

Promoting Community Wellness through Flu Clinics in the Worcester Public Schools

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Mission

To promote the health of the Worcester community and prevent disease among Worcester's youth via leading groups of interprofessional volunteers in the Worcester Public School Flu Clinics. As Flu Clinic Team Leaders, our responsibilities included transporting materials to and from schools, setting up vaccination stations, overseeing medical and nursing student injectioners, collaborating with school nurses, screening for parental consent, administering shots, and more. Flu clinics were held at all 45 Worcester public schools. Together, we served as the Team Leader in 29 school flu clinics.

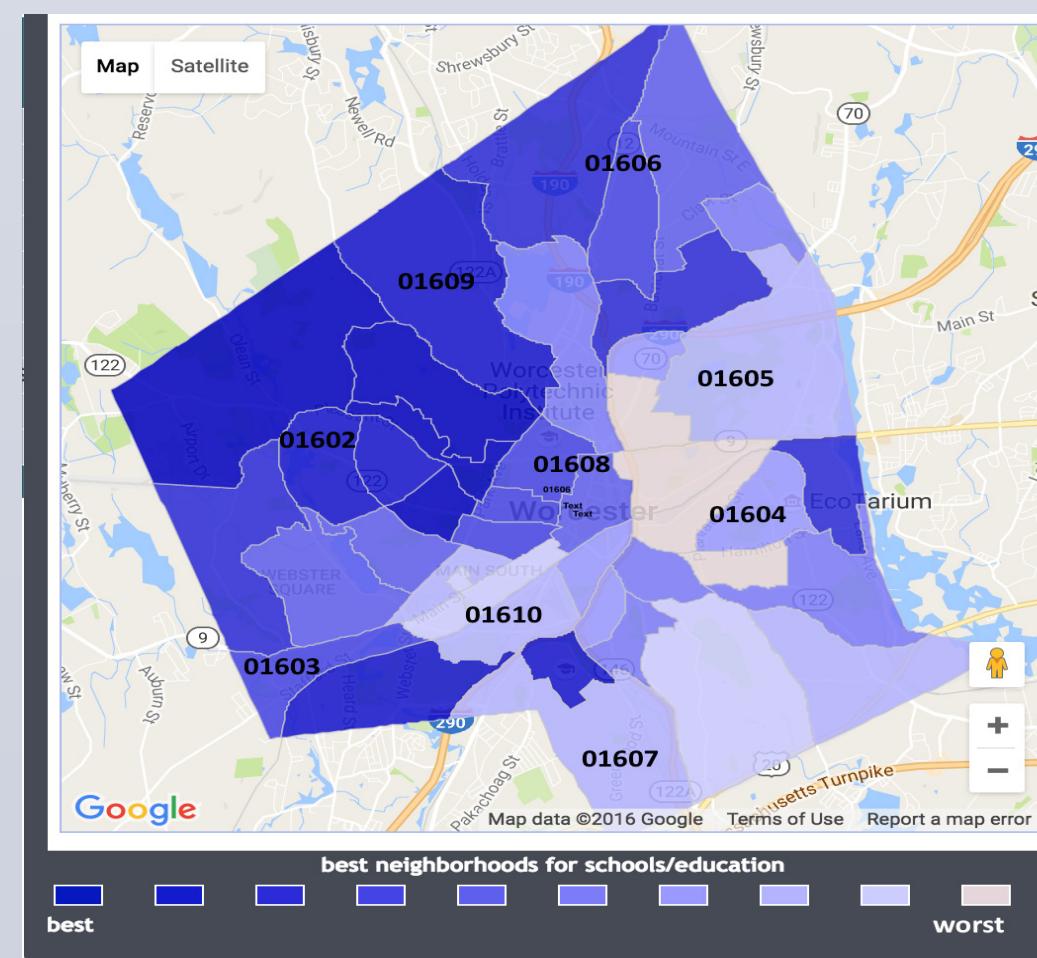
The Population of Focus: Worcester Public School Students

-Demographic Diversity: 38.1% of the students are Hispanic, 35.8% are Caucasian, 14.2% are African-American, 8.1% are Asian, and 3.5% are multi-racial.

-Linguistic Diversity: 44% of students speak a first language other than English, compared to 17% in the state as a whole.

-Socioeconomic Diversity: Over 75% of students are from low-income families, defined as families living below 200% of the national poverty line and are eligible for free or reduced lunches.

-Regional Diversity: Most children in the Worcester Public Schools attend school in the neighborhood where they live. Both the neighborhoods and the schools in Worcester vary significantly (Graph 1).



Graph 1. The best neighborhoods for schools and education in Worcester by zip code.

