



COI QUERY

Country of Origin

CAMEROON

Title

Attitudes towards individuals, including LGBTIQ people, with Hepatitis B by the state and by society; access to support services; access to employment and to healthcare

Reference period

January 2019 to 23 January 2024

Topic(s)

1. [Attitudes towards individuals, including LGBTIQ people, with Hepatitis B by the state and by society](#)
2. [Access to support services](#)
3. [Access to employment and to healthcare](#)

Date of completion

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All sources used are referenced and cited in the bibliography section. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned COI methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive or conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

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COI QUERY RESPONSE – Cameroon

Attitudes towards individuals, including LGBTIQ people, with Hepatitis B by the state and by society; access to support services; access to employment and to healthcare

1. Attitudes towards individuals, including LGBTIQ people, with Hepatitis B by the state and by society

Information on attitudes towards individuals with Hepatitis B by the state and society was scarce among the sources consulted by the EUAA within the time constraints of this query. However, the following information may be relevant.

Sources dated from 2019 to 2023 reported that the prevalence of the population with Hepatitis B in Cameroon ranged between 8.3 % to 13%.¹

According to a 2020 hospital-based study in Bamenda Health District in the Northwest region, published by an online medical research journal called BMJ Open on the knowledge, attitude and prevalence of Hepatitis B (HBV) virus among healthcare workers, the percentage of healthcare workers having a ‘bad attitude’ towards HBV-infected patients was 32.2 %.² The highest amongst was amongst nurses at 38.8 %, whilst the percentage for medical doctors was 23.5 %.³ The study concluded that in healthcare the ‘level of stigmatisation’ of HBV-infected patients was ‘high’.⁴

Key findings from a 2019 qualitative study also published by BMJ Open, which covers the screening, diagnosis and care of Hepatitis B and C in Yaoundé, illustrated that patients are screened for Hepatitis B ‘at a time of great emotional and economic vulnerability’.⁵ Moreover, after the diagnosis the information and counselling is ‘limited’ and ‘patients report feeling

¹ VOA News, Cameroon Dispatches Healthcare Workers to Find, Treat Hepatitis Patients, 28 July 2020, [url](#); Gavi: the Vaccine Alliance, L'hépatite, l'épidémie cachée du Cameroun, 3 October 2023, [url](#); VOA Afrique, Dépistages gratuits de l'hépatite virale pour les femmes enceintes camerounaises, 3 August 2020, [url](#); Cameroon Info, Cameroun – Hépatites B, C et D: le Ministère de la Santé Publique annonce la baisse des tarifs des protocoles de prise en charge des patients, 13 May 2019, [url](#)

² Akazong, W.E. et al., Knowledge, attitude and prevalence of hepatitis B virus among healthcare workers: a cross-sectional, hospital-based study in Bamenda Health District, NWR, Cameroon, 18 March 2020, [url](#), p. 6

³ Akazong, W.E. et al., Knowledge, attitude and prevalence of hepatitis B virus among healthcare workers: a cross-sectional, hospital-based study in Bamenda Health District, NWR, Cameroon, 18 March 2020, [url](#), p. 6

⁴ Akazong, W.E. et al., Knowledge, attitude and prevalence of hepatitis B virus among healthcare workers: a cross-sectional, hospital-based study in Bamenda Health District, NWR, Cameroon, 18 March 2020, [url](#), p. 1

⁵ Chabrol, F. et al., Screening, diagnosis and care cascade for viral hepatitis B and C in Yaoundé, Cameroon: a qualitative study of patients and health providers coping with uncertainty and unbearable costs, 11 January 2019, [url](#), p. 1



alone, distressed and unprepared to cope with their infection'.⁶ The source further noted that patients diagnosed with Hepatitis B and C, 'struggle with out-of-pocket expenditures' concerning the number of tests and identification of treatments needed. The source noted that these costs are 'so exorbitant that many decide against clinical and biological follow-up' and for those that do pay, 'the consequences on their social and economic life trajectories are catastrophic'.⁷

2. Access to support services

Information on access to support services could not be found among the sources consulted by the EUAA within the time constraints of this query.

3. Access to employment and to healthcare

Information on access to employment could not be found among the sources consulted by the EUAA within the time constraints of this query.

Furthermore, information on access to healthcare was scarce among the sources consulted by the EUAA within the time constraints of this query. However, the following information may be relevant.

