

Title of Intervention: Project VIP (Vaccinations are Important for Pre-schoolers)

Intervention Strategies: Campaigns and Promotions, Provider Education, Group Education, Environments and Policies, Individual Education

Purpose of the Intervention: To reduce barriers to immunization and increase immunization rates

Population: Pre-school-aged children and their parents

Setting: Two community health centers in an inner-city Latino neighborhood in San Diego; community-based, home-based, health care facility-based

Partners: Infant Immunization Initiative Advisory Committee, Head Start, Urban League, local libraries and parent groups

Intervention Description:

- Campaigns and Promotions: Bilingual materials, including posters, bumper stickers and refrigerator magnets, were distributed throughout the area by project volunteers.
- Provider Education: Health care providers attended continuing medical education series about immunizations.
- Group Education: Presentations were made to small groups at schools, Head Start, churches, prenatal classes and a variety of other community organizations about the importance of immunization.
- Environments and Policies: Free walk-in clinics were established in the area to offer free immunization services.
- Individual Education: Patient reminder/recall systems were implemented by healthcare staff at the walk-in clinics. Initially, a manual system was implemented but later a computerized system was utilized.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Bilingual interviewers, health care providers, community workers, community volunteers, education session leaders
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Computers, printers, computerized reminder-recall system
- Space: Walk-in clinic space, space for educational seminars
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Walk-in clinics at community health centers, postcard reminders, continuing medical and nursing educational series, bilingually campaign materials
- Evaluation: Spanish/English questionnaires, patient charts

Evaluation:

- Design: Pre- and post-evaluation
- Methods and Measures:
 - Household surveys established immunization rates and gathered information on demographics
 - Health care provider survey measured knowledge, attitudes and practices
 - Chart audits monitored immunization rates

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Providers who participated in education sessions raised their knowledge, attitudes and practices score after the project. Computerized reminders improved patient return rates for follow-up immunizations. The number of publicly provided shots in the intervention site increased significantly.
- Long Term Impact: The post-intervention vaccine coverage increased significantly.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: It is important to provide free and accessible transportation and client-friendly, daily walk-in immunization services in inner cities when it pertains to raising immunization rates. Additionally, a pleasant clinic environment and culturally sensitive staff are important for increasing follow-up immunization rates. Computerized tracking systems should be implemented by all immunization providers because they not only improve timely return rates, but can solve problems of parents forgetting to bring immunization records and provider errors in simultaneous administrations. Ongoing provider education with feedback is necessary for reducing clinical barriers that lead to missed opportunities to vaccinate.

Citation(s):

Waterman, S. H., L. L. Hill, et al. (1996). "A model immunization demonstration for preschoolers in an inner-city barrio, San Diego, California, 1992-1994." *Am J Prev Med* 12(4 Suppl): 8-13.