

Influenza and Tdap Clinic as part of a Maya Community Health Fair

Ohri LK, O'Brien KK, Beckner BC and Weston SR

Purpose: In early 2016, as part of a first Maya Community Health Fair for this large immigrant group, the Creighton University (CU) Pharmacy-based Operation Immunization (OI) volunteer group, partnered with volunteers from the Immunization Task Force – Metro Omaha (ITF). Free immunization services included status screening, education and promotion of optimal adult immunizations, with Influenza and Tdap vaccinations given where indicated.

Design: This Health Fair was sponsored by OneWorld Community Health Center (CHC), CU, the Maya Community Health Collaborative and Comunidad Maya, and was held at OneWorld CHC. NESIS and IRIS were utilized to check for documented immunizations; provided vaccines were added to these registries. Other free screenings and health education services were also provided, as well as brief communications with various medical specialists.

Findings: A total of 58 participants were screened, educated, and vaccinated. This included 23 (40%) males and 34 (59%) females. Participants ranged from 9 to 63 years of age. They were primarily foreign-born, with limited English language skills. Quadrivalent influenza vaccine was administered to 44, and Tdap to 37 individuals. Twenty-three received both vaccines, 21 influenza alone, and 14 received Tdap vaccine alone. Few in this relatively young group reported high risk conditions, or self-reported as smokers. Deficiencies in receipt of ACIP recommended vaccinations were common, based on self-reporting and Nebraska or Iowa Immunization Information System records.

Implications for Practice: This event was able to make two routinely indicated vaccines available to this under-served population. Patients were also provided guidance on where they might receive other indicated vaccines. Such services have the potential to protect vaccinated individuals directly, while decreasing risk for disease spread among both Maya and larger Omaha populations. Student and professional volunteers also gained knowledge and appreciation for this cultural community.