

Experience with an Influenza and Tdap Clinic as Part of Project Homeless Connect Omaha

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Purpose: As part of Project Homeless Connect Omaha 2016 (PHCO) held at Creighton University, pharmacy and nursing student / faculty / staff volunteers provided free immunization services. Immunization status screening, education, and promotion of optimal adult immunizations were provided, with Influenza and Tdap vaccinations given where indicated.

Design: Student volunteers screened clients to learn about prior immunizations, and conditions where additional vaccinations might be needed. Student Health volunteers utilized NESIIS (Nebraska State Immunization Information System) and IRIS (Iowa registry) to check for documented immunizations. Administered vaccines were entered into NESIIS. Where indicated, clients were offered a free Influenza and/or Tdap vaccination. Based on reported conditions (e.g., asthma, diabetes, etc.) or health behaviors (smoker), clients were also referred for additional immunizations. Charles Drew Community Health Center staff were available to make immunization appointments with clients.

Findings: Overall, 481 clients were seen at PHCO in 2016, with 386 clients receiving health services. Fifty-four clients received immunization services. Quadrivalent influenza vaccine was administered to 35, and Tdap to 45 individuals. Twenty-six received both vaccines, 9 influenza alone, and 19 Tdap alone. Clients were referred for pneumococcal and/or Hepatitis (A and B) vaccinations where indicated. Deficiencies in receipt of ACIP recommended vaccinations were common, based on self-reporting and Nebraska or Iowa immunization registry records.

Implications: Those seeking clinic services were typically under-vaccinated, based on screening. Volunteers provided two commonly recommended vaccines, and referred for other indicated immunization services. Such services have the potential to protect vaccinated individuals directly, while decreasing risk for disease spread among vulnerable homeless groups, as well as the larger Omaha population. Student, faculty and staff volunteers gained knowledge about the social determinants impacting this population, better understanding of their many challenges, and an opportunity to learn interprofessionally while fulfilling Creighton's mission of service to others.

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