

# *Integration of the Participatory Research into a Church-based Health Survey*

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# Collaborations

- Two Korean Churches
- Advisory Council Members
- All Participants
- University of Colorado HSC: SON & SOM
- Asian Pacific Development Center
- Colorado State Health Department



# **Problem Statements**

# Hepatitis Prevention: morbidity and mortality

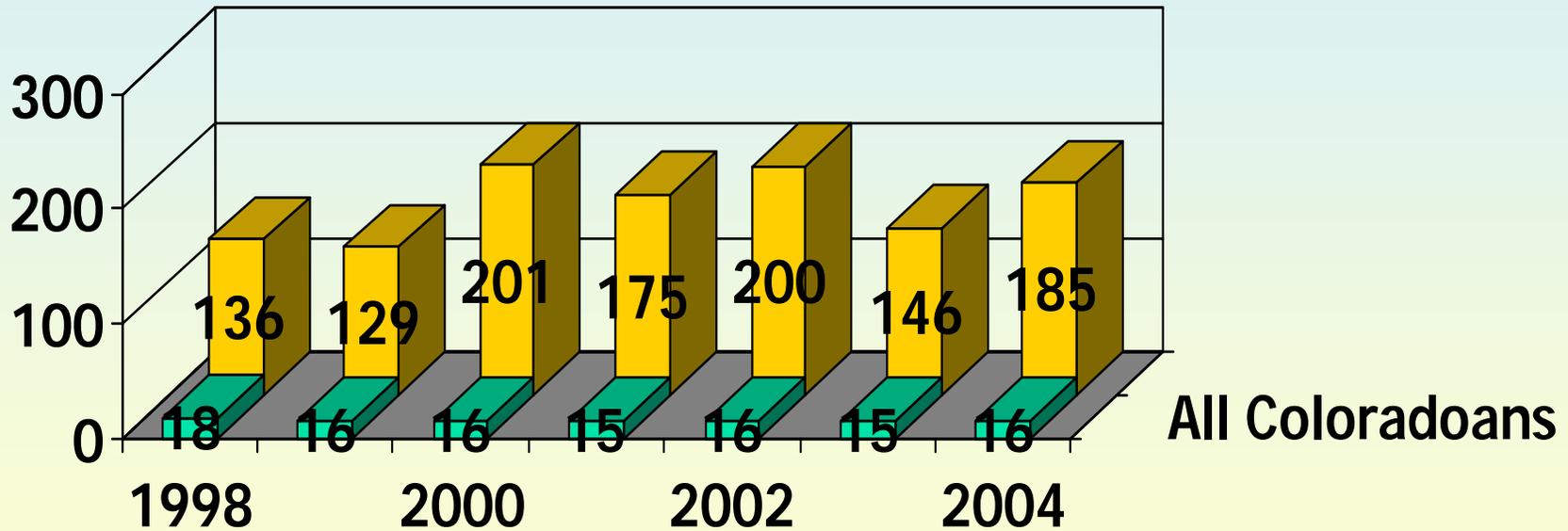
- Liver cancer rates among AAPIs are 11.7 times higher than those of the white population
- AAPIs range from 5% to 15%, 20 times higher than the rate for the general U.S. population
- Responsible for 75-90% of primary hepatocellular carcinoma

# Hepatitis B infection and You

- Chronically infected persons are potential sources for infecting others.
- The HBV is 100 times more contagious than human immune virus (HIV)
- HBV can be prevented through vaccinations.
- Providing vaccinations to at-risk populations is thus an important public health service

# Reported Rates of HBV per 100,000 population in Colorado State

■ All Coloradoans  
■ CO API



# DATA Disparities in AAPIs: Healthy People 2010 Publication

- Sub-objectives related to AAPI
  - In Section 9: Infection and Immunization
    - *DATA have not been analyzed* (DNA)
    - *DATA have not been collected* (DNC)
    - *DATA are statistically unreliable* (DSU)

# There is Lack of Data on

- Information about knowledge and attitude of hepatitis B and health behaviors
- Information about knowledge and attitude of hepatitis B vaccination.
- Information about Health care barriers
- Information about source of Health information

