

# Hepatitis B Testing & Vaccination of MSM individuals in a Community-Based STD Clinic

Luis I. García, MS  
Philippe Chiliade, MD

Whitman-Walker Clinic

# The Gay Men Health Clinic

# Sample Description

- From January, 2000 to May, 2005 the clinic has completed 15,275 visits for a total of 8,451 individuals seen.

- Gender

– Males:	8,251	(97.6%)
– Females:	144	} → (2.1%)
– TMTF	29	
– TFTM	2	
– Unknown	25	

# • Sexual Orientation

## All Males Seen

(N=8,262)

- Gay: 4,434 (53.7%)
- Het: 2,293 (27.7%)
- Bis: 909 (11.0%)
- Unk: 625 (7.6%)
- Ase: 3 (.04%)

## Only MSM Seen

(N=5,744)

- Gay: 4,434 (77.2%)
- Het: 129 (2.2%)
- Bis: 909 (15.8%)
- Unk: 271 (4.7%)
- Ase: 1 (.02%)

- Age (N=5,740)

Mean = 37      Min=18      Max=82

- Sex w/ Males last 30 days (N=5,547)

Mean = 1.82      Min=0      Max=9

- Sex w/ Females last 30 days (N=5,509)

Mean = 0.14      Min=0      Max=9

- Racial Distribution

– Whites	3,471	(60.5%)
– Blacks	1,285	(22.4%)
– Latinos	546	(9.5%)
– Asians	219	(3.8%)
– Africans	84	(1.5%)
– Others	134	(2.3%)

# Hepatitis B Testing

# Tested Clients

- From January, 2000 to May, 2005 the clinic has completed 1,512 Hepatitis B Testing\* for a total of 1,397 individuals seen.
- Test Results:
  - Negative                    906        (66.8%)
  - Immune                      403        (29.7%)
  - Chronic                      47         (3.5%)

\* Hep B<sub>s</sub> Ag & Hep B<sub>s</sub> AB

- Sexual Orientation (n=890)
  - Individuals who identify as gay are significantly more likely to be immune to Hepatitis B than any other group.
- Age (n=954)
  - Negatives, Immunes, and Chronics do not differ by age.
- Sex w/ Males last 30 days (n=919)
  - Negatives, Immunes, and Chronics do not differ on the number of male partner in the last 30 days.
- Sex w/ Females last 30 days (n=920)
  - Immune individuals report a significant lower number of female partners (.07) than individuals with Chronic Hepatitis (.39) or Negatives (.23).

- Race

- Blacks were significantly more likely than any other group to test positive for Chronic Hepatitis B.
- Blacks were also significantly more likely to be immune to Hepatitis B than any other group.
- Asians were disproportionately represented in the Chronic Hepatitis category.
- Among people testing positive for Chronic Hepatitis B, Latinos (n=0) were less represented than any other group.
- Latinos were significantly less represented on the immune group.
- Latinos were significantly more likely than any other group to test Negative for Hepatitis B.

# Tested Vs. Not Tested

- Sexual Orientation (n=5,449)
  - Tested & not tested MSMs do not differ by sexual orientation.
- Age (n=5,497)
  - Tested and not tested MSMs do not differ by age.
- Sex w/ Males last 30 days (n=5,311)
  - Tested and not tested MSMs do not differ no. of male partners.
- Sex w/ Females last 30 days (n=5,273)
  - Tested MSMs (.1824) reported a higher no. of female partners than MSMs not tested (.1298).
- Race (n=5,500)
  - Blacks were less likely than any other group to get tested.  
Latinos were more likely than any other group to get tested.

# Hepatitis B Vaccination

## Vaccinated Clients

- From January, 2000 to May, 2005 the clinic has provided 658 Hepatitis B shots to 342 MSM individuals.
- Vaccination Rate (n=342):
  - First Shot                      150    (43.9%)
  - Second Shot                     76     (22.2%)
  - Third Shot                        116    (33.9%)

# 1<sup>st</sup> vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> Shots

- Age (n=341)
  - There is no significant difference on the number of shots individuals got based on age.
- Sexual Orientation (n=341)
  - There is no significant difference on the number of shots individuals got based on sexual orientation.
- Sex w/ Males last 30 days (n=312)
  - There is no significant difference on the number of male sexual partners among individuals who came for their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> shot.

- Sex w/ Males last 30 days (n=311)
  - There is no significant difference on the number of female sexual partners among individuals who came for their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> shot.
- Race (n=331)
  - There is no significant racial difference among individuals who came for their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> shot.

# If Test Negative, Who Returns?

- Age (917)
  - Older clients (38.3) are significantly more likely to return for vaccination after getting tested than younger clients (35.7).
- Sexual Orientation (n=618)
  - Gays are significantly more likely to return for vaccination after getting tested.
- Sex w/ Males last 30 days (n=917)
  - Vaccination does not varies by the number of male sexual partners.

- Sex w/ Females last 30 days (n=917)
  - Vaccination does not varies by the number of female sexual partners.
- Race (n=597)
  - Blacks are significantly less likely to return for vaccination after getting tested.

# Conclusions

1. Only 24.3% of the MSMs seen in the clinic are tested for Hepatitis B.
  - African-Americans are less likely to get tested.
  
2. Only 24.1% of those who tested not immune (Negative) against Hepatitis B received at least 1 dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine.
  - African-Americans, younger MSMs and immigrants are less likely to get vaccinated.

3. Up to 67% of the MSMs tested were not immune against Hepatitis B and 3.5% probably had Chronic Hepatitis B.
4. The Clinic's protocol, Hepatitis B screening and vaccination at client request, resulted in too many miss opportunities.

# Recommendations

1. Provide every MSM client of the STD Clinic with educational materials about Hepatitis A & B.
2. Recommend every MSM client to be screened for Hepatitis B.
  - Challenge: Finance Hep B serology.
3. Recommend every MSM client who does not recall to be vaccinated for Hep B to receive first shot of Hep A & B vaccine at time of visit.
  - Challenge: Finance Hep A & B vaccine.

4. Provide referrals for everyone who test positive for Hep B<sub>s</sub> Antigen.
5. Recommend to the non-MSM clients of the STD clinic to get the first shot of Hep B vaccine the day of the visit.
6. Educate everyone who receives the first shot about the importance of returning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shot.