



Hepatitis B and HIV Coinfection Is Very Common Worldwide

Researchers analyzed more than 350 studies to estimate the prevalence of hepatitis B among people with HIV around the world.

January 15, 2020 By [Benjamin Ryan](#)

Among people living with HIV globally, coinfection with hepatitis B virus (HBV) is concerningly high, Healio reports. However, prevalence of HBV in the HIV population varies by region, a nation's level of development and local prevalence of HIV.

Steve Leumi, MSc, of the University of Yaoundé's Biotechnology Centre in Cameroon, and colleagues conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of 358 studies including 834,544 people from 87 nations. They published their findings in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

Overall, 8.4% of the HIV population analyzed had HBV coinfection—an estimated 3,136,500 people. A total of 73.8% of these estimated cases were in sub-Saharan Africa, and 17.1% were in Asia and the Pacific.

Hep B prevalence among people with HIV was 12.4% in West and Central Africa, 9.9% in the Middle East and North Africa, 9.8% in Asia and the Pacific, 7.4% in Eastern and Southern Africa, 6% in Western and Central Europe and North America and 5.1% in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In developing nations, HBV prevalence among HIV-positive individuals was 10.4%, a figure that was progressively lower in nations with higher levels of development, down to 7.3% in highly developed nations. HBV prevalence among people with HIV was 7.3% in nations in which no more than 1% of the general population had HIV and 9.7% in countries with an overall HIV prevalence greater than 1%.

“This study suggests a high burden of HBV infection and infectivity in PLWH [people living with HIV], with disparities according to regions, level of development and country HIV prevalence,” the study authors concluded. “To curb the global burden of HBV infection, innovative and community-based strategies are needed [for] PLWH, including education, vaccines, HBV testing and initiation of appropriate treatment like [antiretroviral therapy] containing [tenofovir]. Specific strategies are needed in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia and the Pacific regions, especially in developing countries and countries with high HIV prevalence.”

To read the Healio article, [click here](#).

To read the study abstract, [click here](#).

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