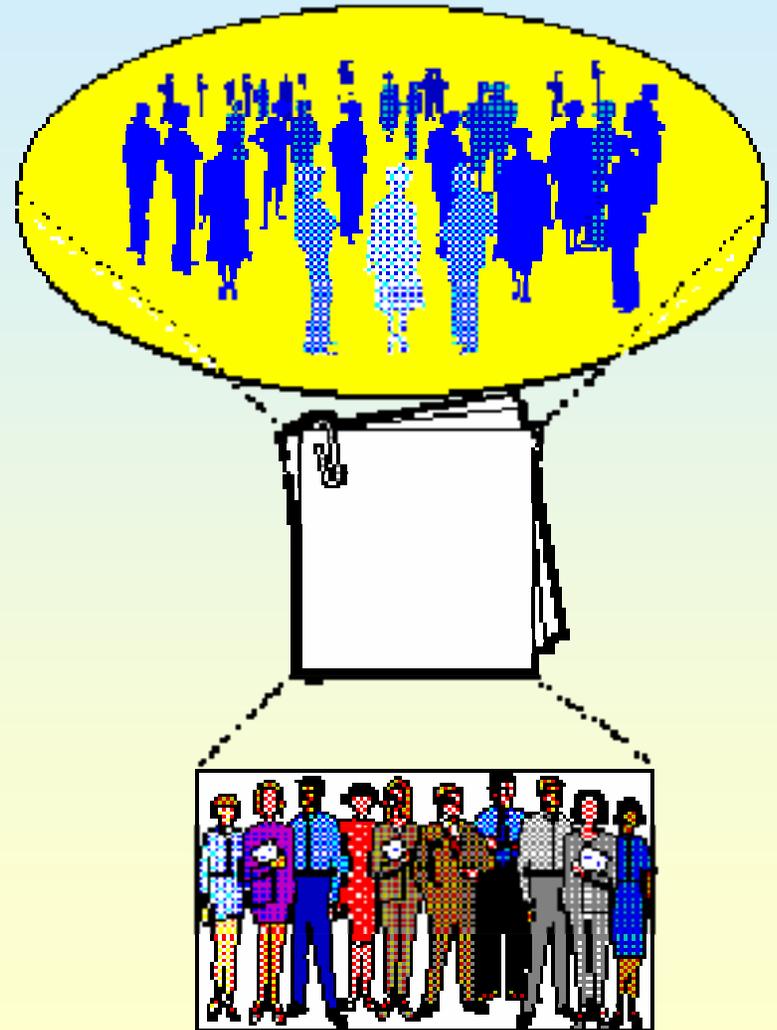
# *Purpose:*

To explore knowledge of HBV infection and liver cancer as well as social and cultural factors of health behavior among Korean Americans (KA)



