



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

Strategies and Opportunities Around Liver Cancer and Hepatitis



Moderator & Speakers



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CHANGE

Addressing the Burden of Liver Cancer in South Texas

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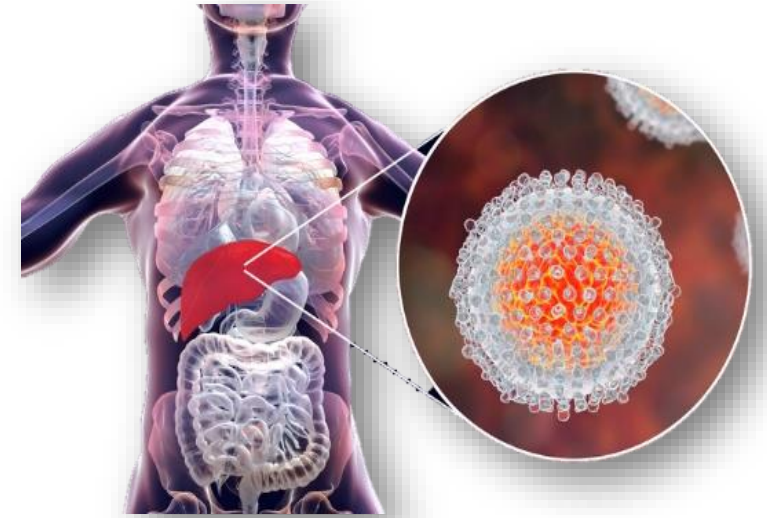
University Health

- Owned and operated by Bexar County, the third largest public health system in Texas
- Opened in 1917, University Health today includes University Hospital, soon to open Women's and Children's Hospital and over 25 primary care, specialty, preventive and school-based health centers.
- Nationally ranked and recognized
- University Hospital is a Level I trauma center, Level IV maternal care facility, and Level IV NICU
- Leading institution for health promotion and disease prevention in South Texas



Viral Hepatitis and Cancer

- Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) is the most common blood-borne disease in the United States
- HCV is a major cause of advanced hepatic fibrosis and cirrhosis
- HCV infection is the leading cause of Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), with significant mortality and morbidity rates
- HCC is the fifth most common cancer and second leading cause of cancer-related death
- South Texas has the highest incidence rate of HCC in the nation due to systemic barriers in screening and treatment



[Computer illustration showing the liver and a close-up view of hepatitis C viruses] (2023).

Retrieved from

<https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/illustration/hepatitis-c-infection-illustration-royalty-free-illustration/1055492254?adppopup=true>

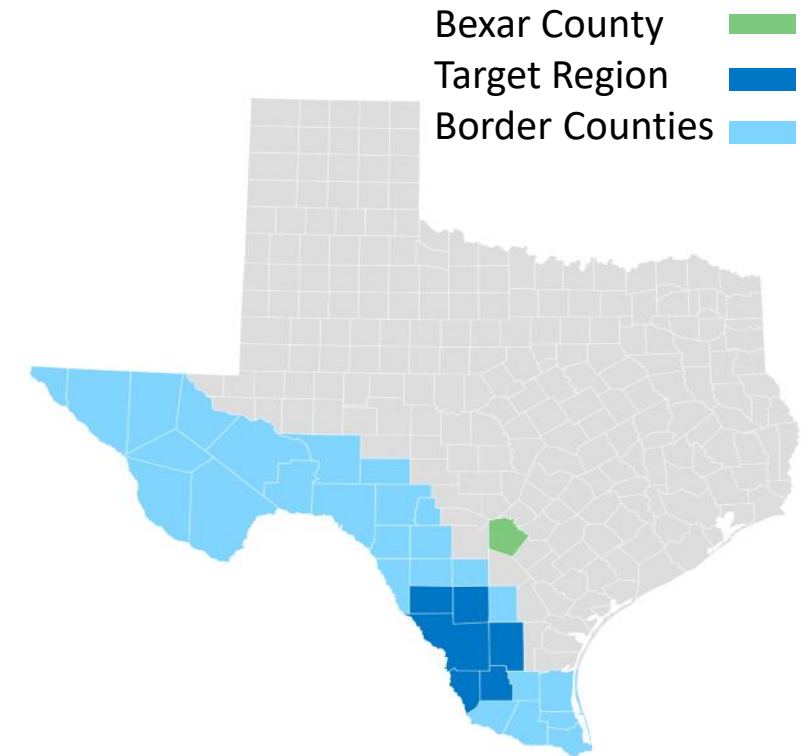
Cancer Prevention through Hepatitis Screening

Hepatitis Screening efforts address the disproportionate burden of liver cancer in South Texas.

