

Attitudes to hepatitis B and hepatitis B knowledge among four migrant communities in Australia

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Background

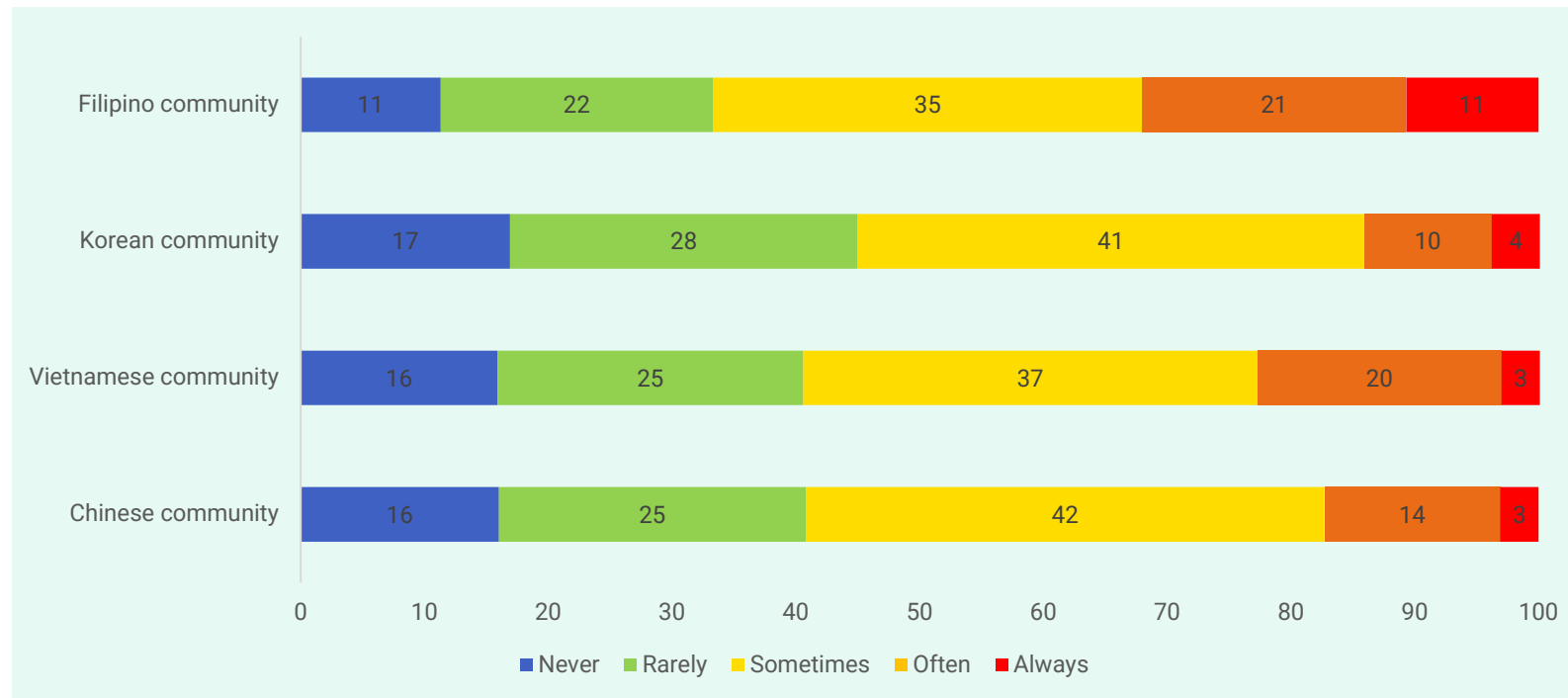
- Hepatitis B stigma is driven by misinformation and fears about transmission.
- Stigma can discourage hepatitis B testing, healthcare engagement and treatment.
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities disproportionately affected
- Community attitudes towards hepatitis B were examined in four priority communities Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Filipino communities.
- Surveys were available in English and community languages and delivered with community partners and bilingual researchers.

Demographics

	Chinese	Vietnamese	Korean	Filipino
Sample	999	966	599	579
Mean age	44	36	47	36
Female	56%	57%	72%	40%
Born overseas	89%	77%	99%	48%

Perceived stigma if diagnosed with hepatitis B

Participants were asked whether they think they would experience stigma or discrimination if they had hepatitis B



These results are only among participants who reported that they did not have hepatitis B.

Attitudes towards people with hepatitis B: Chinese & Vietnamese communities

- 64.3% of Chinese and 64.8% of Vietnamese community felt that people who have hep B should **not** be isolated by family and friends
- 32% of Chinese and 33.5% of Vietnamese community reported that if they knew that someone had hep B, they would avoid close contact with them
- 55.3% of Chinese and 52.8% of Vietnamese community felt that screening or testing for hep B is necessary for job applications because it is helpful for preventing transmission to other employees.
- 32.6% of Chinese and 41.3% of Vietnamese community would **not** have a romantic relationship with someone who has hepatitis B
- 11.6% of Chinese and 17.3% of Vietnamese community felt that people who have hepatitis B should be ashamed of their illness

