

National Adult Immunization SUMMIT

Adult Vaccination: What Works

Name of the Organization:

- **Washington State Department of Health**, Office of Immunization & Child Profile
- **Washington State Pharmacy Association (WSPA)**.

What We Did

In January 2012, with funding from the Adult Immunization Prevention and Public Health Fund Grant, the Washington State Department of Health and the Washington State Pharmacy Association partnered, with the goal of increasing adult immunization rates through expanding the role of pharmacies in providing adult vaccines in their communities.

Increasing the use of the Washington State Immunization Information System (registry) by pharmacists was one of the objectives. Washington providers are not required to use the registry to report vaccines, so an approach based on education, benefits and directly asking pharmacies to use the registry was important. The effectiveness of our approach relied on the relationships that the WSPA had with the pharmacies to know who to contact and how to shape the education and request. Providers, including pharmacies must have a signed user agreement with the department in order to input or export data from the registry, or for pharmacy employees to obtain individual logins.

1. WSPA staff reached out to leaders within chain pharmacies to provide education about the registry and an invitation to report vaccines to the system, mainly through data uploads from the pharmacy system to the registry.
2. WSPA staff provided education to independent pharmacy owners through traditional immunization education, articles, emails, and faxes to educate them about the registry and invite them to connect to it.
3. Provide education to individual pharmacists about benefits of using the registry as well as how to use the registry.
4. Facilitate resolutions to barriers with reporting immunizations within the pharmacies and at the state.

Outcome or Results We Got:

Note: This project is still currently underway; therefore the data reported does not reflect the completed intervention.

- The number of pharmacy user agreements has gone from 10 to 27. The 27 user agreements represent 59% of all community pharmacies in Washington State.
- Four large chain pharmacies had user agreements prior to the start of this work, but they were not regularly submitting data to the registry. Two of the largest of these four chains are now reporting vaccines to the registry, and WSPA is working with the other two. One large chain went from 828 uploaded immunizations in the year prior to the grant work to 147,044 immunizations submitted to the registry in the last 6 months alone. 42% of community pharmacies in Washington are now reporting their immunizations to the registry.
- Ongoing steps for this project include working to get more frontline pharmacists individual logins for the registry, and increasing the number of pharmacies reporting vaccines to the registry.

About Our Organization:

Washington State Department of Health programs and services help prevent illness and injury, promote healthy places to live and work, provide education to help people make good health decisions, and ensure our state is prepared for public health emergencies

The Washington State Pharmacy Association exists to advocate on behalf of its members to ensure pharmacy professionals are recognized, engaged and valued as essential to the healthcare team.

Contact Information:

The Washington State Pharmacy Association <http://www.wsparx.org> Jenny Arnold, PharmD, BCPS at jenny@wsparx.org

The Washington State Department of Health : <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Home.aspx>

Marci Getz at marci.getz@doh.wa.gov