

Title: Assessing self-reported vaccination status combined with immunization education and promotion over seven years of an annual African-American community health fair

Authors: Linda Ohri*[#], PharmD, MPH, Victor Padron, PhD, Candace Nakanishi, PharmD, Ted Kaufman, BS

Purpose: Operation Immunization (OI), a volunteer group with the Creighton University Pharmacy Program, partners with the Immunization Task Force (ITF) and the Black Family Health and Wellness Association to carry out immunization screening and education.

Design: The annual Black Family Health Fair (BFHF), located in a low income geographic area of Omaha, Nebraska, is predominately attended by African Americans (AAs). A standardized questionnaire is utilized to conduct a brief screening which identifies non-identifying demographic data, and documents the HF attendees' self-reported vaccination status. As the 2-4-minute screening is completed individualized immunization education is provided based on age and condition. Brochures and handouts are provided to supplement verbal education. A summary sheet is given and marked with suggested vaccines the individual should discuss further with their vaccine provider. Completed screening surveys are retained, with anonymous data recorded for descriptive analysis. Data were entered into Access and analyzed using SPSS, Version 23.

Findings: BFHF annual attendance over the period (2010-2016) covered by this report was typically 500-600, with about 80% being AA. Approximately half were 45 - 64 years of age and two-thirds were female. Data collected annually over 7 years of these events is compared to national immunization rates for AAs relative to Influenza, Pneumococcal, Tdap, Hepatitis, and Shingles vaccination status.

Implications: Reported immunization status data gathered annually with our standardized screening tool was relatively consistent over the reported years for sample groups screened from this AA population. There were trends toward increasing vaccination rates for certain vaccines. Rates were typically similar or higher compared to national rates for this population. Clear coverage deficiencies were also identified. Evaluation of local self-reported vaccination rates informs ongoing education initiatives targeted to this AA community. This activity also supports learning of public health practice by student volunteers