

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BULLETIN

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World Hepatitis Day 2023

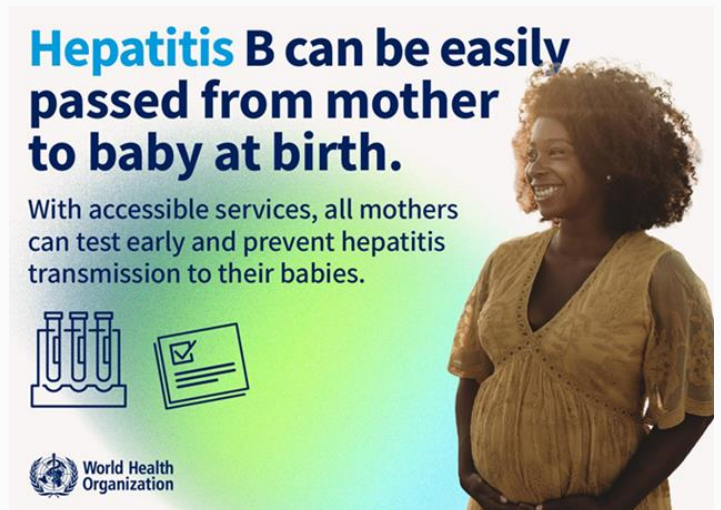
World Hepatitis Day is an annual global event observed on July 28th to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, its prevention, and the importance of testing and treatment. The World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations lead the campaign, aiming to mobilize governments, healthcare professionals, and the public to take action against hepatitis.

World Hepatitis Day aims to increase public knowledge and understanding of viral hepatitis, including its transmission, impact on health, and available preventive measures.

By raising awareness, the campaign seeks to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with hepatitis, which often prevents individuals from seeking testing and treatment.

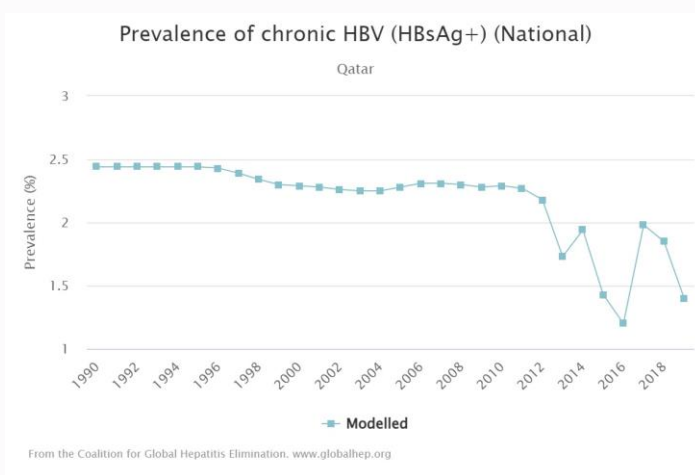
The campaign emphasizes the importance of prevention strategies to reduce the transmission of viral hepatitis. Key prevention measures include vaccination for hepatitis A and B, safe hygiene practices, practicing safe sex, implementing harm reduction measures for intravenous drug use, and ensuring safe blood and organ transfusions. World Hepatitis Day encourages individuals, especially those at risk, to get tested for viral hepatitis. Early detection through testing and diagnosis is crucial to prevent disease progression, manage the condition effectively, and prevent further transmission.

The campaign promotes the availability and accessibility of testing services, including blood tests and serological markers, and highlights the importance of regular screening for at-risk populations.

