

# HEPATITIS B TESTING COVERAGE AT VILA CENTRAL HOSPITAL LABORATORY AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL CLINIC, VANUATU; 2018 - 2021

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## VANUATU 4TH HEALTH RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

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# INTRODUCTION

- Hepatitis B is transmitted through contact with blood or other body fluids, with mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) the most common route of transmission.
- Diagnosis of HBV infection requires laboratory testing
- Vanuatu policy includes hepatitis B screening in the first antenatal care visit (ANC-1).
- Hepatitis B vaccination was introduced in 1990 in Vanuatu.
- WHO – UNICEF estimated vaccine coverage was 62% in 2021
- This study aims to assess hepatitis B screening and percentage positive among women seeking antenatal services on Efate



# OBJECTIVES

1. To estimate the screening rate of hepatitis B testing among pregnant women presenting for ANC-1 at all health services providing ANC services on Efate Island from 2018 – 2021.
2. To calculate the positivity rate of Hepatitis B infection among pregnant women presenting for ANC-1 on Efate, 2018 - 2021.



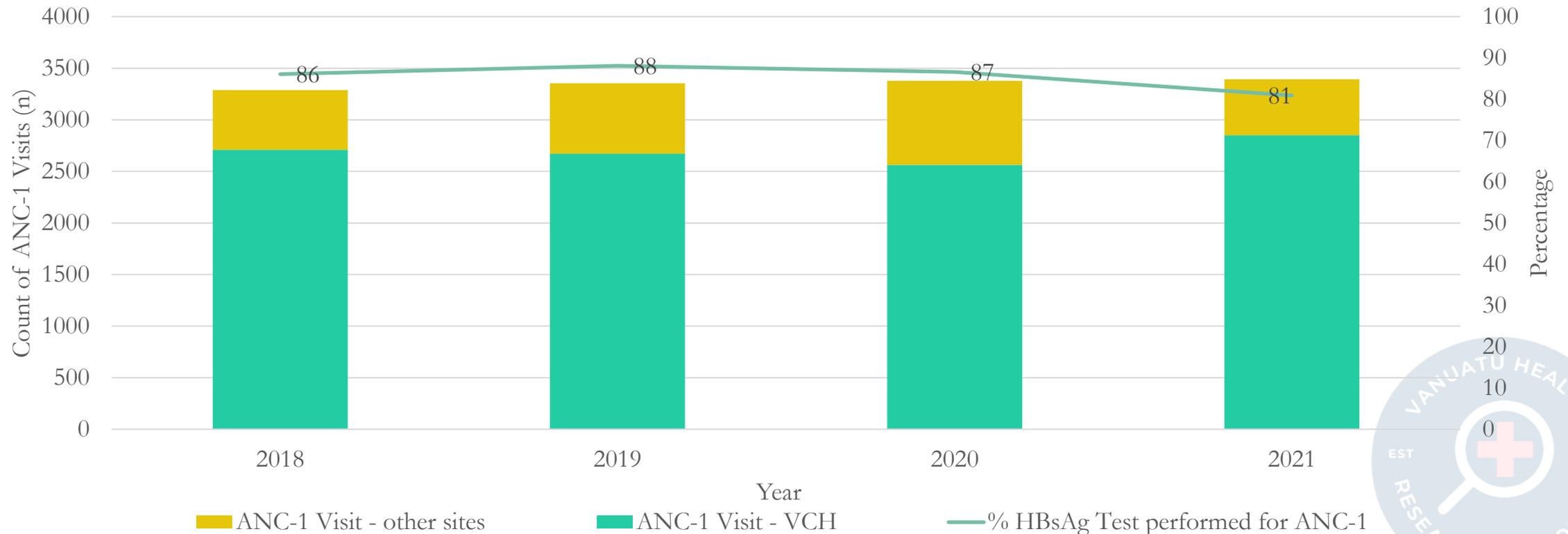
# METHODS

- **Study Design** – Cross Sectional study
- **Outcome measures:**
  - Pregnant women who presented at ANC-1 and had a HBsAg screening test at Vila Central Hospital (VCH) laboratory.
  - Pregnant women who presented at ANC-1 and are HBsAg Reactive (Positive)
- Data for 2018 to 2021 were included; data for 2022 were obtained but not included due to validity issues.



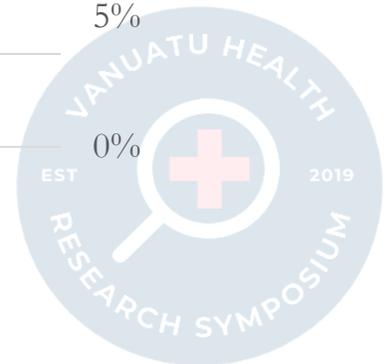
# RESULTS

## HBsAg screening rate among ANC-1 pregnant women on Efate from 2018 to 2021



# RESULTS

HBsAg percentage positive rate among pregnant women attending ANC-1 on Efate, 1<sup>st</sup> January  
2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.



## DISCUSSION

- Overall, 81% (n = 10,868) of pregnant women who were seen at ANC-1 on Efate had a HBsAg test between 2018 and 2021.
- In 2021 testing coverage reduced by 6%
- The hepatitis B reactivity rate was 7% then decreased to 5% (*establishing importance of vaccination*).



# LIMITATIONS

- This study is focused on women presenting for ANC-1 on Efate only.



# RECOMMENDATIONS / IMPLICATIONS

- Perform HBsAg testing at community – based health facilities.
- Have a laboratory information system (LIS) in place.
- Update O&G guideline for ANC HBsAg testing at first ANC visit
- VCH-ANC and VFHA to work out ways to avoid duplicating reports to DHIS



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- VCH Laboratory Team
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