

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN

JULY 2022, ISSUE 28

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World Hepatitis Day- 28 July



What is World Hepatitis Day?

World Hepatitis Day (WHD) takes place every year on 28 July bringing the world together under a single theme to raise awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis and to influence real change. In 2022 the theme is 'Hepatitis Can't Wait'.

On World Hepatitis Day, 28 July, people from across the world are called to take action and raise awareness of hepatitis because Hepatitis Can't Wait.

What is viral Hepatitis?

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver, most commonly caused by a viral infection. There are five main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. These five types are of greatest concern because of the burden of illness and death they cause and the potential for outbreaks and epidemic spread.

What makes hepatitis a global health problem

Every 30 seconds, someone dies from a viral hepatitis related illness. However, with the existing prevention, testing and treatment services that are available every hepatitis related death is preventable.

What are the different hepatitis viruses?

Scientists have identified 5 unique hepatitis viruses, identified by the letters A, B, C, D, and E. While all cause liver disease, they vary in important ways.

Hepatitis A virus (HAV) is present in the faeces of infected persons and is most often transmitted through consumption of contaminated water or food. Infections are in many cases mild, with most people making a full recovery and remaining immune from further HAV infections. However, HAV infections can also be severe and life threatening. Most people in areas of the world with poor sanitation have been infected with this virus. Safe and effective vaccines are available to prevent HAV.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is transmitted through exposure to infective blood, semen, and other body fluids. HBV can be transmitted from infected mothers to infants at the time of birth or from family member to infant in early childhood. Transmission may also occur through transfusions of HBV-contaminated blood/blood products, contaminated injections during medical procedures, and through injection drug use. HBV also poses a risk to healthcare workers who sustain accidental needle stick injuries while caring for infected-HBV patients. Safe and effective vaccines are available to prevent HBV.

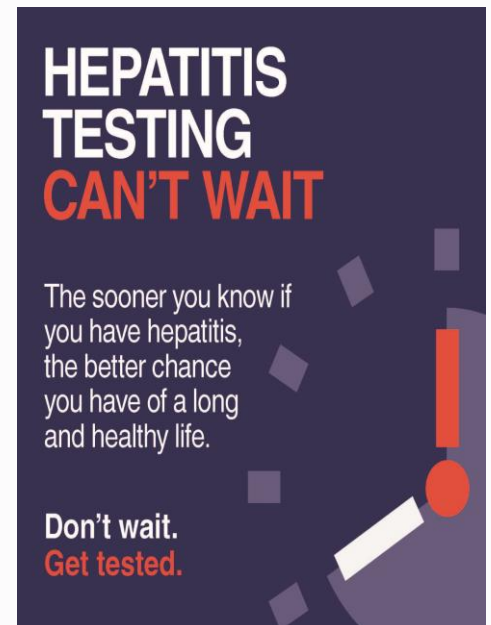
Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is mostly transmitted through exposure to infective blood. This may happen through transfusions of HCV-contaminated blood and blood products, contaminated injections during medical procedures, and through injection drug use. Sexual transmission is also possible, but is much less common. There is no vaccine for HCV.

Hepatitis D virus (HDV) infections occur only in those who are infected with HBV. The dual infection of HDV and HBV can result in a more serious disease and worse outcome. Hepatitis B vaccines provide protection from HDV infection.

