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## Improving understanding of the hepatitis B cascade of care in Vanuatu

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### Abstract

**Background:** Hepatitis B presents a significant burden globally. In Vanuatu, 13% of the population (33,289 people) are estimated to be living with chronic hepatitis B (CHB) and liver cancer, a proportion of which is due to CHB, causes approximately 40 deaths per year. Hepatitis B is vaccine preventable and <70% of children in Vanuatu received the hepatitis B third dose in 2021. WHO has targeted elimination of hepatitis B as a public health threat by 2030 and have set several targets to achieve elimination including 90% childhood vaccine coverage, 90% diagnosed, and 80% of eligible cases in treatment.

**Methods:** Here we assess routine availability of data to measure progress towards reaching elimination targets. The study design is a retrospective data scoping and mapping review. Existing routine data reporting forms submitted to the Health Information System (HIS), Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and the sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, human immunodeficiency virus (STI/TB/HIV) Units were reviewed to identify relevant data.

**Results:** Available data include childhood vaccination coverage and STI and hepatitis B antenatal screening, however data were not reported from all health facilities. Facility specific data, including testing and treatment, may be available on a facility-by-facility basis but there is no regular data flow from all levels of health facility to the national program.

**Discussion:** This data scoping review identified a major need to improve data collection and reporting to improve understanding of hepatitis B in Vanuatu and guide response efforts. An annual hepatitis B elimination scorecard is proposed to be developed to track the progress against national, regional, and global indicators in the areas of diagnosis, treatment and prevention with data disaggregated by province, sex, and age group.