

Supplement to the *Viral Hepatitis Mapping Project: Hepatitis B – National Report 2021* Estimates of chronic hepatitis B among those born overseas, according to spoken language

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Background and source information

Chronic hepatitis B (CHB) in Australia is more common in those born overseas, particularly those born in the Asia-Pacific region (for more detail, see the [National Viral Hepatitis Mapping Project: Hepatitis B – National Report 2021](#)). Identifying priority communities is essential to the provision of appropriately tailored care, and the targeting of education and support services to communities most in need. The provision of resources that are tailored to individuals' cultural and linguistic characteristics is in support of the [established principles of health promotion](#).

This supplementary expands on the data presented in the Mapping Report to estimate the most common languages spoken by people born overseas who are living with hepatitis B. This analysis is derived using the prevalence methodology described in full in the Mapping Report, with the addition of linguistic diversity data from the Census. Data are reported where the number of language speakers is sufficient for robust reporting, as noted in individual tables and figures.

This analysis uses the language spoken at home and proficiency in spoken English variables (see the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) for further information about these variables). Languages are reported according to the [Australian Standard Classification of Languages](#). It should be noted however that the Census collects only data on the main language spoken at home, and these data may not necessarily be applicable in relation to preferred language for written communication, or for information specific to health.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are a key priority population for CHB in Australia, and the generation of linguistically appropriate resources is essential. However, due to the very high diversity in language groups across Australia and the smaller number of individuals affected in this population, the methodology used here would not be sufficiently robust for reliable estimates.

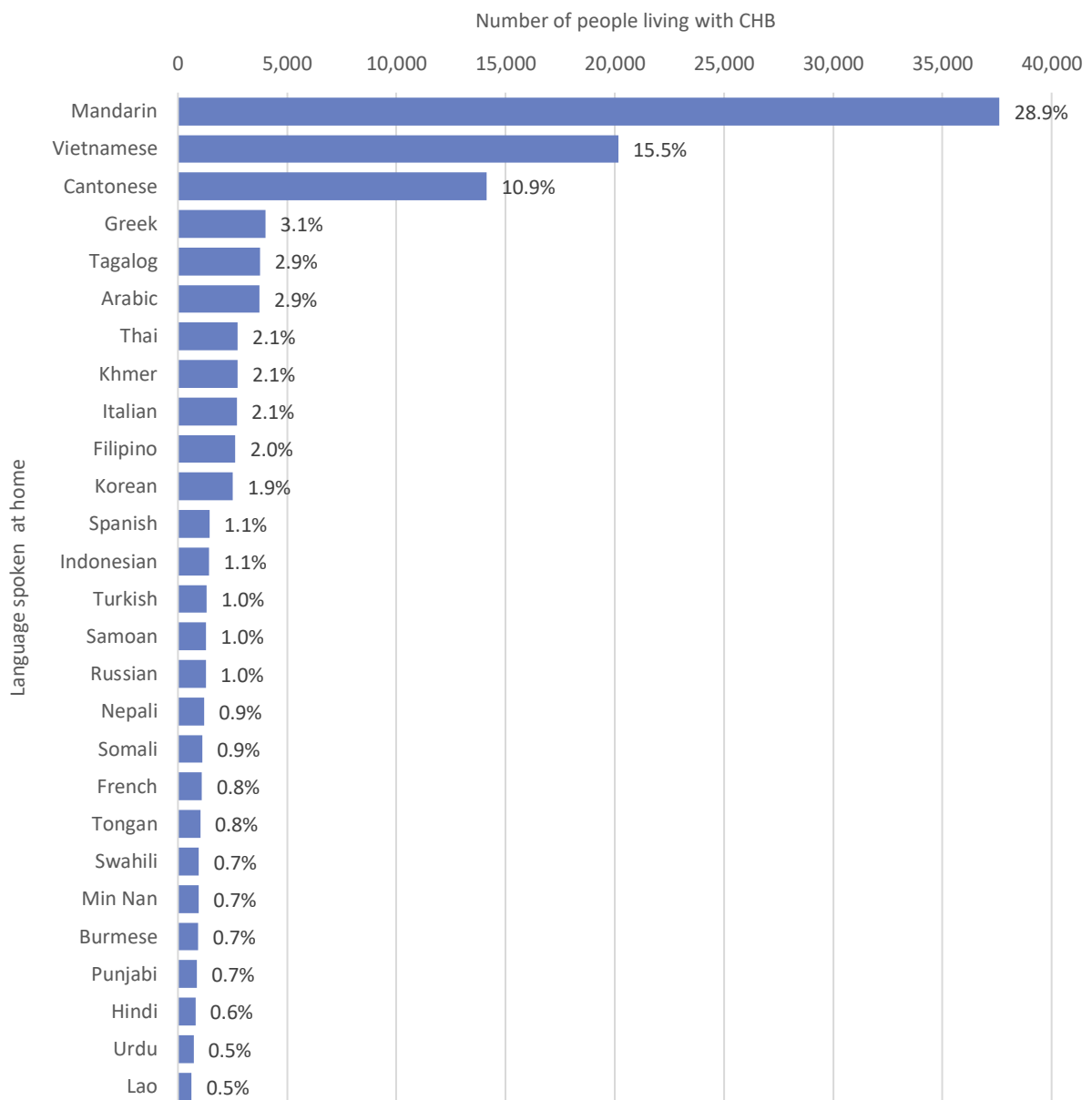
For more information or to request more detailed estimates for a specific population and/or region, please contact Jennifer MacLachlan at jennifer.maclachlan@mh.org.au.

