

# HCV and HBV Testing Acceptability and Knowledge among Urban Emergency Department Patients and Pharmacy Clients

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# Background

- 3.2 million chronic HCV infections
- 700,000 chronic HBV infections
- 150,000 deaths projected between 2010-2020
- Majority of cases remain undiagnosed
- Recently developed rapid, point-of-care HCV test
- High HCV prevalence in urban populations
- Pre-Existing infrastructure of rapid HIV testing program in ED and pharmacies

# Study

- Objectives:
  - Assess knowledge, testing history and acceptability of a hepatitis B/C screening
- Design:
  - Prospective study on a convenience sample of ED patients and pharmacy clients aged 18+ in 2 urban EDs and 2 community pharmacies in Bronx, New York between June 2010 and May 2011
    - Anonymous written surveys measuring acceptability of hepatitis B/C screening
    - Hepatitis B/C knowledge measure adapted from Balfour et al. (2009)

# Results: Demographics

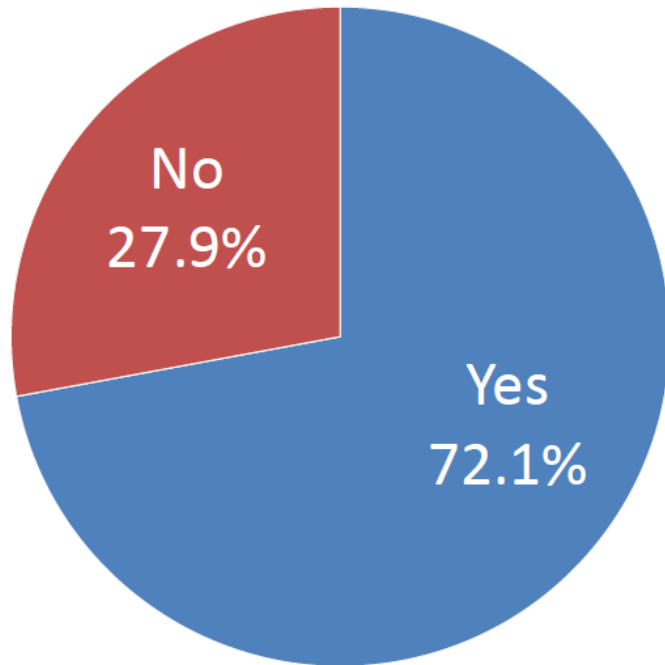
(n=2,122)	
Age	38.9 ± 15.0 years
Female	54.7%
Hispanic ethnicity	47.1%
Black	42.0%
White	8.7%
Previously <i>tested</i> for HCV	36.3%
Previously tested for HBV	47.7%

# Results: Knowledge

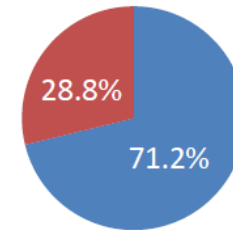
5-Question true/false knowledge measure	Percent correct (n=2,047)
Hepatitis B and C can be given to someone during sexual intercourse. (T)	44.8
People can live with hepatitis B and C for many years without knowing that they have been infected. (T)	59.1
People living with hepatitis B and C can damage their liver if they drink alcohol. (T)	60.9
There exists a vaccine that can be used to prevent people from getting infected with the hepatitis B virus. (T)	43.9
There exists a vaccine that can be used to prevent people from getting infected with the hepatitis C virus. (F)	19.8
<i>Aggregate correct</i>	<i>45.8</i>

# Results: Acceptability

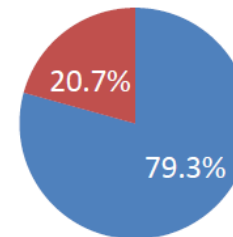
**If you were offered a free hepatitis B/C test in the ED or pharmacy, would you take it?**



ED (n=1,873)

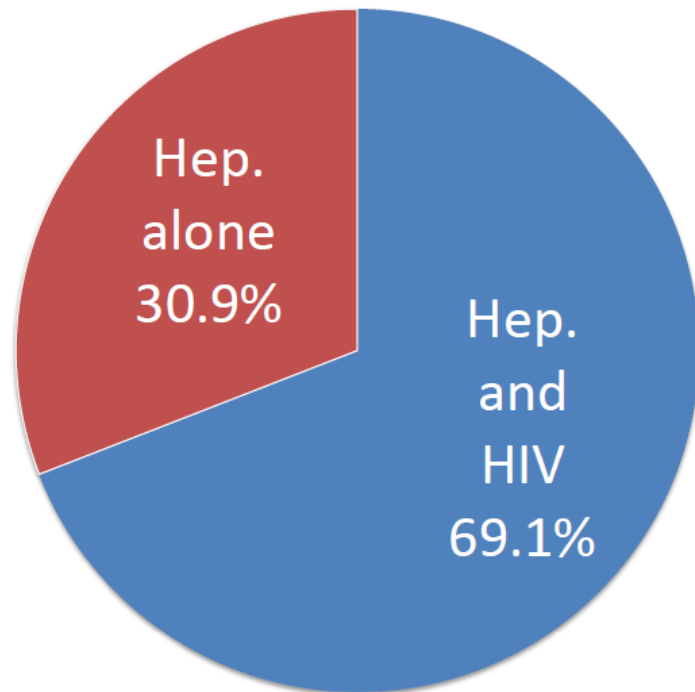


Pharmacies (n=232)

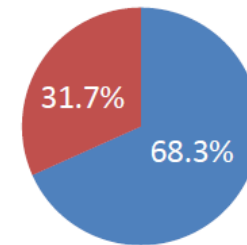


# Results: Acceptability

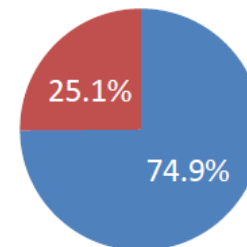
If YES, would you prefer to be tested for just hepatitis or for hepatitis and HIV?



ED (n=1,310)



Pharmacies (n=175)



# Conclusions:

- Knowledge of hepatitis B/C is generally poor
  - Urban ED patients and pharmacy clients largely receptive to the idea of free hepatitis B/C screening
  - Majority would elect to be tested for hepatitis in conjunction with a test for HIV
  - Integration of hepatitis screening into existing rapid HIV testing programs can expand hepatitis screening efforts
    - These efforts should be accompanied by hepatitis B/C education
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