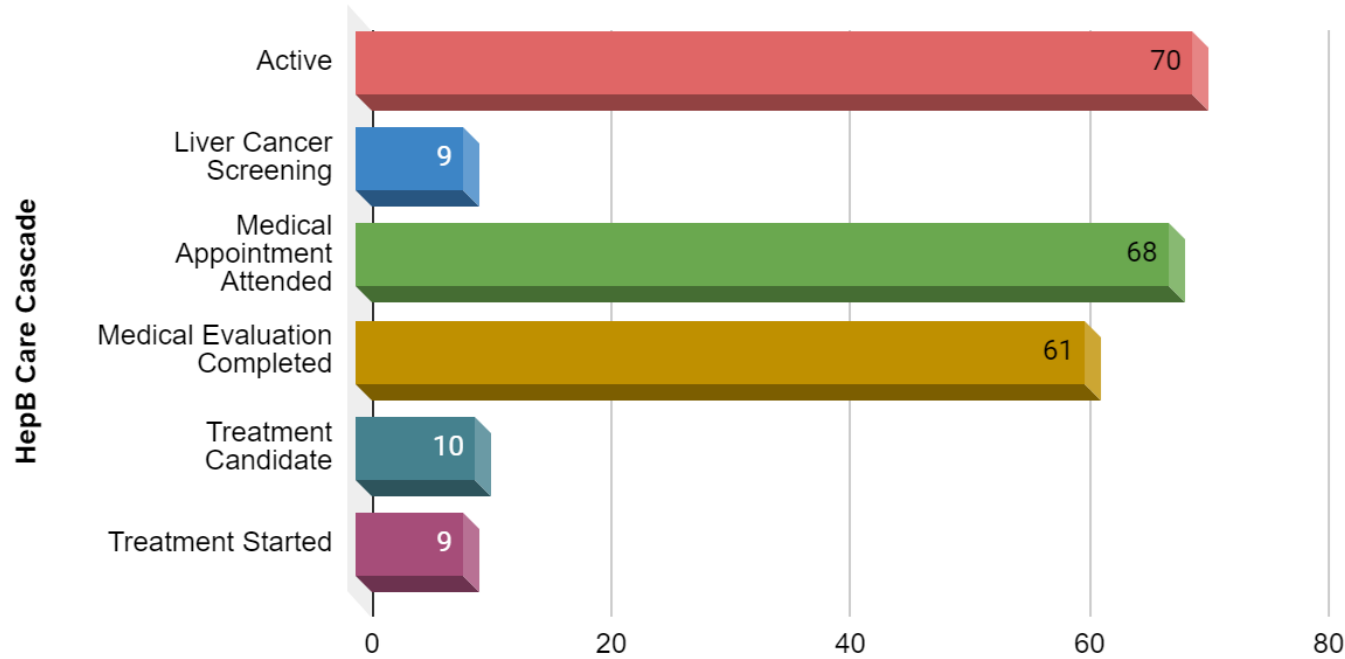
From July 2023 to June 2024 ASC recorded:

- 771 Hep B test performed
- 39 Hep B positive (5.05%)

During the same period ASC is following up with 70(new and old) patients in different facilities.

