

Beyond the Cascade: Migrant Health Practices and the Limits of Public Health Metrics

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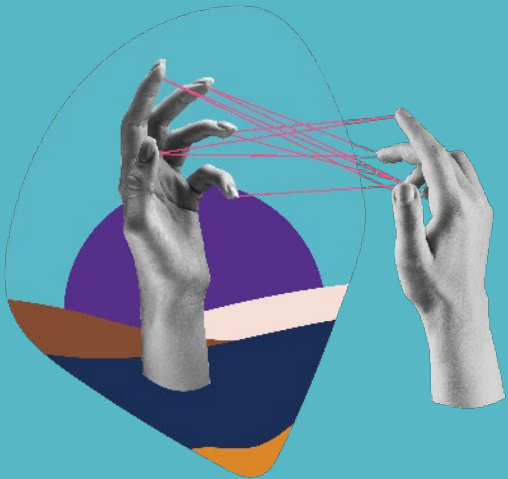




A research partnership to identify and eliminate legal barriers to testing and treatment for people living with hepatitis B and HIV in Australia

- Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ)
- Hepatitis ACT
- Hepatitis B Voices Australia
- Hepatitis NSW
- Hepatitis Queensland
- Hepatitis SA
- HepatitisWA
- LiverWELL
- Living Positive Victoria (LPV)
- Meridian
- Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC)
- PEACE Multicultural Services
- Positive Life NSW
- Positive Life SA
- Positive Women Victoria (PWV)
- Queensland Positive People (QPP)
- South Australia Mobilisation + Empowerment for Sexual Health (SAMESH)
- Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (TasCahrd)
- WAAC

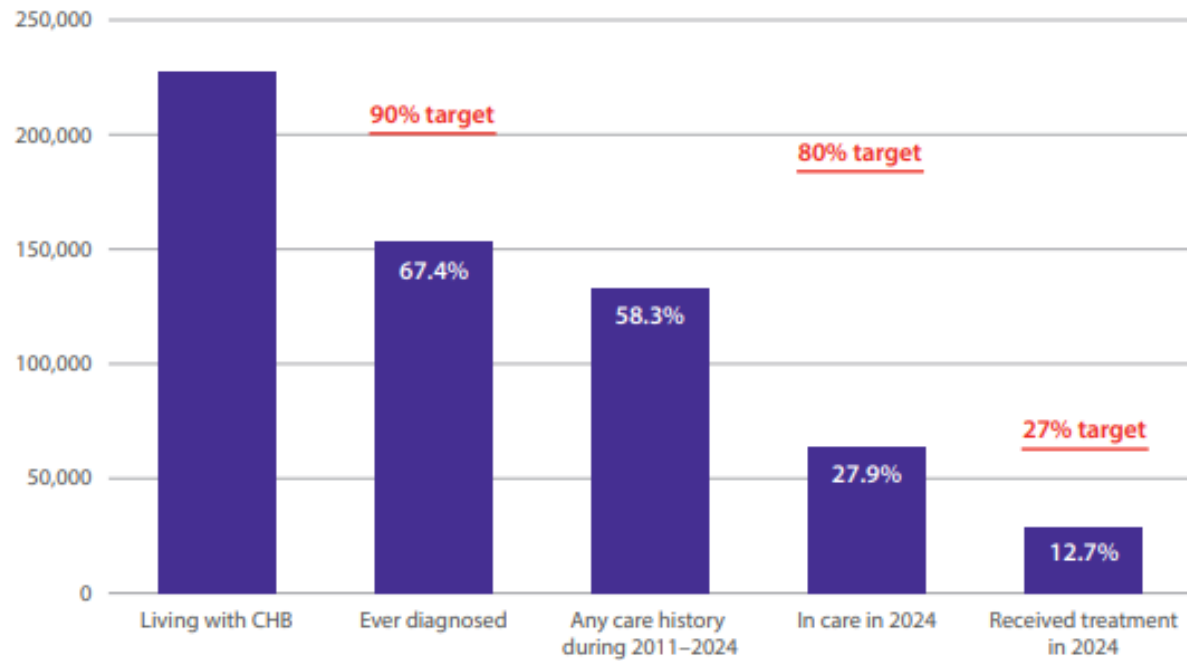
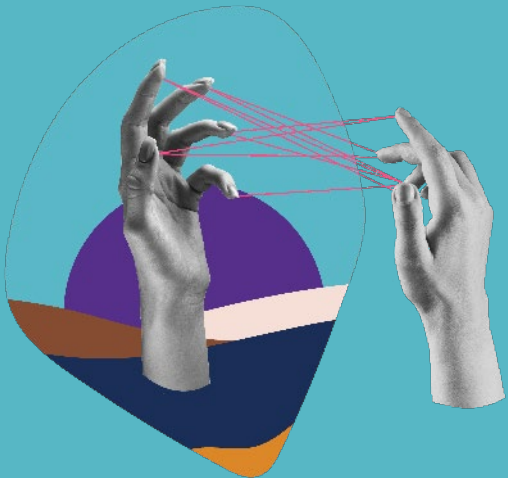
Background