Related to the access of healthcare, a 2020 news article by Voice of America (VOA) News described that the Cameroonian government 'reduced the cost of treatment from \$250 per month to less than \$50' to 'encourage' patients to go to hospitals,⁸ whilst according to a 2023 article by Gavi, an international organization on vaccinations⁹, the cost of Hepatitis B drugs has been reduced by 60%.¹⁰ A 2019 local news article affirmed that as a result of a partnership between the Ministry of Public Health and pharmaceutical companies, the price for Hepatitis B therapy has decreased.¹¹ However, a 2022 local news article, indicated that the price for treatment of managing Hepatitis B, C and D, has almost quadrupled because subsidies from the state have ceased.¹²

⁶ Chabrol, F. et al., Screening, diagnosis and care cascade for viral hepatitis B and C in Yaoundé, Cameroon: a qualitative study of patients and health providers coping with uncertainty and unbearable costs, 11 January 2019, [url](#), p. 1

⁷ Chabrol, F. et al., Screening, diagnosis and care cascade for viral hepatitis B and C in Yaoundé, Cameroon: a qualitative study of patients and health providers coping with uncertainty and unbearable costs, 11 January 2019, [url](#), p. 1

⁸ VOA News, Cameroon Dispatches Healthcare Workers to Find, Treat Hepatitis Patients, 28 July 2020, [url](#)

⁹ Gavi is an international organisation – a global Vaccine Alliance, created in 2020 'bringing together public and private sectors with the shared goal of saving lives and protecting people's health by increasing equitable and sustainable use of vaccines'. Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, Our Alliance, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁰ Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, L'hépatite, l'épidémie cachée du Cameroun, 3 October 2023, [url](#)

¹¹ Cameroon Info, Cameroun – Hépatites B, C et D: le Ministère de la Santé Publique annonce la baisse des tarifs des protocoles de prise en charge des patients, 13 May 2019, [url](#)

¹² Data Cameroon, Hépatites Virales : Le Traitement Désormais Hors De Prix, 3 October 2022, [url](#)



Moreover, VOA News described that health workers from 360 government hospitals were dispatched ‘to track patients and ensure they get their treatments and vaccines’.¹³ Furthermore, persons diagnosed with hepatitis ‘prefer traditional treatments’ over treatment from a hospital. For instance, the source noted that a 52-year-old farmer, diagnosed with hepatitis, was ‘reluctant’ to visit a doctor because she was advised by her uncle to visit a traditional healer for treatment.¹⁴ In the same article, VOA news also stated that ‘despite the high rate of infection, the ministry says less than 1,500 Cameroonians are receiving treatment’.¹⁵

According to a 2020 research article titled ‘Hepatitis B testing, treatment, and virologic suppression in HIV-infected patients in Cameroon’ published by ‘BMC Infectious Diseases’, an online journal focusing on infectious and sexually transmitted diseases, nearly 40% of HIV/HBV co-infected patients did not receive the recommended treatment because ‘HBV testing in the routine healthcare setting was scarce’.¹⁶ The same source noted that based on the figures of the study figures ‘women are much more disadvantaged in terms of the possibility to have HBV testing as compared to men’.¹⁷

¹³ VOA News, Cameroon Dispatches Healthcare Workers to Find, Treat Hepatitis Patients, 28 July 2020, [url](#)

¹⁴ VOA News, Cameroon Dispatches Healthcare Workers to Find, Treat Hepatitis Patients, 28 July 2020, [url](#)

¹⁵ VOA News, Cameroon Dispatches Healthcare Workers to Find, Treat Hepatitis Patients, 28 July 2020, [url](#)

¹⁶ Liégeois, F. et al., Hepatitis B testing, treatment, and virologic suppression in HIV-infected patients in Cameroon, 15 January 2020, [url](#), p. 7

¹⁷ Liégeois, F. et al., Hepatitis B testing, treatment, and virologic suppression in HIV-infected patients in Cameroon, 15 January 2020, [url](#), p. 8

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ADDITIONAL SOURCES CONSULTED

Actu Cameroun; Africa News; Amnesty International (AI); Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD); Asylum Research Center (ARC); Cameroon Tribune; Canada - Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB); Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination; ECOI.net; European Union – EUAA COI Portal; Human Rights Watch (HRW); Journal du Cameroun; Ministry of Health – Cameroon; Pasteur Network, Refworld; United States Department of State (USDOS); World Health Organization (WHO);