



Development of Resources to Increase Adult Immunizations in Community Health Centers through Learning Communities

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THE NACHC MISSION

America's Voice for Community Health Care

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) was founded in 1971 to promote efficient, high quality, comprehensive health care that is accessible, culturally and linguistically competent, community directed, and patient centered for all.



NACHC's STRATEGIC PILLARS

1



Equity and Social Justice

Center everything we do in a renewed commitment to equity and social justice

2



Empowered Infrastructure

Strengthen and reinforce the infrastructure for leading and coordinating the Community Health Center Movement, notably consumer boards and NACHC itself

3



Skilled and Mission-driven Workforce

Develop a highly skilled, adaptive, and mission-driven workforce reflecting the communities served

4



Reliable and Sustainable Funding

Secure reliable and sustainable funding to meet increasing demands for Community Health Center services

5



Improved Care Models

Update and improve care models to meet the evolving needs of the communities served

6



Supportive Partnerships

Cultivate new and strengthen existing mutually beneficial partnerships to advance the shared mission of improving community health

To learn more about NACHC's Strategic Pillars visit <https://www.nachc.org/about/about-nachc/>

Exploring Adult Immunization Programs in FQHCs: 2018-2024 Participating Organizations



90+ health centers, networks and PCAs

5 year funding for Adult Immunizations

Timeline: 2018 to 2024

Year 1:

Co-design & Launch
Leverage results from
2018 **Vaccination
Capacity Inventory of
Community, Migrant,
and Homeless Health
Centers**

4 Health Center-
Controlled Networks

Year 3:

Introduction of
Informatics team,
quality
improvement
focused data
collection

Year 5:

Standards of Adult
Immunization
Practice focus and
Sprint-structure
projects

Year 2:

COVID Pandemic &
Vaccine Hesitancy
*Addition of 4 HC
pharmacy teams*

Year 4:

Innovation: start of
Vaccine
Ambassadors,
Messaging Matters,
and Human-
Centered Design
projects

Year 6:

Working Group
Deep Dive: Standing
Orders and
Documenting
Declinations
Wrapping Up &
Developing
Resources

Exploring Adult Immunization Programs in FQHCs: 2018-2024

[J Public Health Manag Pract.](#) 2020 Mar; 26(2): 139–147.

Published online 2019 Sep 4. doi: [10.1097/PHH.0000000000001073](https://doi.org/10.1097/PHH.0000000000001073)

PMCID: PMC6989343

NIHMSID: [NIHMS1046554](#)

PMID: [31490854](#)

Research Full Report

Vaccination Capability Inventory of Community, Migrant, and Homeless Health Centers: A Survey Report

[Joy H. Lewis](#), DO, PhD, FACP, [Kate Whelihan](#), MPH, CPH, [Debosree Roy](#), PhD, [Earla J. White](#), PhD, MEd, RHIA, [Christine Morgan](#), EdD, [Rupal S. Vora](#), MD, FACP, [Kimberly R. Boyle](#), MBA, [Corey Luebbering](#), BS, [R. Curtis Bay](#), PhD, and [Megan C. Lindley](#), MPH

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Strategies to Address
Policy Barriers to Adult
Immunizations in Federally
Qualified Health Centers



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Strategies to Address Policy Barriers to Adult Immunizations in Federally Qualified Health Centers



JANUARY 2024

A white paper that explores the key policy factors affecting immunization programs in community health centers, from the CHC 330 Grant, to FTCA, Medicaid, Medicare and everything in between.

Both barriers and solutions are included.

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After exploring the role of Vaccine Ambassadors (CHWs, MAs, Nurses) over 2 ½ years, a guide was developed to provide key tips to consider when starting a similar program. The Ambassadors themselves co-designed this tool!

More tools to come!

Human Centered
design approaches
to increasing
vaccine access

Building the
Business Case for
Adult
Immunizations

Partnerships to
increase vaccine
access

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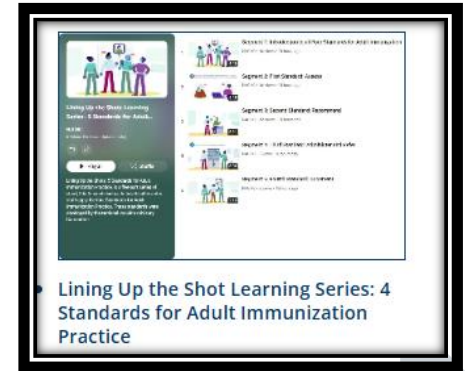
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Standards for Adult Immunization Practice Learning Community Year 5



Assess: Assess the immunization status of all patients at every clinical encounter.