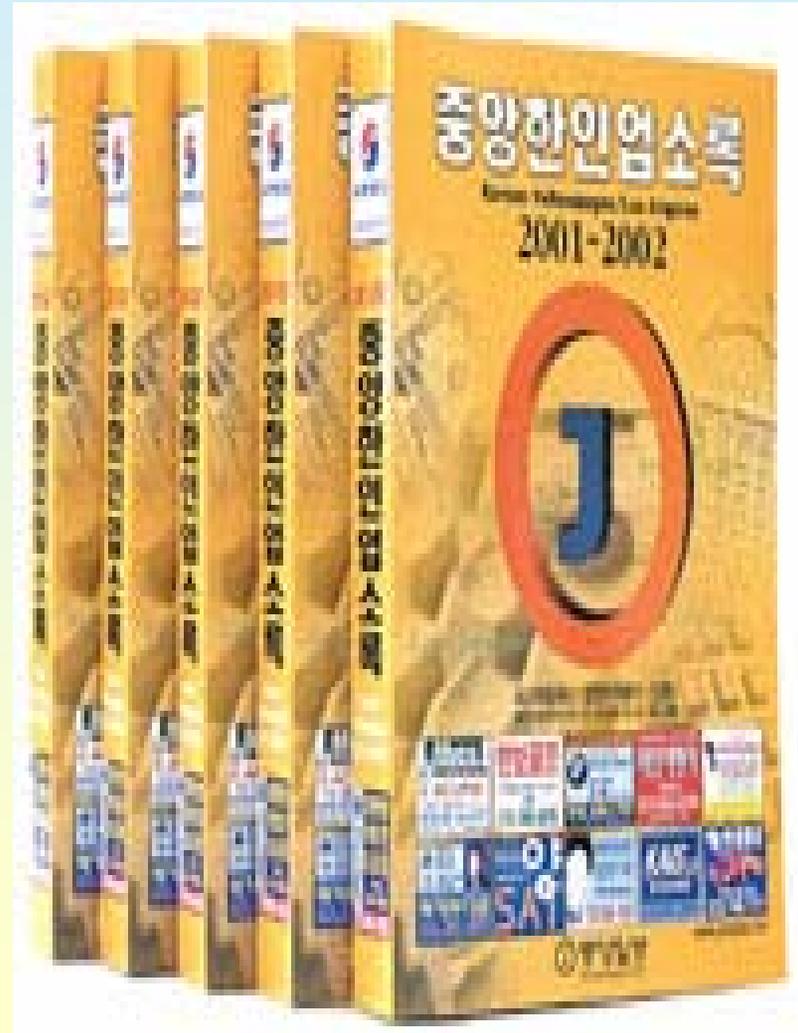
# Methodological Issues

- Complete List of AAPIs?
- Speaking English?
- Literate?
- Cooperate: understanding of research?
- Geographic restrictions?



# Korean American Capacity: Community Members and Agencies

- 95,213 AAPIs (2.2%) in CO
- 16,395 KAs in CO
- 22 Korean American community organizations
- 3 Korean daily newspapers
- 4 Korean weekly newspapers
- 52 Korean churches
  - 51 Protestant
  - 1 Catholic
  - 1 Buddhist



# Clusters of Korean Americans: Relationships

- Blood (Hyul-Yurn), or strong family relationships
- Alumni (Hack-Yurn), or strong educational institutional relationships
- Geography (Gee-Yurn), or hometown
  - Chen, et al., (1997)
- 77% were Christian
  - 68% participated in religious activities at least once a month
- 3% were Buddhist

