

# Raising awareness and implementing Universal Hepatitis B screening and vaccination in the underserved population between the ages 19-59



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## Background

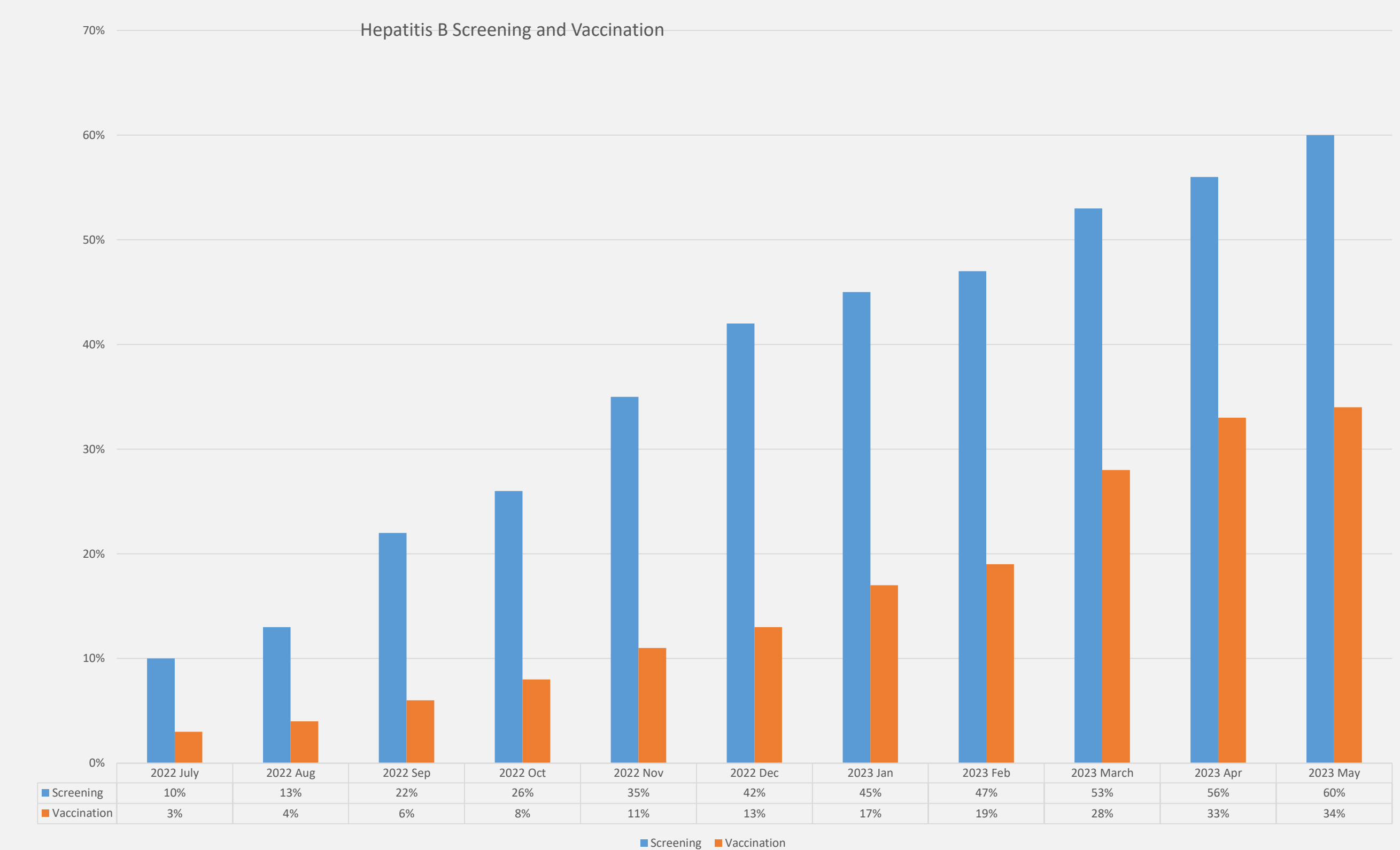
- Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide.
- In 2022, updated ACIP guidelines proposed recommendations for universal Hepatitis B (Hep B) vaccination in ages 19-59 years and those 60 years or older with risk factors for the disease.
- At our Family Health Center (FHC), patients come from a diverse immigrant community with numerous chronic ailments, having limited resources and minimal health literacy, thus posing a high risk for spread of infections.
- By initiating universal Hepatitis B screening with the ultimate plan of universal vaccination for all, we aim to decrease chronic Hepatitis B cases and eventually decrease the burden of complications associated with the disease.

## Methods

- Residents prepared patients' charts, between the ages of 19-59 years, to determine history of Hepatitis B infection, screening and vaccination.
- Patients who did not have a history of Hepatitis B vaccination or screening were educated about the disease, outcomes, complications and available preventive strategies during the primary visit.
- Residents conducted educational sessions for providers about updated guidelines, screening, vaccination, serological course and interpretation of screening results.
- Initial testing for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HbsAg), total Hepatitis B core antibody (total HbcAb) and Hepatitis B surface antibody (HbsAb) were ordered.
- In subsequent visits, these test results were discussed, and non-immune patients were offered the 3-series vaccination.
- The vaccines were scheduled at 0, 1 and 6 months respectively, with the first dose given during patient encounter with provider and subsequent doses administered during nurse visits.
- Counseling was done using motivational interviewing techniques.
- Patients positive for HBsAg or HbcAb received further workup and testing along with gastroenterology specialist referral.