Implement systemic changes for screening, vaccination, and linkage to care and expansion of services from Bexar County (**HepVISTA** program) to South Texas.

Provide comprehensive patient and provider education, community outreach promoting HCV screening, tailored navigation services to care, and HBV vaccination.

In partnership with Mid Rio Grande Border – Area Health Education Center (MRGB-AHEC) and City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD), established the **Hep C – C.A.R.E. (Colonias Advancing & Restoring Esperanza)** program.



Expansion of Hepatitis Screening in South Texas U.S./Mexico Border region

HepVISTA Program Outcomes

The **Hepatitis Viral Infection and Systematic Treatment Alliance (HepVISTA)** program focused on systemic changes and quality improvement processes to integrate routine HCV screening, outreach, education, and navigation to care with the overarching goal of reducing the risk for HCC morbidity and mortality in Bexar County

HepVISTA integrated comprehensive, bilingual, and culturally tailored interventions to improve HCV/HBV screening and awareness, increase education and patient retention in care

Reached 231,000 people	Educated 714 providers	Screened 43,596 patients	Educated 1,480 patients	1,817 HBV vaccines	Linked 905 patients to treatment
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Hep C – C.A.R.E. Program Progress

The **Hep C – C.A.R.E. (Colonias Advancing & Restoring Esperanza)** capitalizes on HepVITSA’s successful efforts in cancer prevention, navigation services, and inpatient HCV screening in Bexar County to integrate a comprehensive and culturally tailored intervention targeting the minority majority Hispanic population of Texas’ southern border region

Hep C – C.A.R.E. expands services to underserved minority communities of South Texas and addresses the higher prevalence of HCV and HCC by decreasing barriers to HCV screening and treatment, thereby reducing disparities in care.