# Methodology

## Community-Based Participatory Research:

Integrate

A participatory

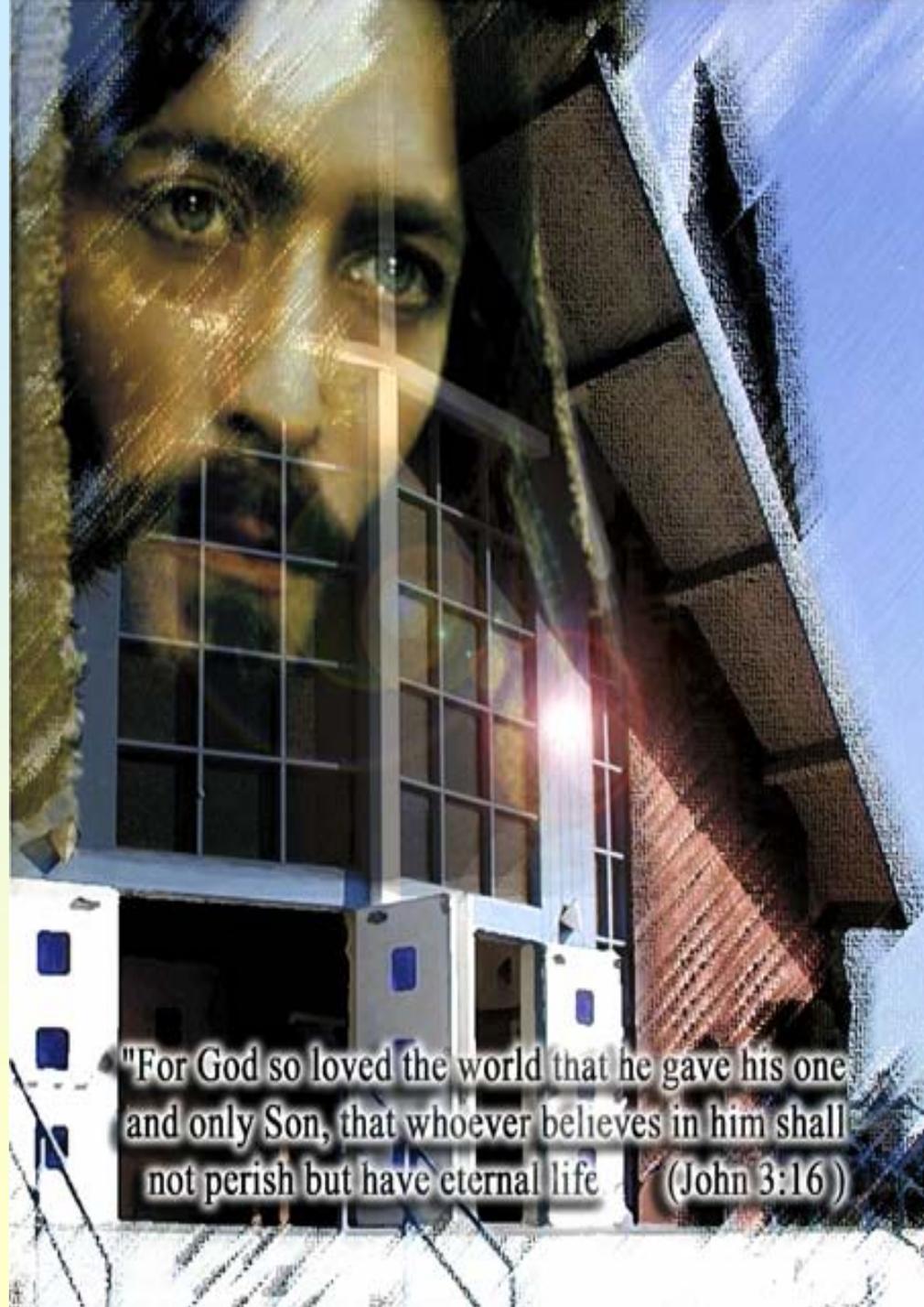
Research into a

Church-based health

survey and HBV blood

screening tests and

Vaccination



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)

- Identification of two Korean Churches
  - United Methodist church
  - Catholic church
- Identification of church advisory coalition members
  - MD, RN, and oriental medicine doctor

# Partnership Building with Community Participants

- Development of trusted and respected partnerships
  - Researcher teams
- Existing community capacity
- Fluidity and flexibility of the process
- Tangible benefits for both partners

# Balance between knowledge development and Actions

- Health Survey:
  - Knowledge development
    - Vaccination rate, knowledge and attitude of hepatitis B infection and liver cancer, health care access, need assessment
  - Blood screening
- Actions:
  - Blood screening
  - Vaccination
  - Hepatitis's B and liver cancer workshop

# Survey Data Collection

- Face-to-face interview
- Two Korean churches
- Before and after Sunday worship celebration
- Subject: Household / Not individual participants

# Variables

- Demographic and cultural Characteristics
- Knowledge of Hepatitis B infection and Liver Cancer
- Health Care Access
- Vaccination Rate
- A Needs Assessment for Future Community Health Programs



**Findings:  
Survey**

# Demographic Characteristics (N=111 Household)

- Survey in Korean 110 (99%)
- Age: 49 years ( $\pm 10$ )
- Female: 93 (85%)
- Married: 86 (78%)
- High school: 51 (48%)
- College: 51 (48%)
- Income (missing data): 60 (%)

# Acculturation

- Birth Place: Korea: 110 (99%)
- Spouse: Korean: 59 (53%)
- Korean Dinner: 72 (65%)
- English Fluent: 29 (26%)
  
- Length of stay in U.S: 19 yrs (1-43)

# Level of Spoken English

- None: 2.7%
- A Little: 61.2%
- Fluent: 26.1%

# Health Insurance

- No Health Insurance: 40%
- Private Insurance: 37%
- Medicare: 16%
- Medicaid: 11%

# Knowledge of Liver Cancer

Do you think liver cancer is caused by

- Stress or Overwork: 64%
- Alcohol: 45%
- Smoking: 42%
- Fat or toxic food: 26%
- Can be Preventable: 67%

# Health and Immigrant life

“Life in the U.S. here is very difficult, I do not have time to think about my health. I think the stress makes me tired and unhealthy but I do not have time to rest.”