ASC Check HEP B Program by Hep B Care Cascade

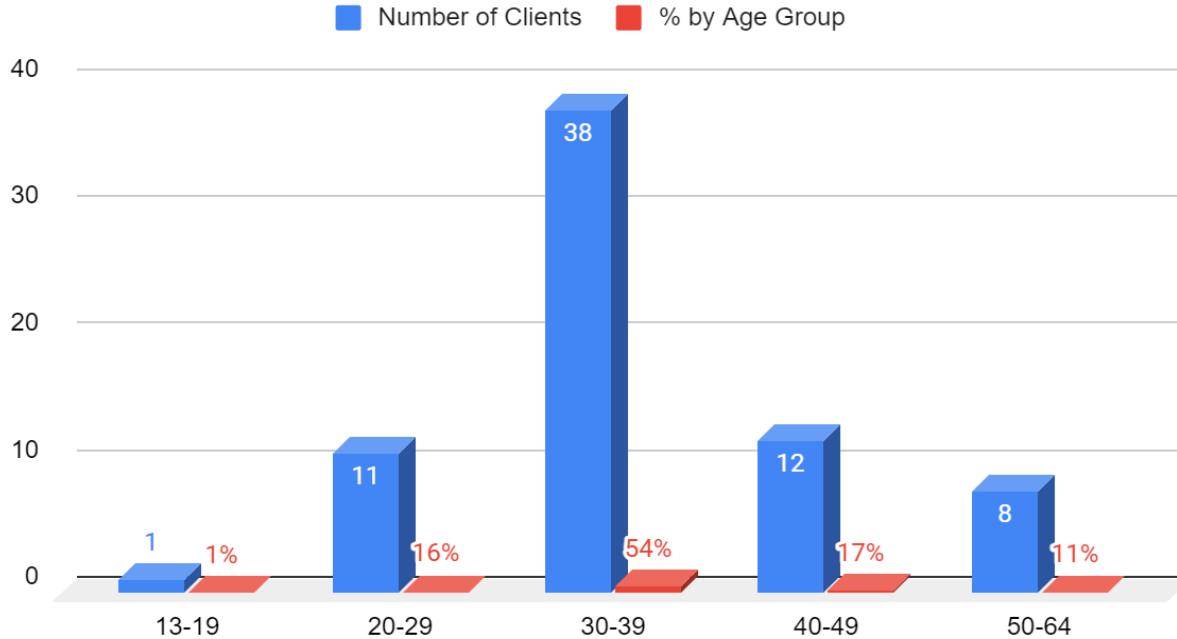
FY July 2023 to June 2024



4.1 Distribution of Check HepB clients according services provided

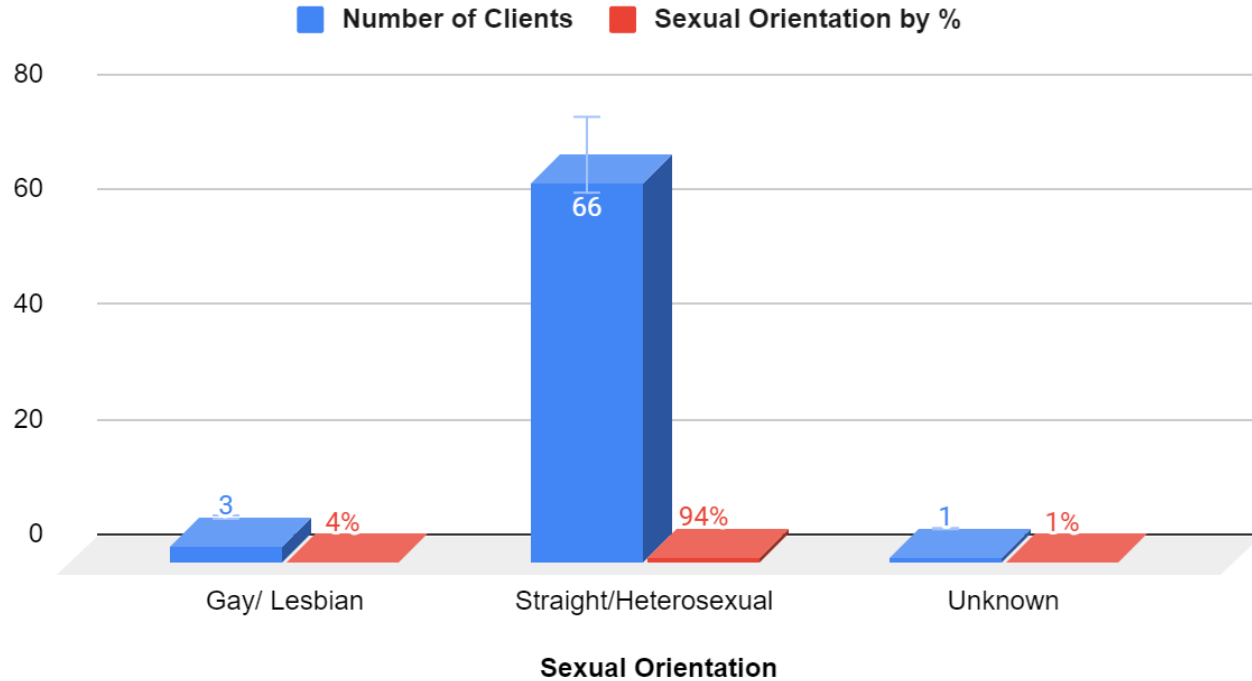
ASC facilitated linkage of 70 clients to care at various hospitals throughout NYC.

