

# HEPATITIS B SERVICES IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE: THE ALASKA EXAMPLE

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# Hepatitis B in Indigenous Persons

Rates of Viral Hepatitis are often disproportionately high in Indigenous Populations

Examples are high prevalence of HBV in Alaska Native Persons, Canadian First Nations Persons and Greenlanders in the Arctic; Aboriginal and Mauri persons in the South Pacific



# High Rates of Hepatitis B in Indigenous Persons

A high prevalence of HBV can either lead to earlier intervention or a delay in provision of services; for example:

## Earlier Intervention:

In Alaska and Canada, universal vaccination of Alaska Native and 1<sup>st</sup> Nations infants and children preceded these services in the rest of Canada and the US

In New Zealand, Maori children were the first to receive HBV vaccination

## Delayed Intervention:

In Greenland, there was a delay in the implementation of infant vaccination for > 2 decades after a high prevalence of HBV was identified by epidemiologic studies

In the Amazon region, indigenous populations suffer high rates of HBV and Delta and services are not as available as in these countries in general, especially linkage to care and treatment

In Australia, a delay in HBV vaccination and care occurred in Aboriginal People

# Special Considerations in Indigenous People

Indigenous people often suffer stigma and discrimination and they may not receive the same services as others in their countries

They may live in isolated communities far removed from accessible transportation routes rendering care more challenging

They may not feel empowered with regards to their health care



# Second Annual World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Viral Hepatitis

The Second World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Viral Hepatitis was held in Anchorage Alaska on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

The conference was attended by 156 delegates from 14 countries and occurred during the 2017 World Indigenous Peoples Day

The attendees who were members on Indigenous Communities drafted an Consensus statement that addressed this issue and made recommendations

The Conference Website: <https://www.wipcvh2017.org/>



## Second World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Viral Hepatitis

### Anchorage Consensus Statement 2017



As delegates at the 2nd World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Viral Hepatitis held in Anchorage, Alaska, who are committed to effective action on viral hepatitis in indigenous and tribal communities, we declare the following:

**We SEEK the ELIMINATION of avoidable mortality from people living with viral hepatitis, and the ELIMINATION of viral hepatitis from Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Communities WORLDWIDE by 2030.**

**We REQUIRE OUR nation-states and governments to make special provision in health and funding policies to achieve elimination of viral hepatitis from Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Communities by 2030.**

**We RECOGNISE and SUPPORT the desire of Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Communities to determine our futures and to receive culturally effective services which reduce the impact and eliminate viral hepatitis.**



Thank you: Denali, meaning in the Athabascan Language “the High One” largest mountain in North America over 6,000 meters