Reached
70,000
people

Educated
649
providers

Screened
1,043
patients

Educated
294
patients

120
HBV
vaccines

Linked 66
patients to
treatment

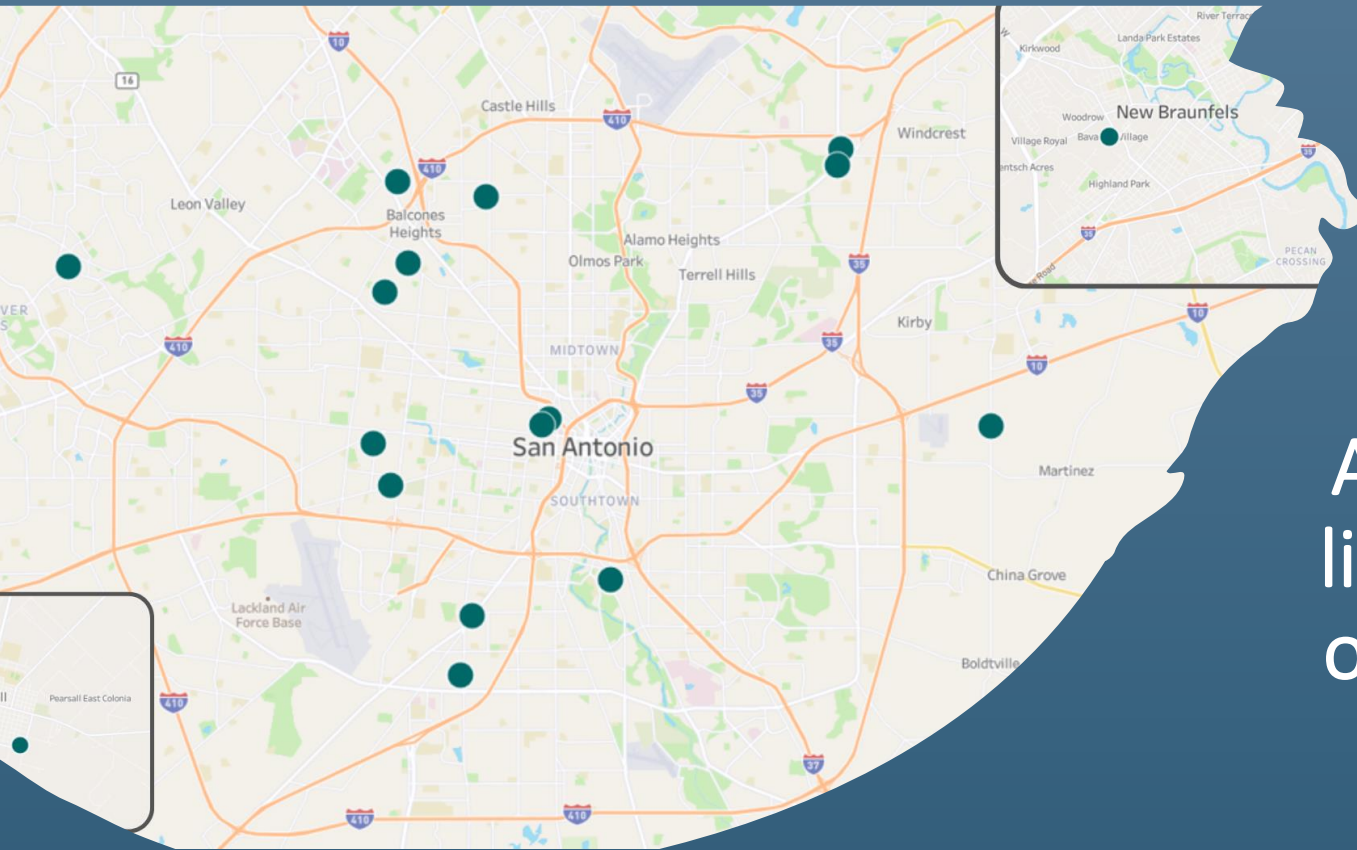


Hep C – C.A.R.E.

- Mid Rio Grande Border – Area Health Education Center (MRGB-AHEC): Julie Bazan, MHA
- City of Laredo Health Department (CLHD): Dr. Luis Cerda, DHA, Eleazar Lumbreras Jr, BS; Ashley Boubel, BS; Elizabeth Pecina, BA
- University Health
 - Roberto Villarreal, MD, MPH, Sr. VP, Chief Public Health, Innovation and Equity
 - Delana Gonzales, MPH – HepVISTA and HepC CARE Manager and FFACTS Clinic Director
 - Racquel Owino, MPH – Program Coordinator
 - Steven Landin, MPH – Program Coordinator
 - Serena Gaultier-Soliz, CHW – Lead Navigator
 - Mary Gonzales, CHW – Lead Navigator



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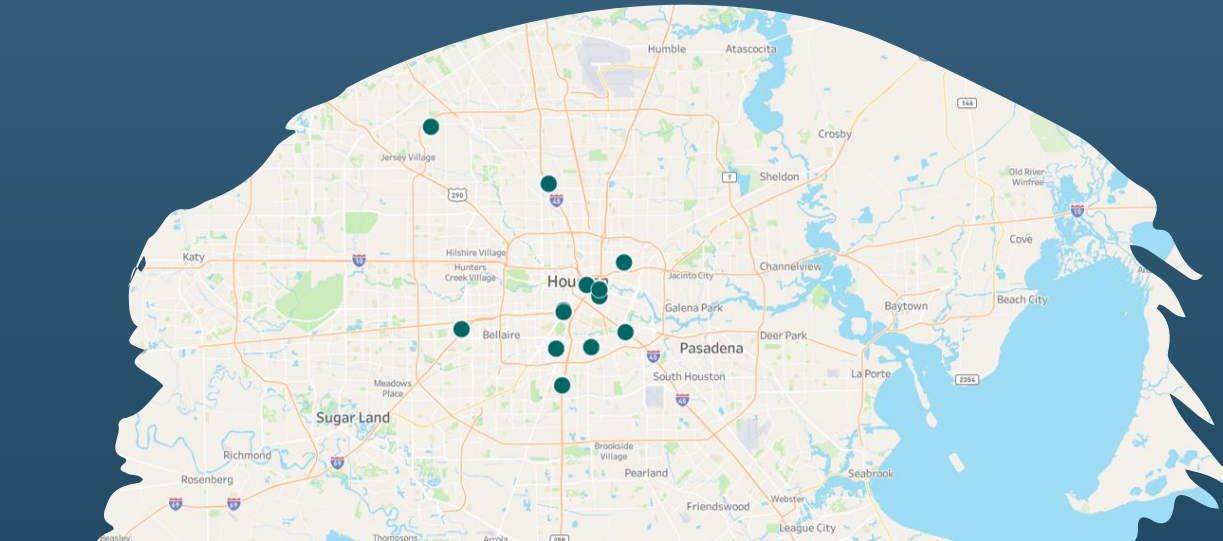


