



Figure 1. Nearly 300 million individuals live with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) worldwide. Many people with HBV face stigma and discrimination in their daily lives. Credit: World Hepatitis Alliance.

## REMOVING BARRIERS TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES

In 2021, Janssen sponsored a report<sup>4</sup> by the World Hepatitis Alliance to examine the burden of CHB globally and provide recommendations for addressing the ongoing barriers for patients and their families as a result of stigma and discrimination. The report, titled 'The impact of stigma and discrimination affecting people with hepatitis B', highlights human experiences to demonstrate the personal impact that stigma and discrimination can have on mental health, health-related quality of life and human rights. Importantly, the report identifies several key policy recommendations that can be taken now to dramatically improve millions of lives around the globe. This includes, but is not limited to, prioritizing accurate and non-stigmatizing hepatitis education for all healthcare professionals, improving access to equitable and affordable care, implementing and enforcing

anti-discrimination laws, and increasing funding for HBV-specific programmes.

Policy- and decision-makers around the globe can play a critical part in advancing these recommendations, but collaboration is key when it comes to community solutions. By engaging a multitude of stakeholders such as those in public health, education, health systems and civil society, global and community leaders can make meaningful differences when it comes to eliminating stigma and discrimination, while we simultaneously work towards achieving a functional cure on the clinical side.

### HEPATITIS CAN'T WAIT

Through advances in science and continuing education, Janssen is committed to reducing the burden of disease and stigma associated with CHB. We applaud the efforts of scientists and leadership in all sectors, from private companies to government to major industry players, who are working tirelessly

in pursuit of a functional cure for CHB, and potentially the elimination of stigma.

It is our belief that one day, our collective knowledge and progress towards this goal will result in a better future for millions of people around the world. By ensuring we don't lose sight of the steps that can be taken as we progress in this shared journey, including identifying and implementing actions to address stigma and discrimination, we can begin to make that dream of a better tomorrow a reality today.

“Stigma and discrimination remain major – often unrecognized – barriers to successful prevention, diagnosis and treatment.”

### AUTHOR

James Merson, Ph.D., Global Therapeutic Area Head, Infectious Diseases, Janssen Research & Development

### ADDRESS

Janssen  
260 E. Grand Avenue  
South San Francisco, CA, 94080  
United States

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