Recommend: Share a strong recommendation for vaccines patients need.



Administer & Refer: Administer needed vaccines or refer to a provider who can immunize.



Document: Document vaccines administered or received by your patients.

Health centers applied the Standards for Adult Immunization Practice (the Standards), developed by National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC)

The Standards served as a framework to assess and identify interventions to improve adult vaccine coverage in health center served communities

Learning Community Activities Year 5

Chart Audits

Purpose

Understand how well patient chart documentation demonstrated adherence with the Standards

Impact

- Identified gaps in workflows
- Illuminated chart documentation variation among staff
- Highlighted areas for improvement and intervention
- Deemed “the most beneficial aspect of the project” to reveal gaps in vaccine workflows

Standards Assessment Tools

Purpose

Understand how workflows and operational policies follow the Standards

Impact

- Provided a baseline for health centers to compare their practices to the Standards
- Served as a gap analysis to identify areas of improvement
- Facilitated conversation across health centers on common challenges and effective strategies

Recommend Survey

Purpose

Understand how health center staff address patient vaccine hesitancy

Impact

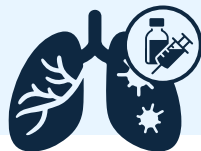
- Identified which vaccines are considered most challenging across health centers
- Showed a need for resources and training to support staff
- Gathered insights on strategies used to recommend vaccines to adult patients

Vaccines Commonly Selected for Intervention AND LESSONS LEARNED

Pneumococcal

Number of Health Center Interventions: 17

- When vaccines have updated, complex guidelines, care team members need continuous education
- Apps, such as the PneumoRecs app, can assist care team members navigate complex triaging, however, this functionality is needed in EHRs



Covid

Number of Health Center Interventions: 13

- Intervention results showed that there is vaccine fatigue among patient populations, making it challenging for health centers to get vaccine uptake for COVID-19



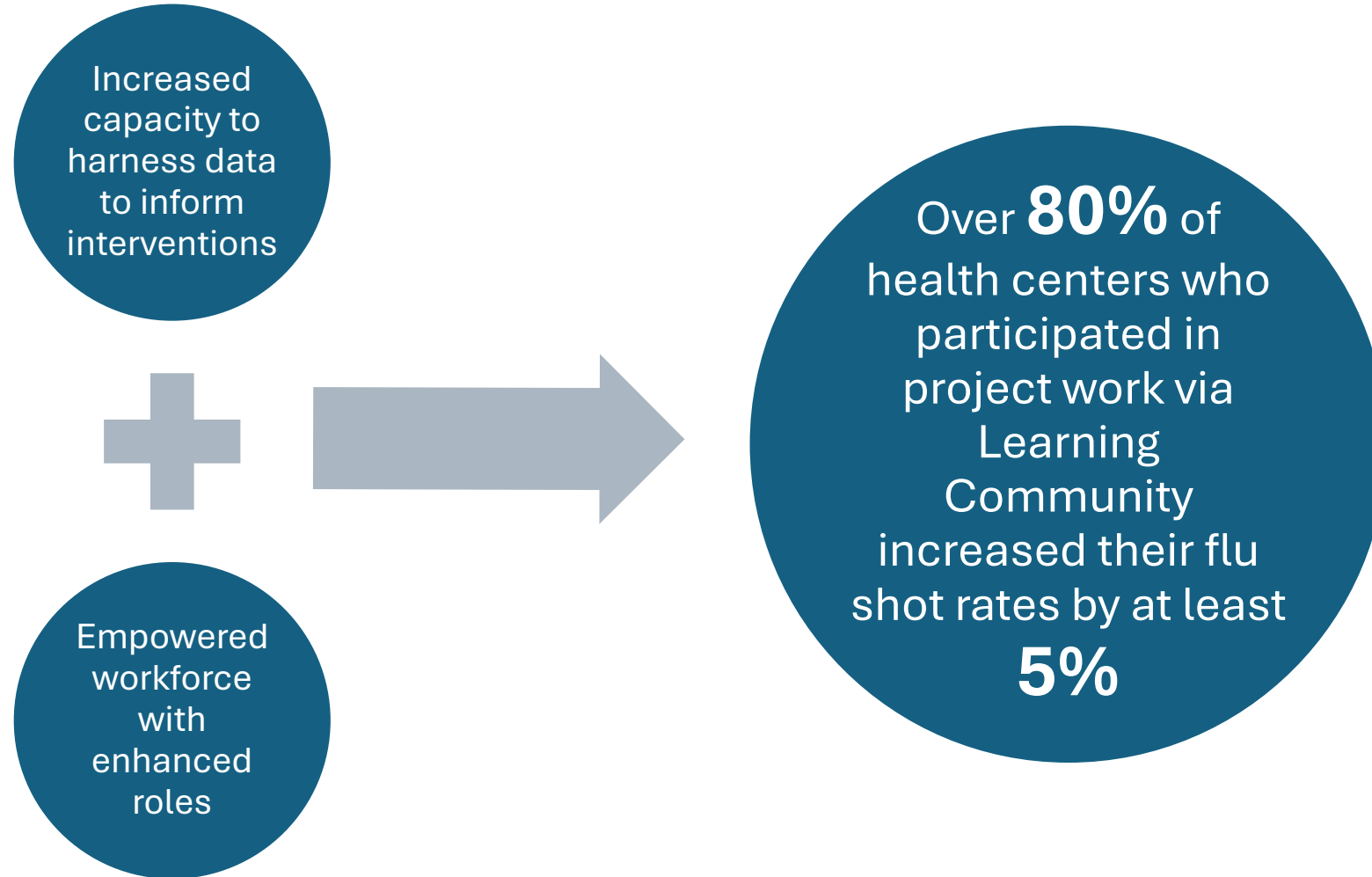
Influenza (Flu)

