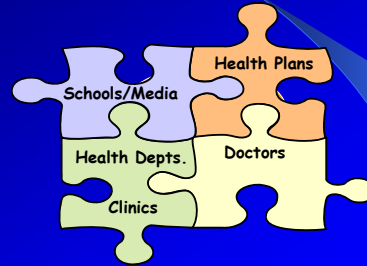


## The Los Angeles County Asian & Pacific Islander Hepatitis B Task Force



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## Conceptual Framework of a Task Force



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## The Health Problem

- In the U.S., a quarter of a million people are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV); and half of those infected are Asian and Pacific Islanders;
- Each year, there are 80,000 new infections and 5,000 people die of hepatitis B-related morbidity such as liver failure and liver cancer;
- Many groups at risk are unaware of their hepatitis B status because they are not routinely screened (get a blood test) for hepatitis B or offered the vaccination.

\*Sources: United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Asian Pacific Profiles and USC Cancer Surveillance

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## Background

- **1990** – The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends Hepatitis B vaccinations for Asian & Pacific Islanders;
- **1991** – Hepatitis B vaccinations incorporated into the childhood vaccination schedule; all infants recommended to receive hepatitis B vaccine series.
- **1995** -ACIP recommends “catch up” vaccinations for adolescents born between 1983-1986, the cohort that missed these vaccines as infants. Perinatal hepatitis B prevention programs established nationally (case managing infected mothers, infants, & their household contacts).
- **1997** - California State law requires hepatitis B immunizations for kindergarten and pre-school entry; National Hepatitis B Task Force: Focus on Asian Pacific Islanders is established.

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## Background continued ...

- **1998** - Pilot projects were awarded to local health departments to “catch-up” API adolescents that missed the hepatitis vaccines as infants, (e.g., Healthy Asian Pacific Islander (H.A.P.I.);
- **1999-2000** – LA County Immunization Program is awarded a grant from the State of California to conduct survey to assess hepatitis B immunization coverage of adolescents in Los Angeles County;
- **2001-2002** –Emergence of local LA County Task Force.

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## Vision

- The Los Angeles County Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Task Force is a group of dedicated health care professionals committed to working collaboratively toward the reduction of hepatitis B related morbidity and mortality.

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## Mission Statement

- To improve hepatitis-B related health outcomes for Los Angeles County's API communities through advocacy, education and research at the community, health care provider, and academic levels.

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## Goals

- Increase hepatitis B immunization rates among API adolescents and adults in Los Angeles County through outreach, education, and the coordination of direct services;
- Improve the knowledge and practices of health care providers to reduce barriers to hepatitis B screening, vaccinations, and disease reporting;

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## Goals (cont.)

- Educate API communities about hepatitis B and liver cancer through outreach and education;
- Advocate for health policies and services that promote access to hepatitis B testing and vaccinations for API adolescents and adults.

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## Structure

Chair: TBD

Coordinator---Wendy Berger, MPH

General Members

Subcommittees:

- Provider Education
- Community Outreach & Education
- Resource & Development
- Advocacy

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## Accomplishments

- Since 2002, the Task Force has conducted four (4) hepatitis B provider seminars reaching over 400 physicians who provide medical services for AAPI patients.
- Developed a train-the-trainer program for UCLA/USC medical students to conduct hepatitis B community presentations.
- Conducted over 10 hepatitis B community presentations to ESL adult language classes and San Gabriel Valley high schools.

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## Organizational partners

- American Liver Foundation—Los Angeles County Chapter
- Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Inc. (APHCV)
- Asian Pacific Liver Center (at St. Vincent's Medical Center)
- Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) – UCLA/USC
- Asian Youth Center (AYC)
- Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team
- Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research, & Training (AANCART)
- Blue Cross of California
- Chinatown Service Center (CSC)
- El Monte Unified School District – Rosemead Adult School
- Glendale Adventist Medical Center
- Korean Health Education Information & Research (KHEIR) Center

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## How can you help?

- Join our Task Force!
- Let us know what skills you can lend us, e.g., writing letters and making calls to elected officials, research, fund development, computer website design, public speaking, translation services.

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## Benefits of Participation

- The LA County API Hepatitis B Task Force can serve as an educational resource and referral network for API patients needing hepatitis B information and related hepatitis B health care.
- As a unified and cohesive group, the Hepatitis B Task Force has the capacity to influence elected officials to assist with funding for hepatitis b programs and services to groups at risk.

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## Future Directions

### Policy/Advocacy

- Educate elected officials at state and local levels about the need for increased funding for hepatitis B related services for AAPI communities

### Screening & Vaccinating

- Conduct outreach and education of API groups at highest risk for hepatitis B

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## Contact

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## Viral Hepatitis Educational Resources

- [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)  
Immunization Action Coalition
- [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org)  
National Foundation for Infections Diseases

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