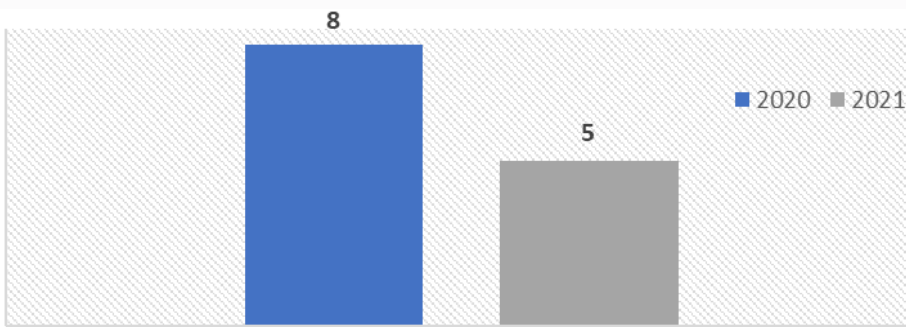
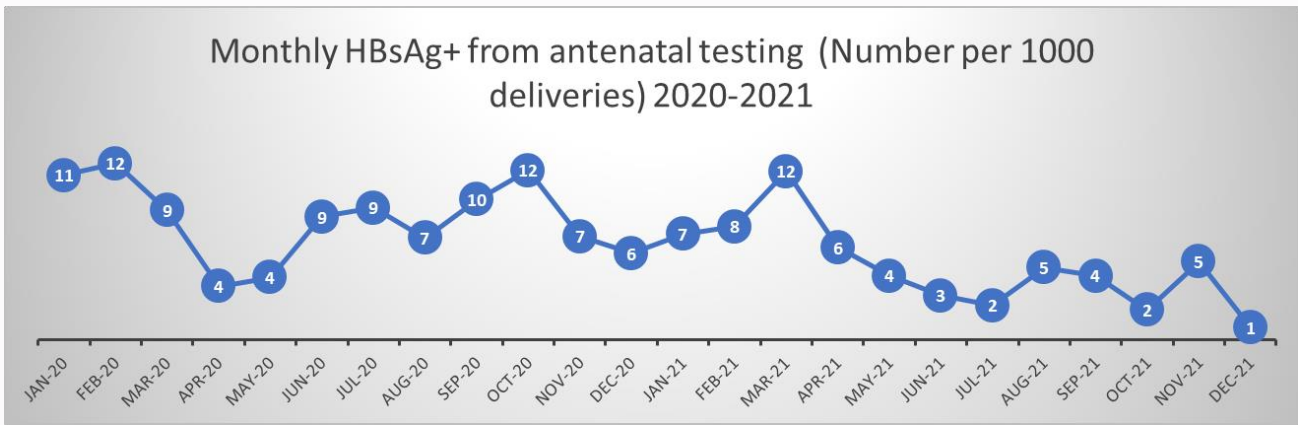
Hepatitis E virus (HEV) is mostly transmitted through consumption of contaminated water or food. HEV is a common cause of hepatitis outbreaks in developing parts of the world and is increasingly recognized as an important cause of disease in developed countries. Safe and effective vaccines to prevent HEV infection have been developed but are not widely available.

With a person dying every 30 seconds from a hepatitis related illness – even in the current COVID-19 crisis – we can't wait to act on viral hepatitis.

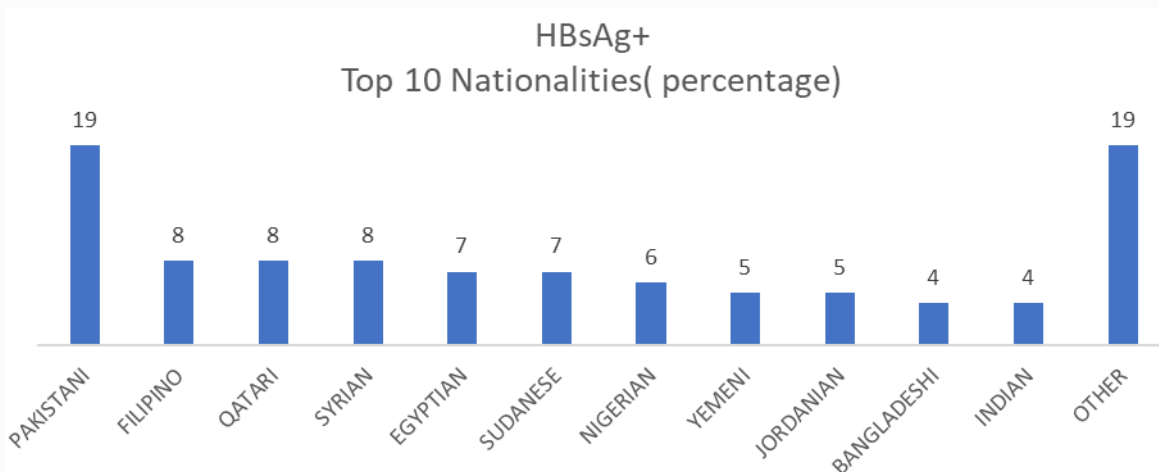
- ✓ *People living with viral hepatitis unaware can't wait for testing*
- ✓ *People living with hepatitis can't wait for life saving treatments*
- ✓ *Expectant mothers can't wait for hepatitis screening and treatment*
- ✓ *Newborn babies can't wait for birth dose vaccination*
- ✓ *People affected by hepatitis can't wait to end stigma and discrimination*
- ✓ *Community organizations can't wait for greater investment*
- ✓ *Decision makers can't wait and must act now to make hepatitis elimination a reality through political will and funding.*



HMC data -Hepatitis testing in Antenatal clinics



Annual HBsAg+ from ANC per 1000 deliveries



NEWBORNS FROM POSITIVE MOTHERS WHO RECEIVED HBV BIRTH DOSE (%)

