

# Chatham County Adolescent Immunization Improvement Project



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## Introduction

- In August 2017, the vaccination rates of adolescents in the Memorial Family Medicine Clinic for all CDC-recommended vaccinations were observed to be less than the state average and far less than the goals established by Healthy People 2020
- Chatham County Adolescent Immunization Rate Improvement Project was an initiative of the Memorial Health Savannah Family Medicine Residency Program to increase the rates of immunization for the adolescent population served within our family medicine clinic and the homeless adolescent population in Chatham County, Georgia

## Background Data and Goals

- Primary Metrics
  - Tdap (ages 11-18) – increase rates by 10%, from 68% to 75%
  - HPV 1<sup>st</sup> dose (ages 11-21) – increase rates by 10%, from 78% to 86%
  - HPV 2<sup>nd</sup> dose (ages 11-21) – increase rates by 10%, from 42% to 46%
  - MEN ACWY (ages 11-16) – increase rates by 10%, from 70% to 77%
  - Men A Booster (ages 16-21) – increase rates by 10%, from 20% to 22%
- Involve all 18 residents in the Family Medicine Residency in each aspect of the project including increasing clinic vaccination rates, vaccinating homeless adolescents, and educating the adolescent population in Chatham County
- Use new partnership with local FQHC (JC Lewis Primary Health Care Center) and Homeless authority to vaccinate homeless teenagers through twice weekly continuity clinic and weekly street medicine clinics at local homeless camps
- Provide individual education to area adolescents regarding the importance of vaccines through existing relationships providing sports medicine to athletic departments at local high schools

## Methods

- The project unfolded in three phases: Education, Implementation, and Outreach
- Education:
  - Generation of an initial immunization rate report from the Georgia Registry of Immunization and Transaction Services (GRITS)
  - Education of residents and clinic staff addressing knowledge deficits regarding CDC guidelines
  - Training for standing order protocols
- Implementation:
  - Initiation of standing order protocol in Family Medicine Clinic
  - Direct contact with Family Medicine Clinic patients ages 11-18 identified as “behind” on any adolescent vaccinations to schedule a nurse visit for vaccines
- Outreach
  - Provision of vaccines for unvaccinated or undervaccinated homeless adolescents encountered through weekly homeless street medicine clinic or twice-weekly FQHC continuity clinic
  - Direct Education of Chatham County adolescents regarding vaccinations through sports medicine injury clinics and pre-participation physical

## Best Practices

- Use of Standing order protocols with clinic staff
- Regular reassessment of progress and discussion of progress with staff in daily, weekly, and monthly time increments
- Utilization of state reporting databases
- Standardization of education practices inside and outside of the clinic (i.e. talking points for education)
- Leveraging of pre-existing relationships to achieve project goals when faced with obstacles to initial plans

## Outcome Data

VACCINES	August 2017-December 2017	January 2018-April 2018
<b>Tdap (11-18 y.o.) 1 dose. Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis.</b>	68 Percent (%)	89 Percent (%)
	1071/1575 Numerator/Denominator	827/933 Numerator/Denominator
<b>HPV – first dose (11-21 y.o.) 1<sup>st</sup> dose in series of Human Papillomavirus.</b>	78 Percent (%)	78 Percent (%)
	1335/1575 Numerator/Denominator	725/933 Numerator/Denominator
<b>HPV – second dose (11-21 y.o.) 2<sup>nd</sup> dose in series of Human Papillomavirus</b>	42 Percent (%)	60 Percent (%)
	662/1575 Numerator/Denominator	564/933 Numerator/Denominator
<b>MenACWY (11-16 y.o.) 1 dose of meningococcal polysaccharide (MPSV4) or meningococcal conjugate (MCV4)</b>	70 Percent (%)	88 Percent (%)
	1103/1575 Numerator/Denominator	820/933 Numerator/Denominator
<b>MenACWY Booster (16-21 y.o.) 1 dose of meningococcal polysaccharide (MPSV4) or meningococcal conjugate (MCV4)</b>	20 Percent (%)	28 Percent (%)
	135/677 Numerator/Denominator	113/398 Numerator/Denominator

## Future Impact

- Through the project, residents, medical students, and clinic staff have attained the following valuable skills that will impact them in their current practice as residents and beyond as they transition to permanent roles in new communities upon graduation from residency:
  - Creation and implementation of standing orders
  - Effective education of clinic staff with varying degrees of medical knowledge and clinical experience
  - Utilization of state reporting databases to assess clinical effectiveness and identify opportunities for improvement for the practice as a whole
  - Development of relationships with key community organizations/stakeholders in an effort to address public health needs outside of the walls of the clinic