Goals, Progress and Outcomes

1. Improve vaccination rates among Worcester's Youth: eliminate barriers to ensure every child with a consent form on clinic day received a shot.

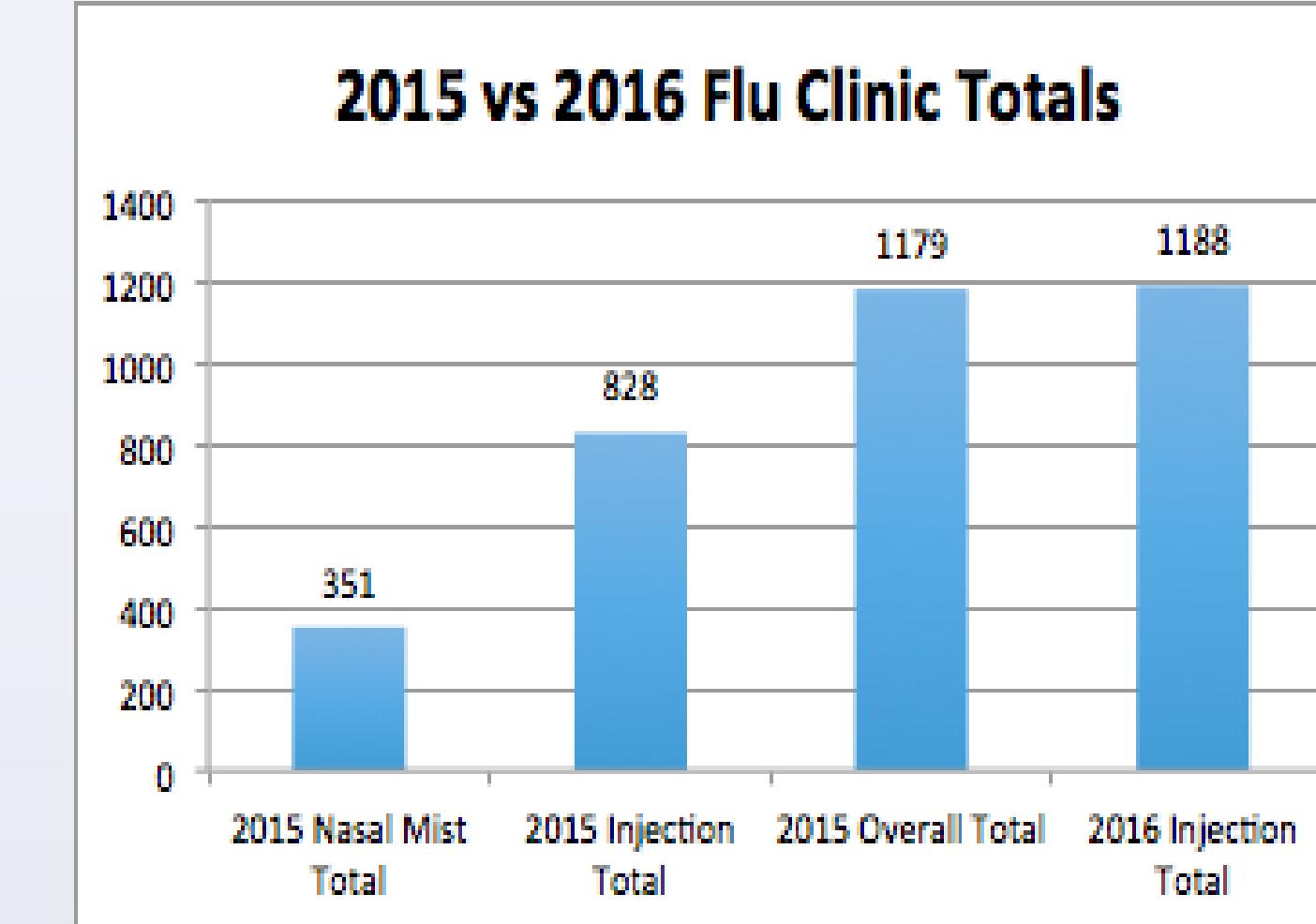


Table 1. Total number of Worcester Youth vaccinated in our clinics from 2015-2016. Nasal Mist was not offered in 2016.

