



Prevalence of Viral Hepatitis B among Migrant Workers in Thailand: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Kanwara Deevijit^{*1}, Sakarn Charoensakulchai², Pat Chantapinya¹ and Nisachon Jumroonrat³

¹Institute of Preventive Medicine, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health,
Nonthaburi 11000, Thailand

²Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Phyathai Campus, Bangkok 10400, Thailand

³The Office of Disease Prevention and Control 1, Department of Disease Control, Chiang Mai 50100, Thailand

*Corresponding author, E-mail: kanwarad95@gmail.com

Abstract

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a major global health issue, transmitted from mother to child and through contact with blood and body fluids. Thailand has implemented HBV control through the Expanded Program on Immunization since 1992, resulting in decreased endemicity. However, neighboring countries still face challenges in HBV control. Currently, Thailand hosts approximately 3.9 million immigrants, predominantly from Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos. This study aims to assess the prevalence of HBV infection and serostatus among migrant workers in Thailand. PubMed, Scopus, Embase, and Google Scholar were searched up to January 26, 2026, for studies reporting the prevalence and serostatus of HBV infection among immigrants in Thailand. Eligible studies were screened, and relevant data were extracted. Meta-analyses were performed on the prevalence of HBV infection, including subgroup analyses by nationality and gender. A total of 586 studies were identified. After screening, six studies were deemed eligible. The pooled prevalence of HBV infection among migrant workers in Thailand was 7.44% (95% CI 5.68 to 9.40). Only one study provided data on serostatus, showing 38.6% Anti-HBs positivity. Male migrant workers had a higher prevalence (10.47%; 95% CI 6.19 to 15.67) compared to females (6.89%; 95% CI 5.07 to 8.97). Cambodian migrant workers exhibited the highest prevalence (10.81%; 95% CI 9.13 to 12.77), followed by workers from Myanmar (7.28%; 95% CI 5.43 to 9.37) and Laos (7.01%; 95% CI 0.00 to 24.89). The prevalence of HBV infection among migrant workers is substantially higher than the general population in Thailand. Targeted preventive measures are necessary to control transmission, especially within these high-risk populations.

Keywords: hepatitis B prevalence, HBsAg, immigrants, migrant workers, Thailand, travel medicine