

Promoting Community Wellness through Flu Clinics in the Worcester Public Schools

Colleen Gabel, Kevin O'Connor, Daniel Yang, Fatoumata Bah, Elisabet Qendro, Laura Burns

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Mission

“To promote the health of the Worcester community by providing free influenza vaccines to Worcester Public School students. 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, and administering vaccines. Flu clinics were held at all 45 Worcester public schools. Together, we served as the team leaders in 24 school flu clinics” (3).

Community Population: Worcester Public School System

Demographic Diversity (2015-16):

14.9% African-American, 7.5% Asian, 32.5% Caucasian, 40.8% Hispanic, and 4.1% multi-racial (1).

Linguistic Diversity (2015-16):

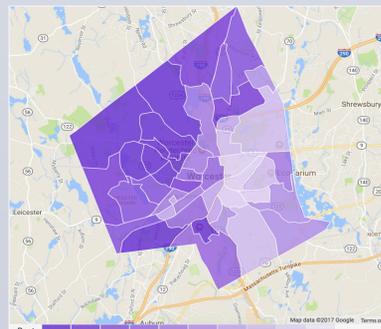
50.8% of students speak a first language other than English, compared to 19% in the state as a whole (1).

Socioeconomic Diversity (2015-16):

52% of students are defined as “Economically Disadvantaged” by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (1).

Educational Diversity by Region:

Most Worcester Public School children attend school in the neighborhood where they live. There is great variation in education between neighborhoods in Worcester, designated by zip code (Graph 1).



Graph 1. Educational quality in Worcester neighborhoods by zip code (2).

Goals, Progress and Outcomes

Goal: Improve WPS student vaccination rates and mitigate barriers to ensure that every consented child is able to receive a vaccine on vaccination day

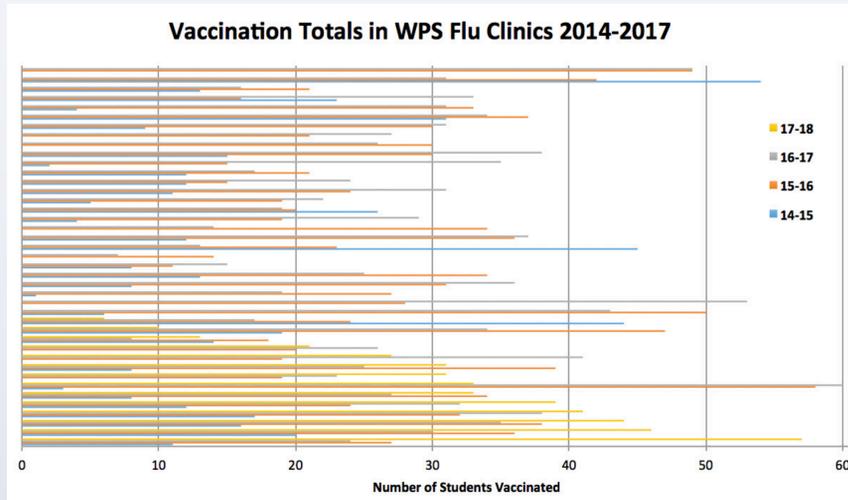


Table 1. Total number of Worcester students vaccinated in each school. 2017-18 data is incomplete due to ongoing clinics.

Goal: Identify opportunities for improvement in clinics to improve rates of vaccination and simplify efforts by nursing staff

Area of Improvement	Proposed Solution
Incomplete consent forms	Shorten forms, indicate double-sided paperwork, and clearly highlight the required fields
Distribution and timing of consent forms	Send forms to parents at least three weeks in advance of the clinic to allow for form return and nursing staff consolidation
Relying on single-stream form distribution to parents	Distribute forms at parent attended events, such as know-your-school night to streamline form return and reduce the risk of loss
Little to no reminders about the flu clinics	Call schools with an automated reminder message one week prior to the start of clinics, using the system already in place for weather cancellation

Interdisciplinary Team

Flu Clinic Collaboration:

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



Image courtesy of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Next Steps

Increase outreach to promote uptake at flu clinics

Homes should be reminded to give consent in the weeks leading up to the clinics and forms should be distributed three weeks in advance

Improve consent form format

Required fields should be clearly marked and translations should be available

Codify best-practices

Because of medical student involvement, responsibilities are passed down to new students each year. Team leader roles should be clearly documented to ease yearly transitions

References

- (1) Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Enrollment and Educator Data (2015-16 School Year). 2016.
- (2) Neighborhood Scout. Best Worcester Neighborhoods for Education. Accessed October 2017.
- (3) “Promoting Community Wellness Through Flu Clinics in Worcester Public Schools.” University of Massachusetts. 2016.

Acknowledgements

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