

# Synergizing HIV Testing & Viral Hepatitis B Screenings amongst hard to reach Asian & Pacific Islander Communities through Non-Traditional Approaches: Data from 2007-2012

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**Question:** Which of the following do Hepatitis B and HIV have in common?

**Answer:** ALL! Somehow, Hepatitis B enjoys relatively little stigma among hard-to-reach A&PIs while HIV is highly stigmatized

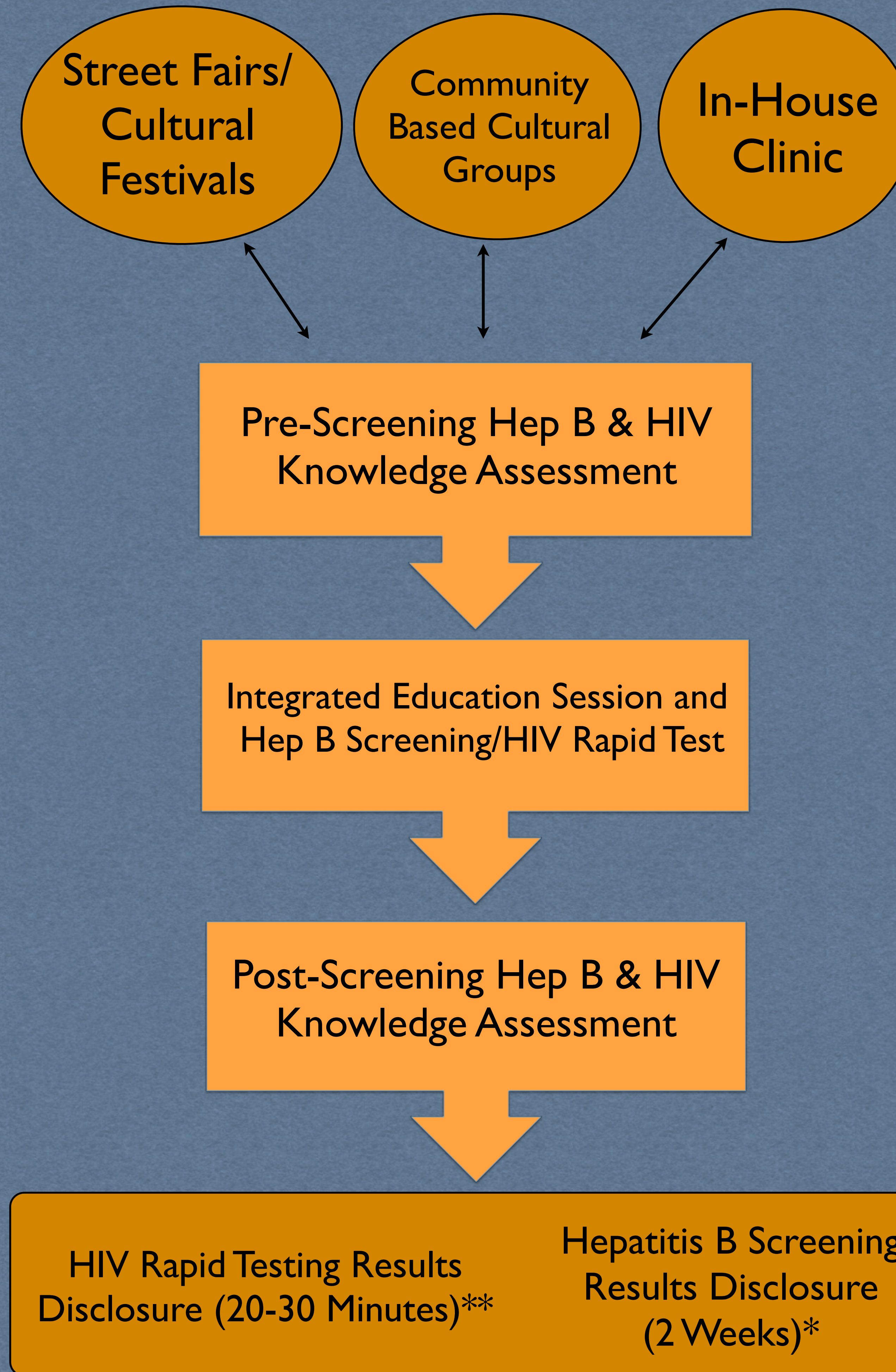
**Question:** How do we know this through our work?

**HIV:** When providing HIV Testing at street fairs and cultural festivals, many people walk away and turn their heads when approaching our booth. Most A&PIs we see on the field are very ashamed to talk about HIV with their families and friends despite the common risk factors with Hep B. In fact, many A&PIs feel like they are not at risk for HIV. Due to late HIV testing, those who do test positive show symptoms of late stage disease progression.

**Hepatitis B:** When providing Hep B screenings at fairs and festivals, many A&PIs already know about Hep B and are very open to talking about it. In fact, most we approach express they've already been screened and vaccinated. A&PIs consider themselves, family, and friends at risk for Hep B. Many know family members that are living with Hep B and are open to talking about it at home. Many do not fear Hep B and see it as manageable.

Given these facts, we strategically used Hepatitis B education as a gateway to reduce HIV stigma, increase awareness, and increase HIV testing in hard-to-reach A&PI communities.

## Hepatitis B & HIV Integrated Approach



\*HBV Antigen Reactive: Link to Case Manager and Medical Care; HBV Antigen Non-Reactive/Antibody Non Reactive: Provide Vaccination through In-House Clinic

\*\*HIV Non Reactive: Referral to Prevention Programs; HIV Reactive: HIV Rapid Testing Algorithm & Linkage to Care

**Table I: Total Number of Hepatitis B Screenings and HIV Tests through strategic integration**

Total Hepatitis B Screenings	1,210
Total Hepatitis B Positive	65 (5.3%)
Total electing for an HIV Test at time of Hep B Screening	157 (13%)
Total HIV Positive	12 (8%)

**Table II: Results of Post-Screening Questionnaires (n=210)**

Respondents not aware of risk for HIV	168 (80%)
Respondents unaware of routes of transmission for HIV	157 (75%)
Respondents stating they would be interested in testing for HIV in the future	157 (75%)
Respondents expressing they would be comfortable sharing informing about HIV with their families	126 (60%)

### Outcomes:

**Increased Awareness/Knowledge of HIV:**

Individuals leave with a deeper understanding of their risks for HIV in addition to Hep B and find ways to mitigate those risks. A&PI elders are targeted to deliver messages. Elders are highly respected and are caregivers in A&PI communities, thus we believe they can deliver prevention messages down to younger generations who may be at greater risk for HIV.

**Increased Access to HIV Testing Services:**

Individuals leave with a comprehensive understanding of the HIV testing process and the availability of testing and screening services in their local neighborhoods.

**Reduce Stigma:**

It is our belief that if people understand that the two diseases are transmitted in similar ways and can have equally life-threatening consequences, the fear and stigma toward HIV will begin to lessen.



**ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER WELLNESS CENTER**