INTRODUCTION: About 350 million people worldwide are chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV). Hepatitis B hidden/occult (OBI) is characterized by the presence of HBV DNA in the liver (HBV DNA detectable or not in serum) in patients negative for HBsAg marker. Epidemiological studies of OBI in Riverside community are scarce in the literature and no research in these population are found in the State of Pará. This study aimed to determine the occult hepatitis B prevalence in Riverside community in Nazário, Barcarena/Pará/Brazil.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: Were selected 71 residents in riverside community, Nazário, located in the administrative area of Barcarena (PA), in 2014, age above 18 Years old, both genders, that had profile negative serological HBsAg and positive anti-HBc. All participants answered the Socio-Economic Questionaire and were collected blood samples for the realization of molecular assays.

RESULTS: Of the 71 patients analyzed, 71.83 % (51/71) were females and 28.16 % (20/71) were males. The age range was 18-77 years old (mean age 39.45 years). Were found 8.45% (6/71) patients with profiles hidden B hepatitis (HBsAg negative and positive PCR for HBV DNA). All patients, except one (1.40 %), were anti-HBs positive.

CONCLUSION: Were observed a prevalence of 8.45 % compared to the prevalence of hepatitis B hidden in Brazil (ranging around 10-19 %). Were found a low prevalence rate, however, of great importance for the epidemiological screening map in the region.

Keywords: Occult hepatitis B; PCR; Molecular Biology.