



Research Week 2021

The First Two Years of An Interprofessional, Student-Run Vaccine Clinic for Underserved Populations: Challenges and Outcomes

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Abstract

Objectives

- Describe the challenges and outcomes of the first two years of student-run vaccine clinics.
- Summarize ways students from various health professions' programs can collaborate to provide public health interventions for vulnerable populations.

Background

Bridges Collaborative Care Clinic (BCCC)

Student-run clinic with faculty and community oversight with mission to engage houseless populations by providing low-barrier, participant centered care/services in Portland Metro area.

Transition Projects, Inc (TPI)

Community organization serving houseless population that provides our medical, dental, and vaccine clinics with space for serving participants.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Government agency that oversees health programs in Oregon and provides vaccine infrastructure and maintains patient records for our vaccine clinics.

Immunization Program Established in 2019

Interprofessional effort amongst schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, and Dentistry that capitalized on Oregon House Bill 2220 in 2019 that added the prescription and administration of vaccines into a dentist's scope of practice.

Methods

Our program expanded from 2 vaccine clinics in 2019 to 4 vaccine clinics in 2020; one vaccine clinic in 2020 was held at a motel shelter opened specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic. We utilized volunteers from the schools of Medicine (administrative), Pharmacy (patient education), Dentistry (vaccine administration), and Nursing (vaccine administration) to ensure services were provided in an efficient and timely manner for participants. In 2019, 11 volunteers assisted in our efforts, and in 2020, 19 volunteers assisted with our efforts.

In 2019, 31 participants were vaccinated and 41 doses were administered (22 influenza, 14 hepatitis A, 5 Tdap). In 2020, we expanded our vaccine offerings to include pneumococcal, hepatitis A/B, and hepatitis B, and 47 participants were vaccinated and 78 doses were administered (38 influenza, 12 Tdap, 12 pneumococcal, 9 hepatitis A/B, 4 hepatitis B, and 3 hepatitis A).

Discussion

Role of Interprofessional Experiences

BCCC continues to seek opportunities to pool the contributions of students from different disciplines to create comprehensive and responsive public health interventions. Being able to train dental students alongside nursing students to administer vaccines can help Oregon to capitalize on preventive health efforts through continued collaborative vaccine administration.

Responsiveness to COVID-19

In coordination with faculty, our leads were responsive to emerging guidelines and secured appropriate PPE for students and faculty.

Challenges for Our Student-Led Clinics

Our vaccine clinics were dependent upon the Oregon Health Authority to store and transport vaccines as well as to maintain patient records in the ALERT Immunization Information System.

Future Directions

Expand Number of Clinics and Services Offered

- Acquire COVID-19 vaccines for participants.
- Host a vaccine clinic at all TPI shelters in 2021.

Establish Permanent Vaccine Infrastructure

- Locate appropriate space for vaccine storage.
- Purchase medical grade refrigerator, freezer, and transport cooler.
- Maintain patient records in-house via the ALERT Immunization Information System.

Create Sustainability within Vaccine Program

- Develop protocol that includes:
 - Points of contact for TPI and OHA.
 - Strategies for volunteer and faculty recruitment.
 - Supplies needed for clinics.
 - Vaccine clinic workflow.
 - Record keeping instructions.
- Recruit new vaccine co-lead.