## Results

- At baseline, 9.8% of our patients were screened for Hepatitis B and , 3% of our population were vaccinated for Hepatitis B
- At the 12-month mark, we were able to achieve our goal and screen 60% of the population.
- Additionally 34% of the patient population have been vaccinated by the May of 2023

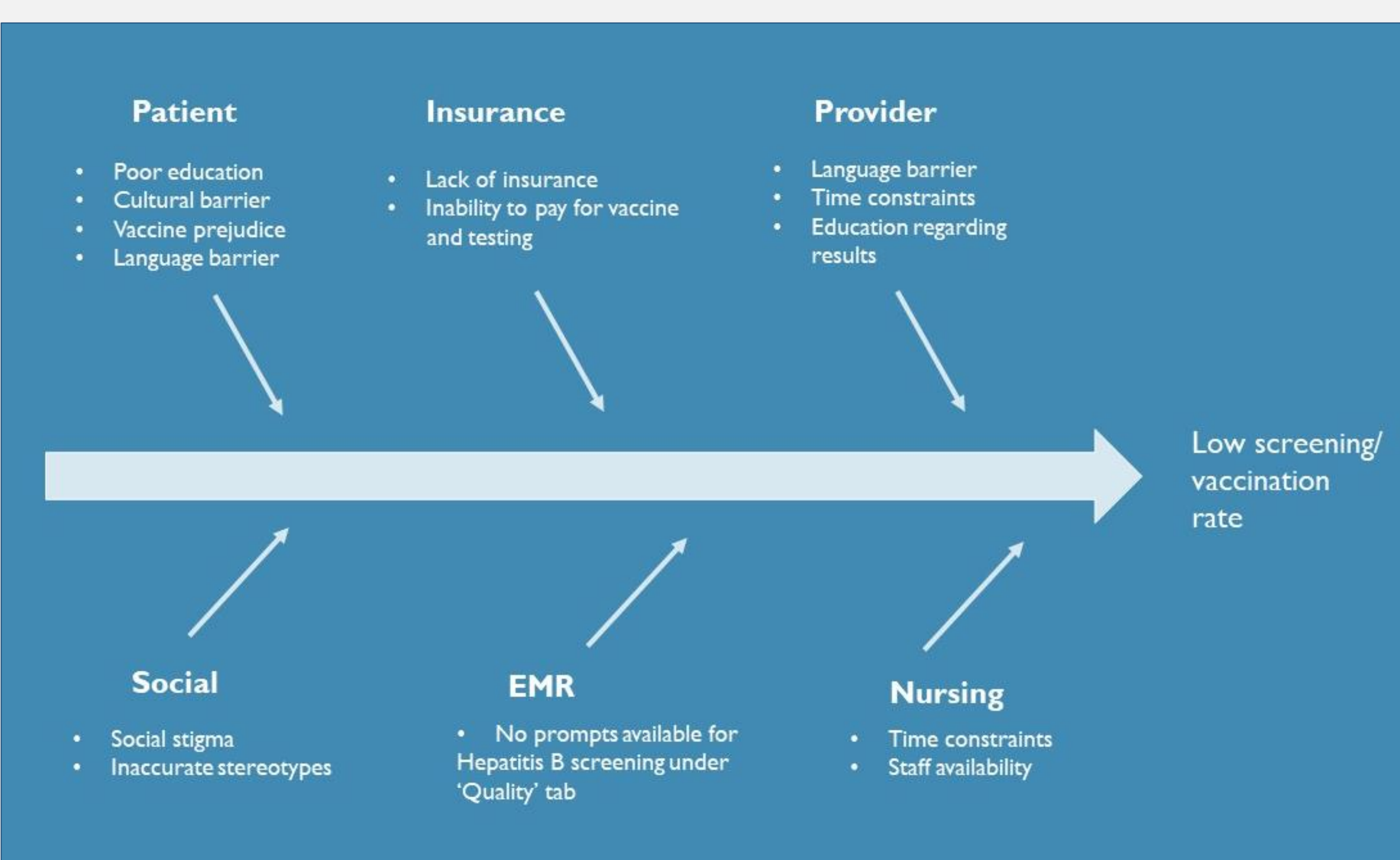


## Conclusion

- Universal Hepatitis B screening and vaccination for the public aids in early identification of Hepatitis B cases that would otherwise be asymptomatic and prevention of complications like cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma.
- It is also more cost effective for the health care system, easy to implement and prevents stigmatization of groups already marginalized.

## References

1. Weng MK, Doshani M, Khan MA, Frey S, Ault K, Moore KL, Hall EW, Morgan RL, Campos-Outcalt D, Wester C, Nelson NP. Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination in Adults Aged 19-59 Years: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices - United States, 2022. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2022 Apr 1;71(13):477-483. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm7113a1.



## Objectives

- To achieve Hepatitis B screening in 60% of patient population and vaccination in 30% of patient population by the May of 2023

## Process Map