- Cascade of care a metric to manage hepatitis B
- Targets in the cascade influence policies, laws, and health practices
- How does the law impact the health and wellbeing of people living hepatitis B, both in relation to their BBV status and more broadly?
- Migration processes the aspect of law in focus

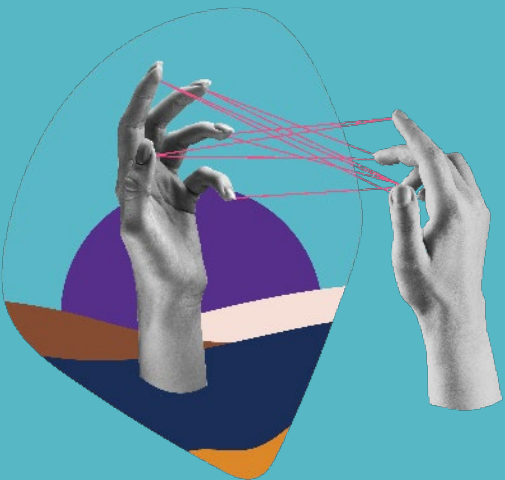
Background

Cascade of Care



Data source: Prevalence based on mathematical modelling. Diagnosis estimated using notifications. Treatment and care based on Medicare statistics and additional state government laboratory data. 'Any care history' represents monitoring or treatment during 2011–2024.

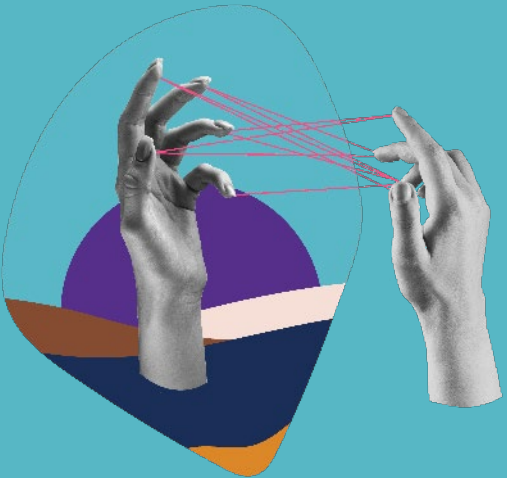
Methods



- Semi-structured interviews July 2023 – July 2024
- 141 interviews:
 - 51 living with hepatitis B
 - Incl. 3 living with HBV/HIV co-infection
- Immigration-related issues
- Potential for high unmet legal need
- Inclusion criteria:
 - 18+ years of age
 - Living with CHB (or HIV)
 - Migrant or non-citizen
- Interview schedule
 - Designed with partners & community
 - Everyday experiences of the law
 - Strategies for legal problems
 - Impacts on health

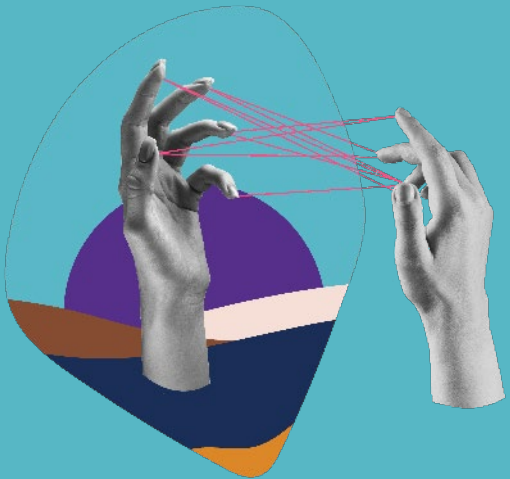
Methods

Analysis



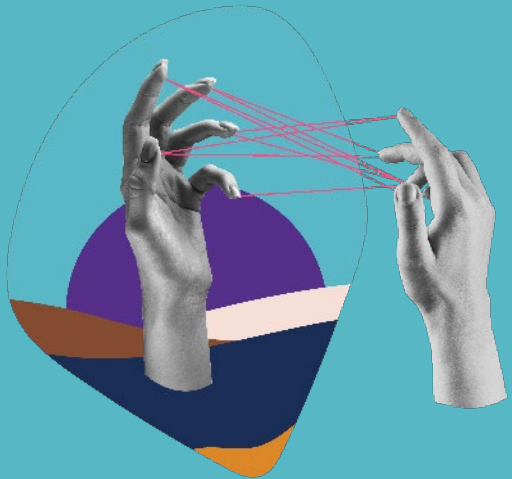
- Case study approach
- Migration law makes cascade part of legal surveillance
- Highlights complexity of experience not visible on the cascade

Case study



- Education institutions unlawfully disclosed HBV status
- Fear legal action would result in visa cancellation
- Withheld medication needs in hospital because of unlawful disclosure in healthcare

