

Navigating COVID-19 Impact on Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and those Living with Liver Disease and These Impact on Related Health and Prevention Behaviors

Investigators

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Project Summary

Chronic hepatitis B affects up to 2.4 million people living in the U.S., and disproportionately impacts racial and ethnic minority populations. Some people from racial and ethnic minority populations who are living with hepatitis B (PLHB) may face additional barriers to participating in clinical trials, delaying their equitable access to innovative medicinal treatments and vaccines. This study aims to explore the COVID-19 related challenges and resulting health behaviors (including COVID-19 vaccine uptake) among individuals who are Asian, Black or African American, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and those PLHB. This includes conducting an assessment of participants' access to clinical trials, perceptions of COVID-19 vaccines, and factors affecting their COVID-19 vaccine uptake. This study will also examine the impact of COVID-19 communication on perceptions of non-COVID health behaviors, including hepatitis B testing, vaccination, and treatment. The results of this research will inform future drug development outreach efforts to promote diversity and support the inclusion of patients' voices in future clinical trial design.

Populations Served: Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and White

Goals/Aims:

- Explore the impact of under-representation of PLHB and racial and ethnic minority populations in COVID-19 clinical trials on vaccine perceptions, acceptability, and uptake.
- Understand the factors that affect vaccine acceptability and uptake from the consumer (public) perspective among PLHB and racial and ethnic minority populations.
- Assess the impact of communication of clinical trial information on COVID-19 vaccine perceptions, acceptability, and uptake.
- Establish a knowledgeable, educated body of diverse hepatitis B community members who can inform future drug development on critical issues related to clinical trial diversity.

Publications/Abstracts/Posters, etc.

- **Global Hepatitis B & D Community Advisory Board: Expectations, Challenges, and Lessons Learned** (oral presentation), Conference on Liver Disease in Africa, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, September 2023.