

Community-Academic Partnership to Improve Immunization Rates in an Underserved Population

Project: Overview

This project was designed to create a multi-level strategy to improve adult pneumococcal immunization rates in a high-risk, urban community.

Objective 1: Utilized CBPR methods to conduct focus groups with patients, providers, agency/public health staff and students

Objective 2: Used quality improvement (QI) methods to design and pilot a multi-level strategy improving immunization rates among patients served by an interprofessional free clinic

Objective 3: Used interprofessional team teaching methods to integrate health professions students into the project

Methodology

- **Phase I:** Using community based participatory research methodology, key background information was garnered from the community, providers and agencies helping to inform the decisions made in Phase II.
- **Phase II:** Integrated the efforts of students, faculty, community and agency, forming a Community Academic Partnership (CAP). Using health care quality improvement tools and processes, this team worked tirelessly to educate, screen and immunize those at risk for pneumococcal disease.

Results

- **Phase I:**

- Forged dynamic community-academic partnership (CAP)
- Gained knowledge of local beliefs, practices, facilitators, and barriers related to immunization across stakeholder groups
- Developed broader understanding of the local health system with regard to existing immunization services
- Identified local relationships and patterns of activity within community that can be utilized to improve immunization rates

- **Phase II:**

- In partnership with CAP, designed and piloted multi-level strategy which improved immunization rates among clients served by interprofessional free clinic in trusted community agency

Project Outcomes

- Process developed and implemented to screen and administer pneumococcal immunizations
- Student organization leadership positions created
- Connection to Impact SIIIS: Ohio immunization data base for 2 sites
- Processes for other vaccines developed for Charitable Pharmacy
- Certification of provider as American Pharmacists Association (APhA) certified trainer for Pharmacy Based Immunization Delivery program
- Community Academic Partnership formation and transition into sustainable structure
- Deeper connection to community including Regal Manor Senior apartment building and St. Joseph's Church parishioners
- Connection to Academic Health Center/UC Health for future community events

Numbers include:

- 60 Pneumococcal immunizations delivered to date
- 750 patients educated, screened,
- 341 health professions students trained