People living with CHB who were born overseas and speak a language other than English, by language spoken at home

- It is estimated that 56.3% of people living with CHB in Australia speak a language other than English at home.

- Based on estimated prevalence, the most common languages are Mandarin (spoken by 28.9% of all people with CHB), Vietnamese (spoken by 15.5%), and Cantonese (spoken by 10.9%) (Figure 1). Together these languages make up more than half (55.3%) of all people with CHB who speak a language other than English.

Figure 1: Number and proportion of people born overseas living with CHB in Australia in 2021 who speak a language other than English at home, by language



CHB, chronic hepatitis B.

Data source: CHB prevalence estimates based on mathematical modelling incorporating population-specific prevalence and ABS population and language data.

Data reported for those languages where more than 500 individuals were estimated to have CHB.

- The predominant source countries of birth for these top languages are shown in Table 1. For most languages, the majority of speakers were born in a single country, however for some languages there is substantial diversity in country of birth (for example, Cantonese, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, French, Swahili, Min Nan, and Hindi).

Table 1: Top countries of birth for people living with CHB in Australia in 2021 who speak a language other than English at home, by language

Language spoken at home	Most common country of birth	2 nd most common country of birth	3 rd most common country of birth
Mandarin	China, 86.0%	Taiwan, 8.1%	Malaysia, 2.8%
Vietnamese	Vietnam, 98.4%	Cambodia, 0.5%	#
Cantonese	China, 52.4%	Hong Kong (SAR of China), 20.1%	Vietnam, 16.7%
Greek	Greece, 88.8%	Cyprus, 6.6%	#
Tagalog	Philippines, 99.2%	#	#
Arabic	Lebanon, 27.1%	Sudan, 17.6%	Syria, 15.3%
Thai	Thailand, 98.1%	#	#
Khmer	Cambodia, 95.7%	Thailand, 2.4%	#
Italian	Italy, 94.6%	#	#
Filipino	Philippines, 99.4%	#	#
Korean	South Korea, 97.4%	#	#
Spanish	Colombia, 48.4%	Peru, 13.4%	Chile, 9.3%
Indonesian	Indonesia, 97.7%	#	#
Turkish	Turkey, 90.7%	Cyprus, 5.9%	#
Samoan	Samoa, 85.0%	New Zealand, 14.5%	#
Russian	Russia, 40.5%	China, 15.1%	Ukraine, 13.3%
Nepali	Nepal, 76.8%	Bhutan, 21.4%	#
Somali	Somalia, 89.7%	Kenya, 4.6%	#
French	Mauritius, 55.2%	France, 5.9%	Democratic Rep. of the Congo, 5.6%
Tongan	Tonga, 95.3%	#	#
Swahili	Kenya, 40.0%	Democratic Rep. of the Congo, 22.2%	Republic of the Congo, 13.9%
Min Nan	Malaysia, 23.9%	Taiwan, 22.3%	Cambodia, 20.5%
Burmese	Myanmar, 95.6%	#	#
Punjabi	India, 82.8%	#	#
Hindi	India, 63.5%	Fiji, 24.8%	#
Urdu	Pakistan, 73.9%	India, 8.5%	Saudi Arabia, 7.8%
Lao	Laos, 96.6%	#	#

CHB, chronic hepatitis B. Rep., Republic. SAR, Special Administrative Region.

Data reported for those languages where more than 500 individuals were estimated to have CHB.