GRASSROOTS HEALTH: An interdisciplinary model to bring liver cancer prevention to-the-door of low-income housing residents at risk of homelessness

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Henry Siem, MD

Sarah Mangrem

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Many others!

POPULATIONS AT INCREASED RISK FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS



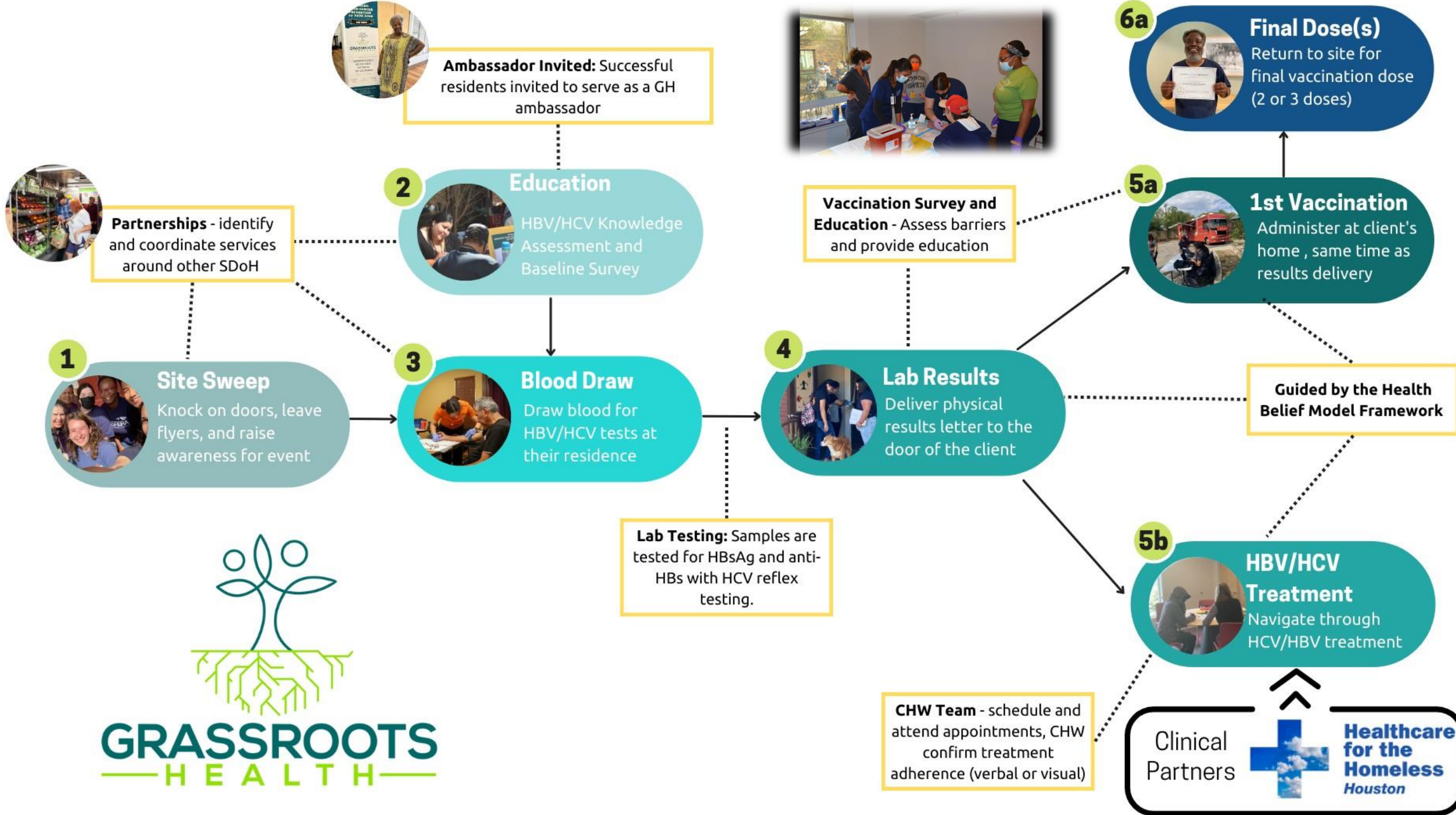
Contact with blood
from someone with
HBV/HCV

