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 injectors, 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).

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

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

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

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

Interdisciplinary Team

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

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

(3) “Promoting Community Wellness Through Flu Clinics in Worcester Public Schools.” University of Massachusetts. 2016.

Acknowledgements

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