



Center for Asian
Health Equity

Asian Health Coalition
University of Chicago Medicine

Asian Profile Series:

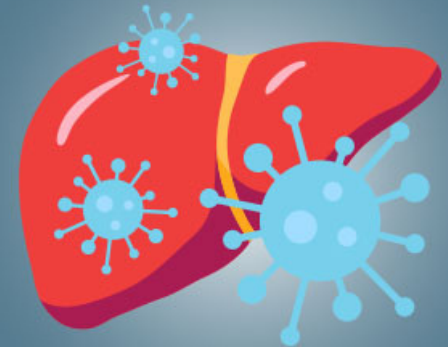
Mongolian Community Culture



The traditional practice of throat-singing originated among the indigenous Turko-Mongol tribes of the Altai and Sayan mountains of southern Siberia and western Mongolia. The region embraces many nomadic and seminomadic peoples who share the musical practice of using harmonically rich vocal timbres to communicate with both the natural and supernatural worlds. Communist regimes in the first half of the 20th century banned the traditional practice of throat singing, but it has since become re-established as a national art form in both Mongolia and Russia during the 1980s. Now, the tradition is taught in many schools, performed in theatres, and competitions.

Health

Mongolia has the highest rate of liver cancer in the world, in part due to the high rates of hepatitis B virus (HBV) or hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. While prevalence of HBV and HCV is high in Mongolia, recent immigration contributes to high rates in foreign-born Mongolian communities in the US. In a study of foreign-born Mongolian immigrants, 12.9% had chronic HBV and/or HCV infection, which is lower than the 19% prevalence in Mongolia but higher than the US rate. Screening, vaccination, and treatment programs in communities of recent Mongolian immigrants is needed to combat the risk of developing liver cancer.



Center for Asian Health Equity (CAHE) Spotlights

Community Partner

Mongolian Health Association of America



Mongolian Health Association of America (MHA) is a community based organization that serves the Mongolian community in Chicagoland area by providing health information resources. Because MHA has such an extensive reach within the Mongolian community, we partnered with them for our Chicago Asian Healthy Survey. MHA's tremendous work in surveying the Mongolian community residing in Chicago will help us understand the health of the Mongolian community in efforts to design health programs that will better support this community.

CAHE Staff

Alia joined the CAHE team in 2013 following her internship with Asian Health Coalition for her Masters in Public Health. Currently, Alia is the Chronic and Infectious Disease Program Director. She works with Community-based organizations such as MHA on creating and implementing culturally and linguistically tailored health programs such as Hepatitis B, providing outreach, education, screenings, and linkage to care to the communities.