Age Group



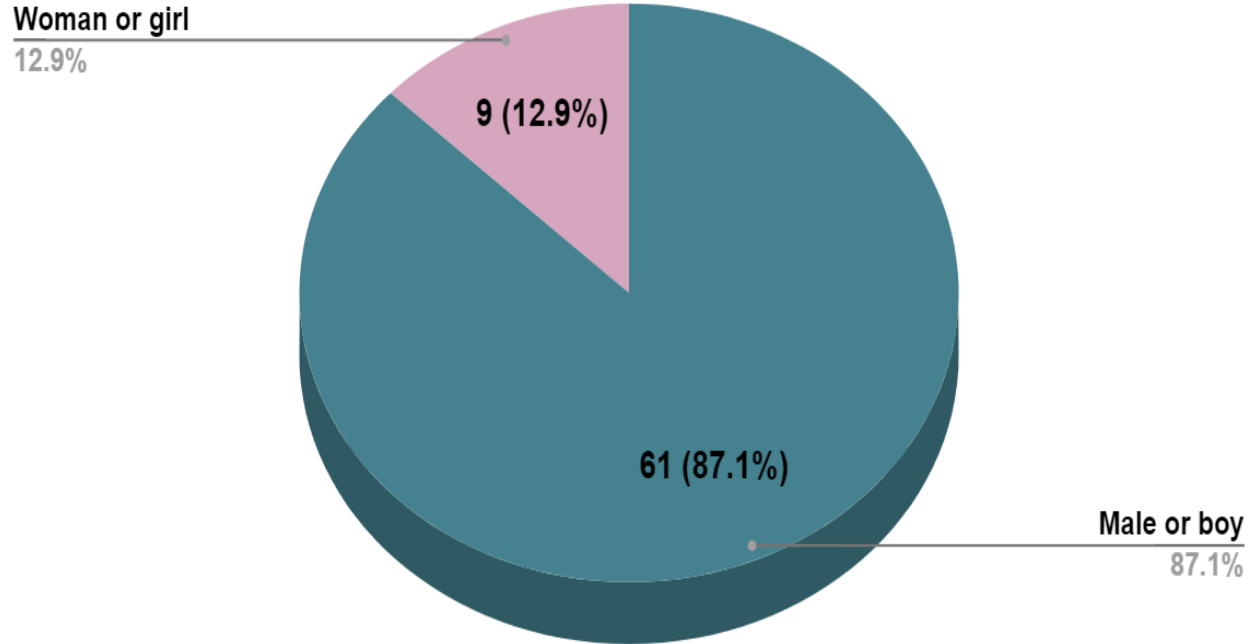
4.2 Distribution of Check Hep B clients according to age
54% of our clients are between 30 - 39 years-old

