

National Adult Immunization SUMMIT

Adult Vaccination: What Works

Name of the Organization:

Michelle Flaig, RN, Employee Health Nurse, Nix Health, San Antonio

American Nurses Association Immunization Champion Winner

What We Did and When:

Over five years, **Michelle Flaig, RN**, more than doubled the seasonal influenza vaccination rate for staff at Nix Health in San Antonio, Texas, through outreach and education initiatives. For her leadership in protecting health and promoting vaccination, Flaig has been named as one of two winners of the quarterly American Nurses Association's (ANA) Immunity Award. Flaig began working as an employee health nurse in the human resources department at Nix in 2005. In her first year, only 35% of Nix staff received a free influenza vaccination. Flaig discovered that many employees were concerned that a vaccination would cause influenza. She embarked on an educational effort to dispel myths and reduce fear, recruited nurses to assist in offering vaccinations, and instituted "roving immunization carts." By 2009, in the midst of the H1N1 pandemic, 72% of Nix employees received separate vaccines for H1N1 and seasonal influenza. In 2010, 76% received the influenza vaccination and for 2012 we have achieved a current acceptance of 99%.

Outcome or Results We Got:

This program resulted in a large increase in vaccination coverage of employees, from 35% in 2005 to 76% in 2010. The number of employee sick call-ins because of flu-like symptoms declined by 85% from 112 to 16 between 2005 and 2010.

About Our Organization:

For over 80 years, **Nix Health** has been a leader in providing comprehensive medical services to South Texans. Nix brings together the finest physicians, latest technology, and unrivaled staff to offer truly unfragmented and comprehensive care. Nix offers a variety of quality medical services such as inpatient and outpatient medical services, behavioral health, physical rehabilitation, and home care services.

About the ANA Immunization Champion Awards: This award comes from the American Nurses Association's project titled "Bringing Immunity to Every Community." This collaborative project between ANA and CDC seeks to maximize the role of nurses in increasing vaccination rates and reducing incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases. ANA represents the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent and state nurses associations and its organizational affiliates.

Our Organization's Website/Resources/Contact Information:

<http://www.anaimmunize.org/Main-Menu-Category/Policy-and-Advocacy/ANA-Immunity-Award/Immunization-Champions-Garner-ANAs-National-Immunity-Award.pdf>