

National Adult Immunization SUMMIT

Adult Vaccination: What Works

Name of the Organization:

Wake County Human Services /Wake County Health Department

Raleigh, North Carolina

What We Did

Wake County Human Services (WCHS) became concerned about the unmet vaccination needs of its first responders and public safety personnel due to a reported increase in the incidence of pertussis disease in the community. The Immunization Tracking Team at WCHS was also struck by the opportunities for outreach, and the opportunity to work with the collaborative-minded EMS in their county.

The WCHS/EMS collaboration provided Tdap vaccine at locations and work sites throughout the county, and added seasonal Flu immunization to their services when supplies became available.

The Collaboration educated a large number of first responders and public safety personnel about the importance of getting Tdap vaccinations using the following methods:

- Staff education through county-wide email messages concerning importance of Tdap vaccination and location/dates/times of upcoming clinic events
- Televised segment concerning Tdap was shown on 'Wakegov TV'
- Featured Tdap immunization prominently on the county website: wakegov.com
- In person/telephone consultation by request and available at all clinical sites
- Utilized the NC Immunization Registry (NCIR) to assess immunization compliance
- Provided Tdap information as part of an educational in-service to Wake County Child Development Centers' Directors meeting.

The Immunization Tracking Team oriented participating EMS personnel to the mass immunization clinic environment, and they, in turn provided both education and immunization services to the following entities: Wake County Government staff, Wake County Sheriff's Department, EMS, municipal fire departments and police, State Employees Wellness Expo and Community Health Screening Day

Following this effort, the group expanded their outreach and services to the general public.

Outcome or Results We Achieved:

- The WCHS/EMS outreach collaboration provided 1,850 doses of Tdap (20%) of the 9,000 doses provided by WCHS between May and December 2012.
- The WCHS/EMS outreach collaboration provided 1,200 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine to staff and the public as part of the 10,500 total doses administered during the 2012/13 season.
- Outreach efforts provided access to immunization services for personnel working shifts or located in outlying areas of the county that may have otherwise been unable to receive their immunization during regular clinic hours. EMS personnel made visits to Fire and Police departments throughout the county to provide opportunities for immunization to staff during late afternoon and evening shifts.
- As a direct result of the educational event targeting Child Development Center Directors, some centers reported that they had initiated a Tdap immunization mandate for staff at their facilities.

About Our Organization:

Wake County Human Services is a consolidated agency, located in the 2nd largest county in population in North Carolina. There was strong leadership and support for immunizing from their Health Director, Sue Lynn Ledford, who sits on the NC Immunization Coalition and represents the Local Health Department Directors' Association on the coalition. Wake County EMS Chief Skip Kirkwood and his department provided a skilled team with strong ties to first responder and public safety personnel

Our Organization's Website / Resources / Contact Information:

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