2. Improve efficiency of flu clinics using feedback from the 2015 flu clinics

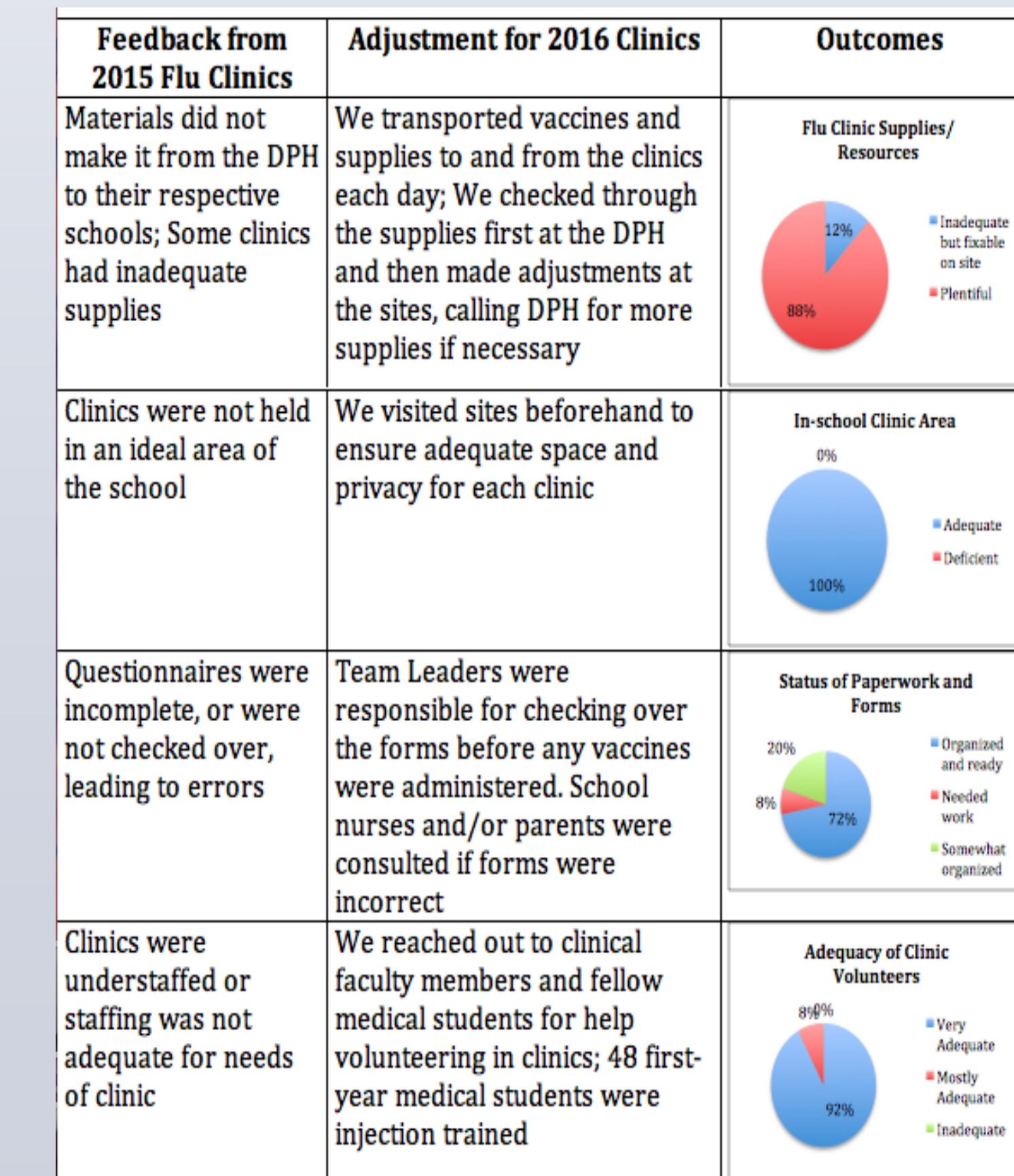


Table 2. Data collected from each of the 29 sites where we were Team Leaders.

Interprofessional Network

Our collaborators in the flu clinics included volunteers from:

- Worcester Department of Public Health
- Worcester Public School Nursing Staff
- UMass Medical School students and clinical faculty
- Nurses-in-training and their supervisors from Quinsigamond Community College, Becker College, Worcester State University
- Worcester Regional Medical Reserve Corps



Picture 1. Nursing students, medical students, and school nurses working together at the flu clinics.

Moving Forward

Take Away Points:

- Need for further outreach to promote uptake at flu clinics
- Unique character of each school and subsequent need for flexibility among members of flu clinic teams based upon variable circumstances and student populations
- Careful documentation helped identify possible areas for improvement at future clinics

Next Steps:

- Collaborate with outside groups such as the *Medical Interviewing in Spanish* OEE and the Caring for Youth With Autism PHC to enhance the experience for children with extra needs (Spanish speaking students, children with disabilities)
- Construct and distribute a list of "best practices" to our schools to improve efficiency and standardization

References

The Research Bureau. Worcester by the Numbers: Public and Charter Schools Report 14-01. January 2014.

Acknowledgements

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