- Sharing injection needles/supplies
- Nonprofessional tattoos
- Shared medication needles medication



Individuals
with
Experiences of
Homelessness

- Injection drug use
- Experiences with incarceration
- Lower SES



Partnerships - identify and coordinate services around other SDOH



Ambassador Invited: Successful residents invited to serve as a GH ambassador

2



Education
HBV/HCV Knowledge Assessment and Baseline Survey

1



Site Sweep
Knock on doors, leave flyers, and raise awareness for event

3



Blood Draw
Draw blood for HBV/HCV tests at their residence

4



Lab Results
Deliver physical results letter to the door of the client

Lab Testing: Samples are tested for HBsAg and anti-HBs with HCV reflex testing.

Vaccination Survey and Education - Assess barriers and provide education

5a



1st Vaccination
Administer at client's home, same time as results delivery

5b



HBV/HCV Treatment
Navigate through HCV/HBV treatment

Clinical Partners



Healthcare for the Homeless Houston



6a



Final Dose(s)
Return to site for final vaccination dose (2 or 3 doses)



OUTCOMES

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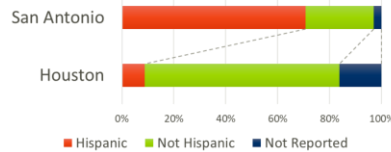
About the clients...



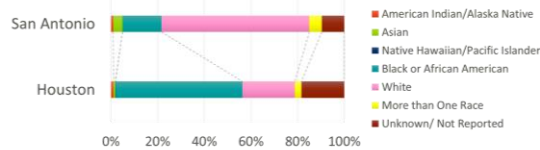
AGE

42.9% of clients were Baby Boomers (60+). No differences between sites.

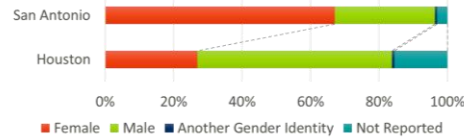
ETHNICITY



RACE



GENDER



SELF-REPORTED VACCINATION



15% REPORTED VACCINATION | 52% UNVACCINATED | 33% UNSURE

SELF-REPORTED TESTING



13% PAST YEAR | 33-34% OVER YEAR | 26-27% NEVER | 26-27% UNCERTAIN

About the project...

HBV/HCV TESTING

1,084

RESIDENTS TESTED FOR HBV OR HCV

GRASSROOTS HEALTH provided education to 1,408 housing residents at 27 sites with 544 residents in the past year alone 1,084 residents were tested for HCV or HBV with 452 in the past year (55.75% in San Antonio).

Of those who tested positive for HCV (N=51), 84.31% (N=43) were navigated into care and, of these, 79.07% had started or were waiting to start treatment.



HCV POSITIVE NAVIGATED INTO CARE



71.02% of clients did not have HBV surface antibodies indicating that they had likely not been previously-vaccinated (San Antonio - 70.66% vs. Houston 71.15%).

Of those with no surface antibodies, 72.55% clients received one or more vaccination which was similar between sites.



1 OR MORE VACCINATION

Check out our website at: <https://sph.uth.edu/projects/grassroots-health/>

Scan to download GRASSROOTS HEALTH educational cartoons:





Questions?



THANK YOU

VI INNOVATIONS

In Cancer Prevention and Research Conference



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Coming up after the break:

- Strategies and Opportunities Around Breast Cancer
Floral Hall A1
- Strategies and Opportunities Around Primary Prevention of Cancer
Floral Hall A2
- Early Detection: Advances in Artificial Intelligence in Imaging
Expo Hall A4
- Immunology and Vaccine Development in Cancer
Floral Hall B

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