Number of Health Center Interventions: 10

- Standing orders can streamline immunization workflows, but require continuous monitoring
- Staffing shortages and turnover make it challenging to maintain staff competence



Year 5 Outcomes





- ▶ **Lining Up the Shot Learning Series: 4 Standards for Adult Immunization Practice**

A five-part series of 3 to 5-minute videos that can help health center staff apply the four Standards for Adult Immunization Practice developed by the National Vaccine Advisory Committee.

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Year 6: Spread and Scale

- Adult Immunization Working Groups → Deeper dives into gaps:
 - Standing Orders
 - Documenting Declinations
- Adult Immunization Curriculum: *Standards for Adult Immunization Practice: Optimizing Immunization Programs in Health Centers*
- “Capstone” Publications
- Leveraging findings and stories from the field to inform policy

Get ahead of this
respiratory virus season:

**Standards for Adult
Immunization Practice:
Optimizing Programs
in Health Centers**

Click to take this 1-hour,
interactive training
at your own pace



NACHC has been working side by side with health centers to improve the delivery of adult vaccine services at health centers, with the goal of reducing disparities among underserved adult populations.

By exploring and updating the implementation of the Standards for Adult Immunization Practice, NACHC and health centers are identifying best practices around people, processes, technology and policy that can facilitate increased vaccine access, equity and uptake.

We encourage all staff members to take this new interactive course on how to optimize adult vaccine programs at your health center. 1.0 CME for learners who complete the course and short assessment. [Register for free](#)

Resources for Health Centers (and their partners)



<https://www.nachc.org/topic/adult-immunizations/>

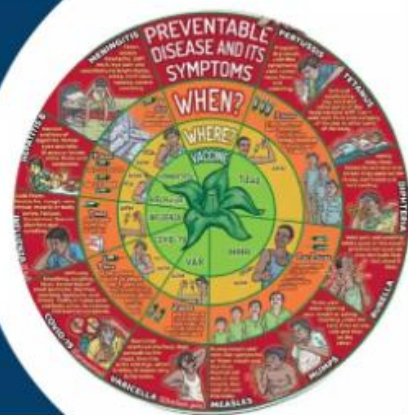


- Lining Up the Shot Learning Series: 4 Standards for Adult Immunization Practice

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www.n



Publications

OBJECTIVE

Near term view: Develop manuscripts to share current insights (below)

Long term view: Incorporate publication plans into future partnerships and data collection design

Near term

“Foundational” Adult Immunization Intervention

- Audience: Clinical administrators
- Focus: Descriptive of overall 6-year adult immunization learning community intervention and quality improvement activities

Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

- Audience: Clinical administrators
- Focus: Qualitative analysis of factors contributing to vaccine hesitancy within patient populations and among health center staff

Long term

Leveraging Health Center Staff to Expand Access

- Audience: Pharmacy, Primary Care
- Focus: Experience and benefits of utilizing pharmacists to expand access to adult immunizations

Automating Compliance with Clinical Guidelines

- Audience: Informatics
- Focus: Determine an impact on immunization rates by configuring health IT functionality (e.g., CDS, standing orders) to improve use

QUESTIONS?

Email Sarah Price
sprice@nachc.com

Learn more about the Health Center
Movement at healthcenterinfo.org