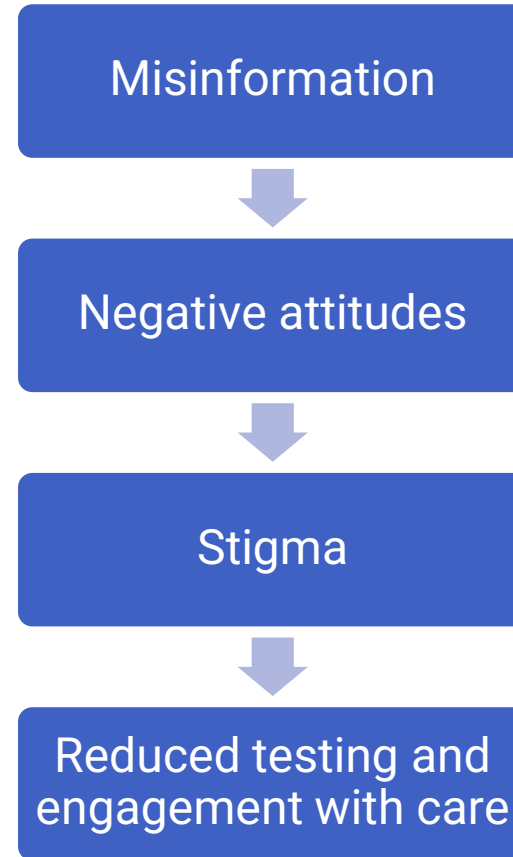
Attitudes towards people with hepatitis B: Korean & Filipino communities

- 74.4% of the Korean and 50.7% of the Filipino community felt that people who have hep B should **not** be isolated by family and friends
- 27.7% of the Korean and 38.0% of the Filipino community reported that if they knew that someone had hep B, they would avoid close contact with them
- 52.5% of the Korean and 55.5% of the Filipino community felt that screening or testing for hep B is necessary for job applications because it is helpful for preventing transmission to other employees.
- 23.6% of the Korean and 37.0% of the Filipino community would **not** have a romantic relationship with someone who has hepatitis B
- 3.2% of the Korean and 28.2% of the Filipino community felt that people who have hep B should be ashamed of their illness

Knowledge gaps continue to drive hepatitis B stigma

Across all four communities:

- Knowledge about hepatitis B was inconsistent.
- Misconceptions about transmission and causes were common.
- Many participants confused hepatitis B with poor hygiene, alcohol or a "weak liver"



- **Improving hepatitis B knowledge is likely to reduce stigma and improve engagement with testing and care.**

Acknowledgments

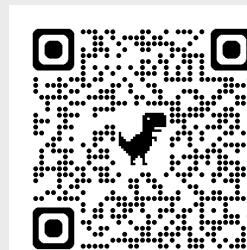
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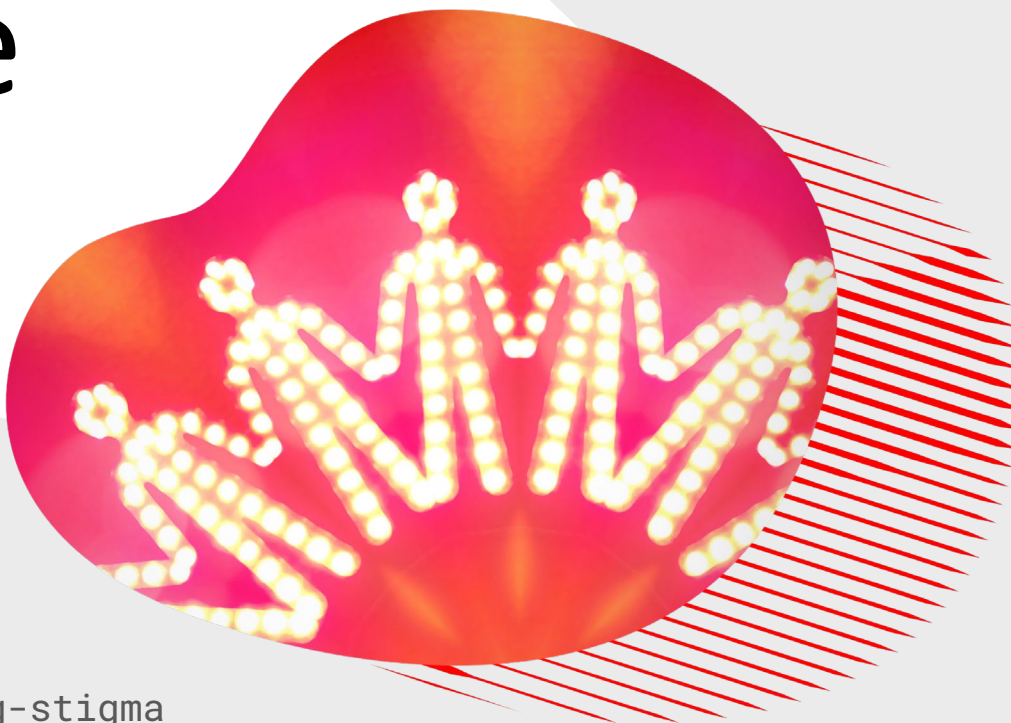
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