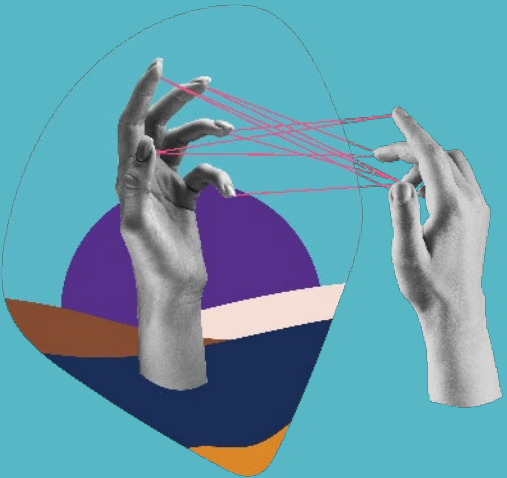
Case study



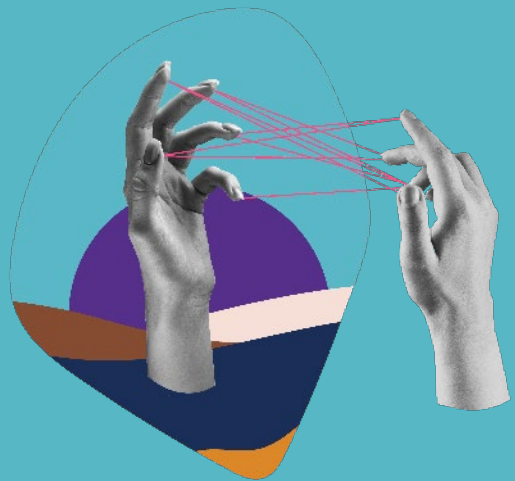
“I said [to the doctor], "Yes, I have [medication], but I couldn't share it with you." And he said, "I'm a doctor, you can share it with me." [...] So, at that time, I didn't share with him. [...] So, if I needed to stay [in hospital] for two days or a week, I would be without anything because I was afraid to share this with someone, even with doctors this information.”

Case study

“...I’m so scared that if my blood test result is abnormal, it’s going to affect my visa... So, it means like my visa is going to get rejected because I exceed the [significant cost] threshold.”

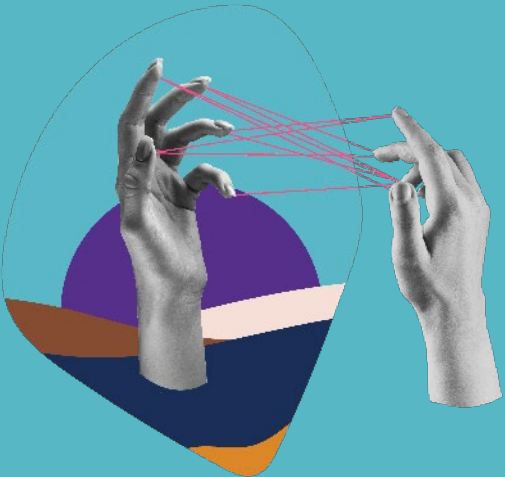


Case study



“Because if I take the Tenofovir which is the latest one, then I have some problem to process the permanent visa. This is the end for me and other[s]. Because it doesn’t matter about [what] your race is, about your colour skin. But if you take the Tenofovir, the latest one, it’s going to [cost more].”

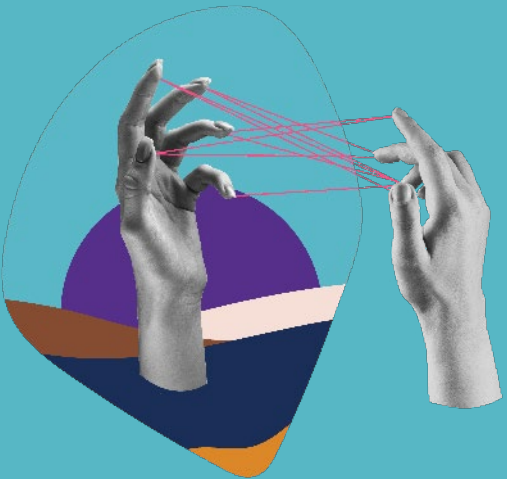
Discussion



- Competing demands impact on engagement with care:
 - Visa success
 - Movement across visas
 - Non-consensual disclosure of CHB status
 - Conflicting and incorrect advice
 - Navigating healthcare
 - Upholding family responsibilities and cultural norms
 - Employment
 - Housing, etc.
- Mental stresses prominent and due to migration
- Migration processes competed with care and complicated position on the cascade

Conclusion

- Health requirement impacted negatively on hepatitis B-specific care, as well as other health issues
- Participants' models of health were complex and responded to immediate need
- Infrastructures of hepatitis B-related care expand to align with experience and practices



Questions?

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