Promotion of Recommended Vaccinations at Head Start

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Population Health Clerkship
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Head Start

- A federally funded family-centered educational program that encourages early learning opportunities and promotes school readiness for children from birth to five years of age
- Provides education and health services, and advocates family well-being for children from low-income families

Objectives

- To evaluate recommended vaccination rates among students at Worcester Head Start programs
- To investigate common reasons for students not receiving recommended vaccinations
- To assess the social determinants involved in the completion of vaccinations

Service Project

- Herd immunity occurs when a sufficient portion of the population is vaccinated against a disease, which provides protection for non-vaccinated individuals
- Our team documented vaccine status and medical/religious exemptions at all Worcester Head Start programs for the 2016-2017 academic year

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccines</th>
<th># of Doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DTaP</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMR</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hib</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Any documented dose of seasonal influenza vaccine received between July 2015 and June 2016

Table 2. 2016 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children Up to 5 Years Old

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th># of Doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCV</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotavirus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Number of children enrolled at Worcester Head Start programs for the 2016-2017 academic year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th># Enrolled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greendale (GD)</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Swan A (MSA)</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Swan B (MSB)</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millbury Street (MI)</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrolled</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population

- Children (ages 3 through 5) enrolled at one of the four Worcester Head Start locations

Conclusions

- Vaccination coverage is above threshold to establish herd immunity against PCV, Hepatitis A, and Influenza, but not against Rotavirus
- Educating families about the importance of receiving recommended vaccinations along with required vaccinations may be enhanced by distributing a pamphlet with basic information about each of the 4 recommended vaccines

References


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