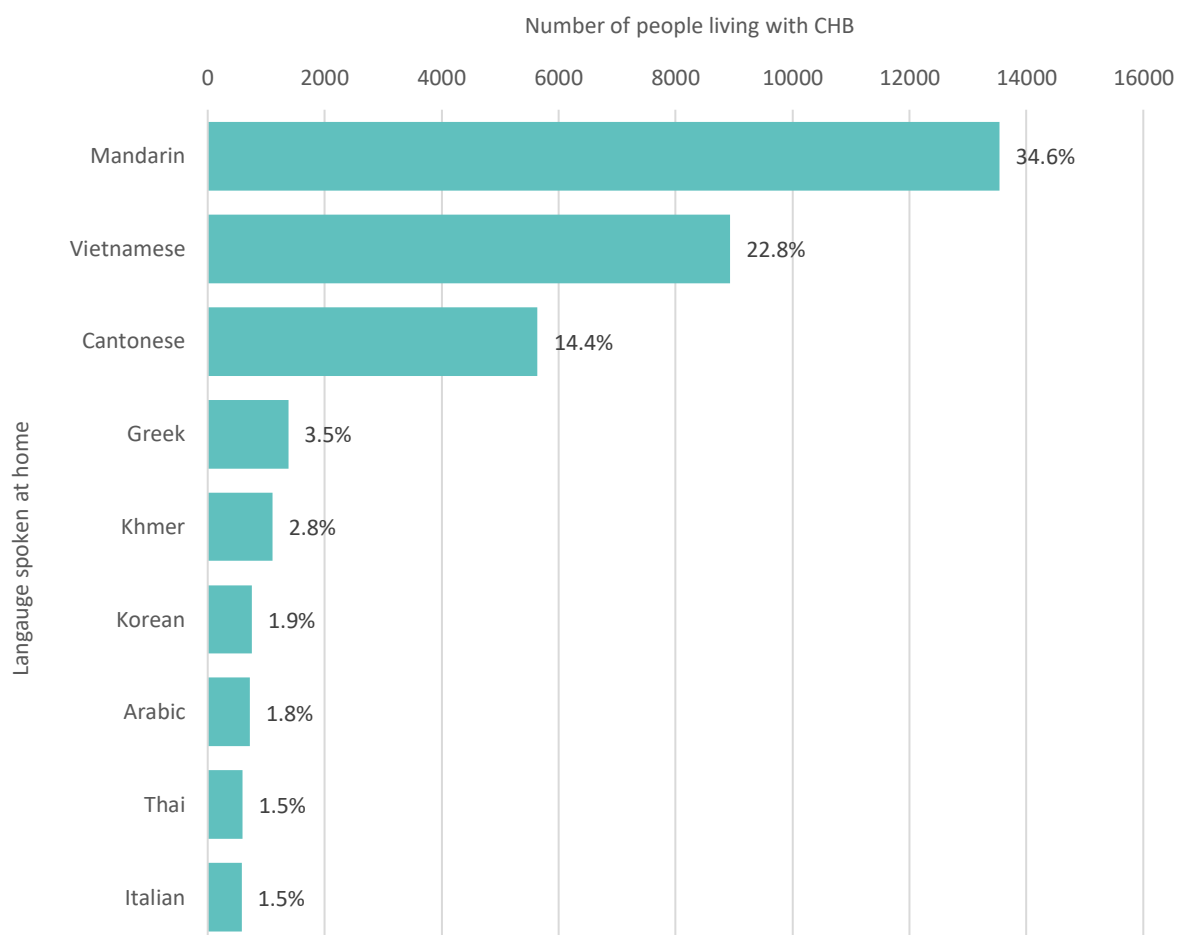
Data suppressed where total number of people born in a given country was less than 50.

People living with CHB who report speaking little or no English, by language spoken at home

- It is estimated that 16.9% of people living with CHB in Australia speak a language other than English at home and speak English not well or not at all. This represents 26.8% of the estimated total number of people with CHB who speak a language other than English at home.

- The most common languages spoken among this group are similar to those for the total population that speaks a language other than English, with the most common languages being Mandarin (34.6% of the total), Vietnamese (22.8%), and Cantonese (14.4%). These three languages combined make up a greater proportion of the total who speak English not well or not at all (71.8%) than of all people with CHB who speak a language other than English (55.3%).

Figure 2: Number and proportion of people born overseas living with CHB in Australia in 2021 who speak a language other than English at home and speak English not well or not at all, by language



CHB, chronic hepatitis B.

Data source: CHB prevalence estimates based on mathematical modelling incorporating population-specific prevalence and ABS population and language data.

Data reported for those languages where more than 500 individuals were estimated to have CHB.

- Some languages are more common among those who speak English not well or not at all; for example, Khmer ranks 5th among those who speak English not well or not at all compared to 8th overall, and Korean ranks 6th among those who speak English not well or not at all compared to 11th overall.

- The distribution of source countries for the most common languages varies for the subgroup which speaks English not well or not at all; for example among those who speak Cantonese, Vietnam was the second most common country of birth (instead of Hong Kong), and among those who speak Arabic, Syria was the second most common country of birth (instead of Sudan).

Table 2: Top countries of birth for people living with CHB in Australia in 2021 who speak a language other than English at home and speak English not well or not at all, by language

Language spoken at home	Most common country of birth	2 nd most common country of birth	3 rd most common country of birth
Mandarin	China, 90.9%	Taiwan, 6.3%	Malaysia, 1.2%
Vietnamese	Vietnam, 99.0%	Cambodia, 0.6%	#
Cantonese	China, 68.4%	Vietnam, 20.1%	Hong Kong (SAR of China), 7.0%
Greek	Greece, 93.9%	Cyprus, 4.4%	#
Khmer	Cambodia, 98.0%	#	#
Korean	South Korea, 97.2%	#	#
Arabic	Lebanon, 31.6%	Syria, 23.8%	Iraq, 14.4%
Thai	Thailand, 98.4%	#	#
Italian	Italy, 98.2%	#	#

CHB, chronic hepatitis B. SAR, Special Administrative Region.

Data reported for those languages where more than 500 individuals were estimated to have CHB.

Data suppressed where total number of people born in a given country was less than 50.