Sexual Orientation



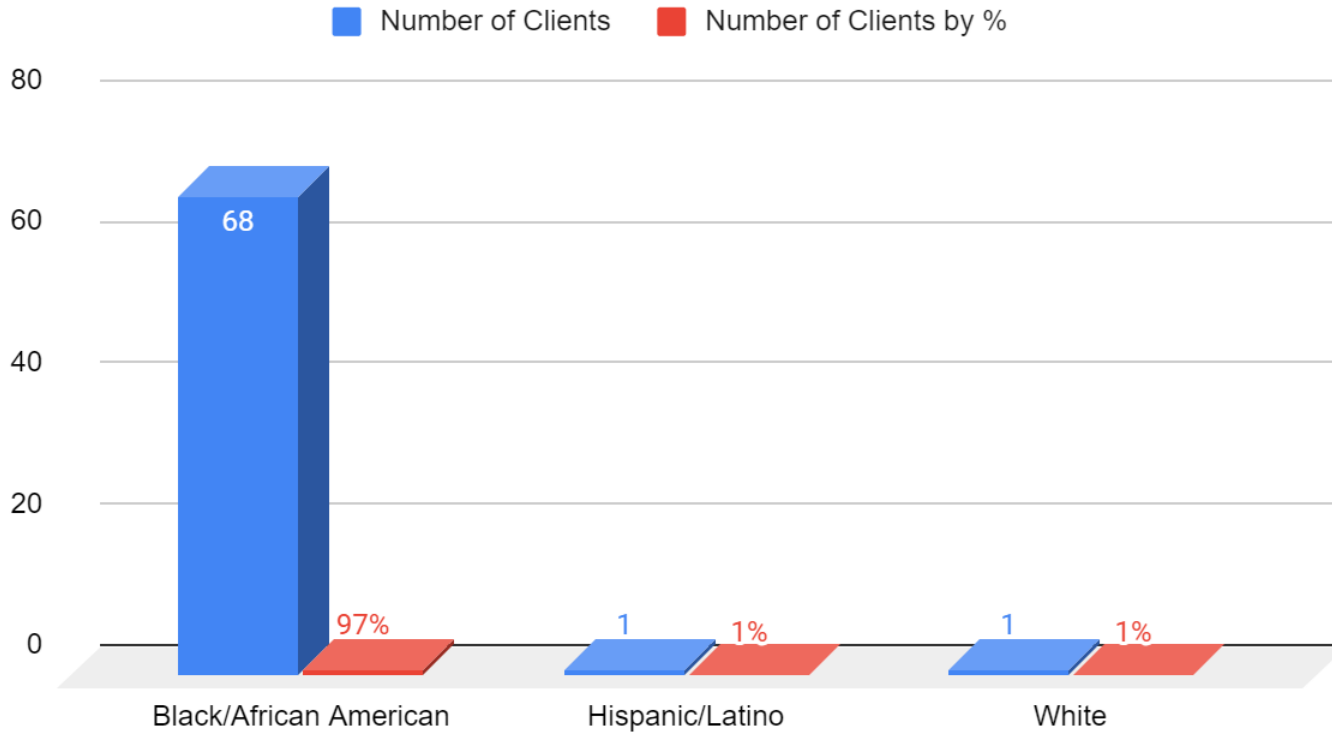
4.3 Distribution of Check HepB clients according to sexual orientation
94% are heterosexual

