

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVALENCE OF HEPATITIS B AND C AMONG STUDENTS OF TARABA STATE UNIVERSITY ■

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BACKGROUND

Viral hepatitis is a major global public health problem. More than 257 million people worldwide are estimated to have hepatitis B and 71 million with hepatitis C infection and over 1.34 million people die each year of the acute and chronic consequences of these disease conditions. Like the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Taraba State has again been rated one of the highest in the country in prevalence of both hepatitis B and C. In Nigeria, the national prevalence of Hepatitis B and C remains at 12.2% and 2.2% for Hepatitis B and C respectively, while higher prevalence of about 19% and 11% for HBV and HCV has been reported for Taraba State.

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METHODS

This was a descriptive cross sectional survey conducted in Jalingo the state capital during a community outreach and free screening. 300 students of the Taraba State University participated in the survey. Venous blood sample was obtained from student's selected randomly. HBV screening was performed using the HB_sAg Rapid diagnostic test strip. It is a rapid visual immunoassay for the qualitative detection of HB_sAg on human whole blood. The whole blood, was dropped on the test strip with a disposable pipette and a buffer solution was added to the blood on the strip immediately and allowed for 10 minutes after which the result was interpreted

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RESULTS

INSERT TEXT HERE It was discovered that 28 males representing 19% of the total respondent tested positive to HB_sAg and 10% of the males tested positive to HCV. On the other hand, 18 of the females representing 12% of the respondent tested positive to HB_sAg while 9(6)% tested positive to HCV. On a general note, 46(15)% of the total respondent (male and female) tested to HB_sAg while 24(8)% of the total respondent tested positive to HCV. It was discovered that 132 of the total respondent (female) representing 88% tested negative to HB_sAg while 59 representing 39% of the respondent tested negative to HCV.

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CONCLUSIONS

This research indicated that HB_sAg and Anti-HCV infection is highly prevalent among students of Taraba State University, sadly majority of them are unaware of their status, which could lead to end stage liver disease if diagnosed late. Early diagnosis of hepatitis infection is critical for effective treatment and care. Only 9% of persons living with hepatitis B and 20% of persons living with hepatitis C have been tested and are aware of their status globally, only 9% of persons living with hepatitis B and 20% of persons living with hepatitis C have been tested and are aware of their status Awareness is lacking. Therefore, in order to reduce HBV and HCV infections, Hepatitis B vaccination should be provided for young adolescents, prevention also contribute to broader health outcomes, including the prevention of HIV, sexually transmitted and other blood-borne infections and for population at risk. HBV and HCV screening programs should be instituted in all higher institution in the country to reduce the prevalence rate and level of transmission of hepatitis virus.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. The Authors have no conflict of interest on this report to declare

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