“I want to go to health Clubs, but I do not speak English so I cannot register for a membership, besides, it is not easy to exercise with Americans because I do not speak English.”

# Knowledge of HBV Infection

- Has HBV infection signs or symptoms? 23%
- Non-Korean people in the U.S. have hepatitis B? 68%
- Korean Americans should get HB vaccinations even if they are healthy? 68%
- In the past 2 years, has a doctor recommended that you or your children get a vaccination? 1%

# Knowledge of HBV Infection

- People get hepatitis B from genes (heredity)? 23%
- People get hepatitis B through the air? 15%
- People get hepatitis B by sexual relationships? 16%
- People get hepatitis B by sharing spoons or bowls for food? 58%

# Knowledge of HBV Vaccination

- Know the place to get HBV immunizations? 24%
- Intend that family has HBV vaccinations? 86%
- Need HBV vaccination at your age? 82%
- Only children under 2 years need? 11%
- Vaccinations can be free or low-cost through certain programs? 17%

# Reasons for not Receiving Vaccination

- No symptoms/healthy: 55%
- MD did not recommend: 55%
- High cost & no insurance: 24%
- Transportation: 0%
- Do not trust vaccination: 0%
- Only need for children: 3%

# Misunderstanding

“I thought vaccination is for the people with hepatitis”

# Barriers for Vaccination

- High Cost: 54 (49%)
- Reservations due to English: 27 (24%)
- Communication with HCP: 24 (22%)
- Not knowing where to go: 19 (17%)
- Transportation: 7 (6%)
- Childcare: 7 (6%)

## Barriers: Cost

“In the U.S., we do not have insurance. My child was in ICU and I paid \$30,000 just for checking pulse and temperature. How could I possibly afford to go to a hospital for a vaccination?”

# Sources of Health Information's

- Eastern medical personnel: 31%
- Korean media (TV & Radio): 80%
- Booklets or other printed material (Korean): 52%
- Church: 46%
- Friends or relatives: 62%
- Internet: 32%
- Western medical personnel: 32%
- English media (TV & Radio): 48%
- Booklets or other printed material (English): 32%

# *Findings: HBV Blood Test*

- 178 adults
  - 74% were Women,
  - Mean age was 48 (19 to 70 years)