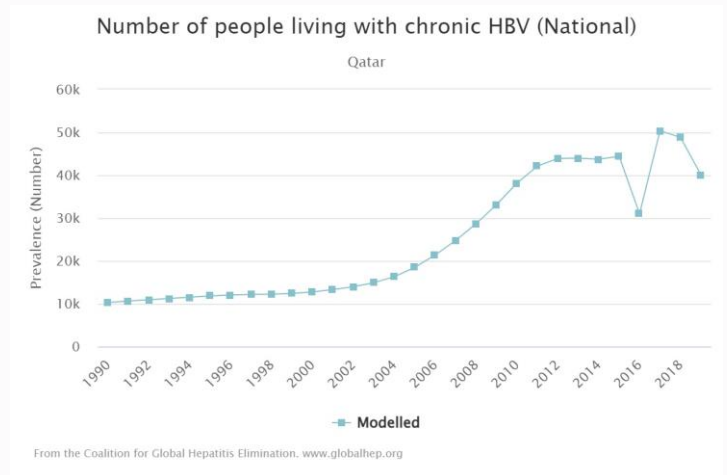


Hepatitis Type	Transmission	Prevention
Hepatitis A	Fecal-oral route	Vaccination, hygiene, sanitation
Hepatitis B	Perinatal, sexual, bloodborne	Vaccination, safe sex, safe injections, screening blood/organs
Hepatitis C	Bloodborne, IV drug use, Mother-to-child	Screening blood/organs, safe injections, high risk population
Hepatitis D	Co-infection with HBV, Superinfection	Vaccination, safe injections, barrier methods
Hepatitis E	Fecal-oral route	Clean water, hygiene, sanitation

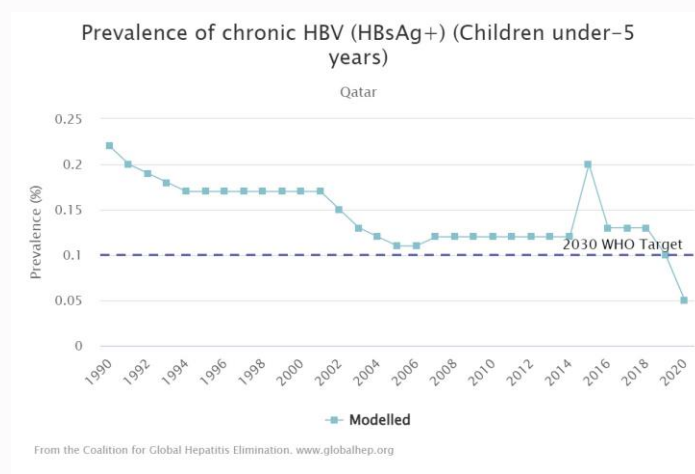
Qatar- Hepatitis B



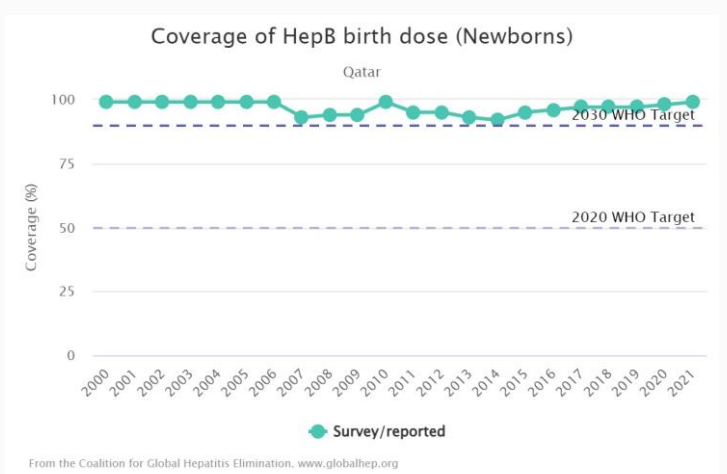
Annual reported cases of hepatitis B in Qatar (1990–2018)



Annual reported cases of people living with hepatitis B in Qatar (1990–2018)



Annual reported cases of children under-5 years with hepatitis B in Qatar (1990–2020)



Coverage of birth dose of HBV vaccine exceeded 75% in Qatar (2000–2021)

Qatar is making significant progress in eradicating viral hepatitis, evident from the considerable decline in the number of cases.

Upon arrival in Qatar, all individuals are required to undergo tests at the Medical Commission to identify contagious diseases such as hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

Qatar has implemented various strategies to reduce the prevalence and impact of hepatitis, such as screening pregnant women, blood donors, and healthcare workers for the virus. Additionally, specific professions like barbers undergo virus screening as part of their licensing process.

Qatar offers free vaccination to individuals who are not immune to the virus. Notably, the Communicable Diseases Center (CDC Qatar) collaborates with the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) and private sectors to provide critical care management for individuals infected with hepatitis, thus minimizing the risk of virus transmission within the community.

The consistent decline in the number of cases over recent years demonstrates the effectiveness of the control program implemented in Qatar that includes the vaccination of all newborn babies and the screening of all expatriates entering the country for the virus.