Gender



4.4 Distribution of Check HepB clients according to gender
87% are male

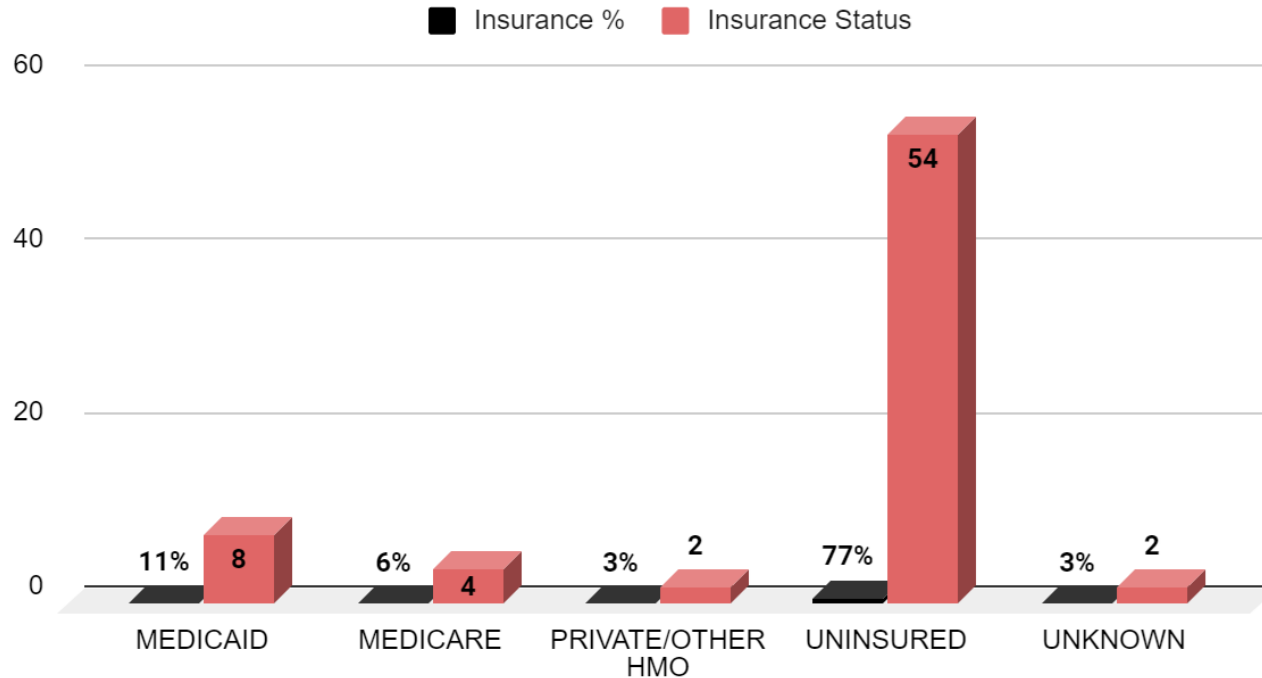
Race and Ethnicity



4.5 Distribution of Check HepB clients according to race and ethnicity

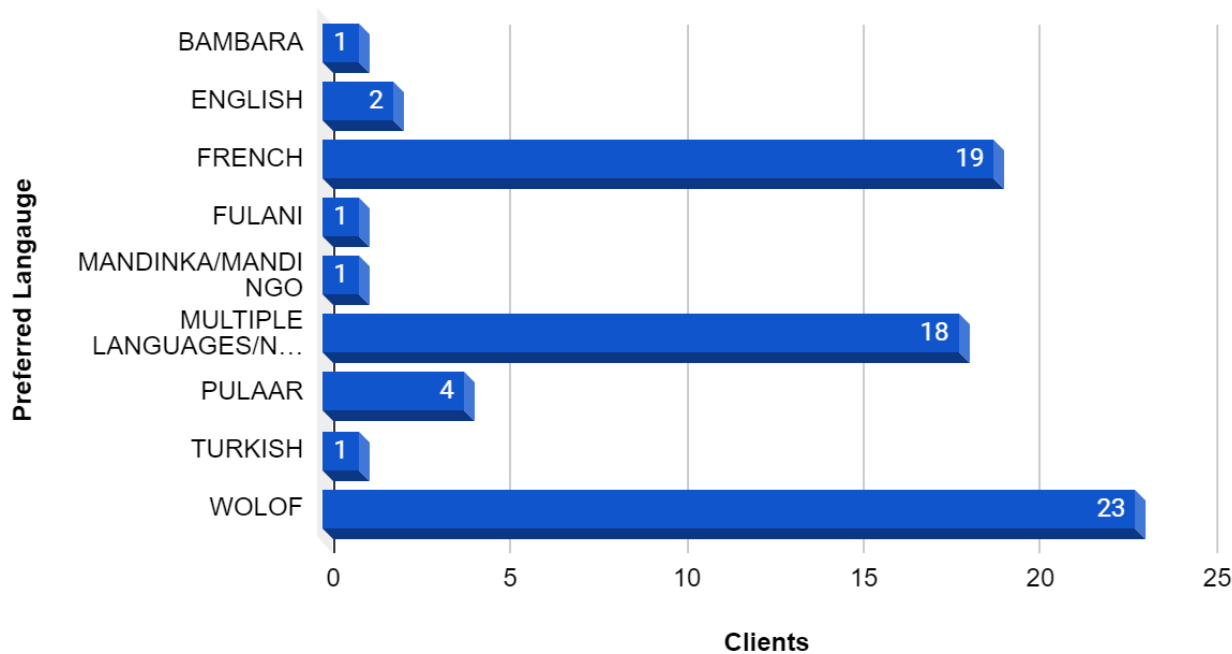
97% are Black (migrants)

INSURANCE



4.6 Distribution of Check HepB clients according to insurance
77% of our clients are uninsured and applied for NYC Care

Preferred Language



4.7 Distribution of Check HepB clients according to language
Only 3% of our clients speak English, therefore frequent translation services are needed.

Identifying Challenges Addressed in This Presentation

- Medical Insurance problems
- Language barriers
- Legal and social problems: immigration status, housing, transportation...

THANK YOU