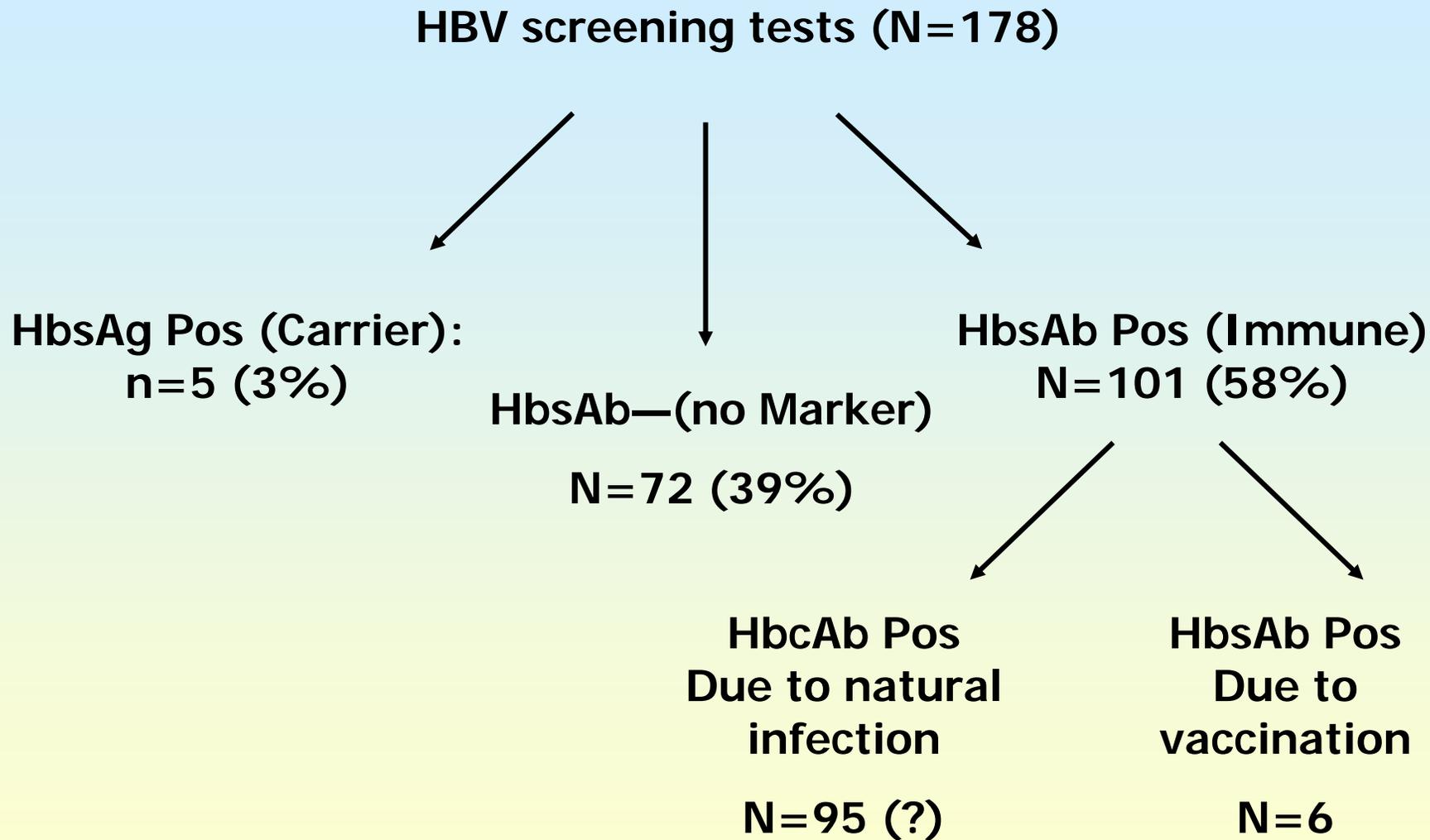


## *Rates of HBsAg & HBsAb*

<i>Variables</i>	<i>N (%)</i>
HBsAg	5 (3%)
HBsAb	101 (57%)

# Findings: Vaccination Report

- Received HBV vaccination: 20/111(18%)
- Received a series of 3 vaccination: 6 (5%)
- Receiving place: Korea (19) vs. U.S (1)



**Figure 1: Interpretation of Common Hepatitis B Panel Results**

# Outcome: Vaccination

- Received the First Vaccine:  
 $72/72$  (100%)
- Received the second vaccine:  
 $71/72$  (98%)
- Received the Third Vaccine:  
 $69/72$  (95%)

# Enhance Compliance

- No Cost
- Blood screening: self-efficacy & awareness
- Non-traditional setting: Church
- Language: Korean
- To accommodate our study activities according to the church schedule and the participants' convenience
- To provide vaccine at the same site where the blood screening tests were performed
- To remind
  - A short personalized phone call 2 to 3 days before the scheduled date.
  - The priest made special announcements during Sunday worship for vaccination follow-ups 1 week ahead of time.

# Hepatitis Prevention for AAPIs

- To screen high risk population
- If no-reactive
  - To provide vaccination
- If infected
  - Education about HBV transmission and prevention
  - Anti-viral treatment

# Lessons learned

- Not only oneness in Race and language, but also sharing the same burden or risks. For example, the topic hepatitis B infection and liver cancer was introduced personally a “Our or/ my problem” rather than “Your” or “Their problem.”
- Together the Research team and AC members have zeal and commitment to enhance the quality of the community’s health.
  - Established respectful and trusted relationships.
  - Participants (KA) already have substantial community capacity,

Good participatory researchers  
must have faith in people and  
believe in the possibility that they  
can create and change things

Freirer, 1971, p. 62

***Thank you!***  
***GamSa Ham-ni-Da!***

