

# What Works

## To Improve Adult Immunization

### What They Did:

### Results:

The Minnesota Immunization Networking Initiative (MINI) started in 2006 as a group of organizations dedicated to increasing access to flu vaccination. Their constituencies are largely minority and underserved populations in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. For the last nine years, MINI has worked to provide free flu shots to people who might not otherwise have access.

MINI partners include Fairview Health Services, Homeland Health Specialists, Inc., St. Mary's Health Clinics, Stairstep Initiative, American Indian Community Development Corporation, Open Cities FQHC, and River Valley Nursing Center. They represent community-based and faith-based organizations, as well as groups that serve Native Americans, African American and other ethnic communities.

MINI's formula is to offer vaccinations in trusted settings such as faith or community centers and to schedule these services at a time when people are in the facility for another reason.

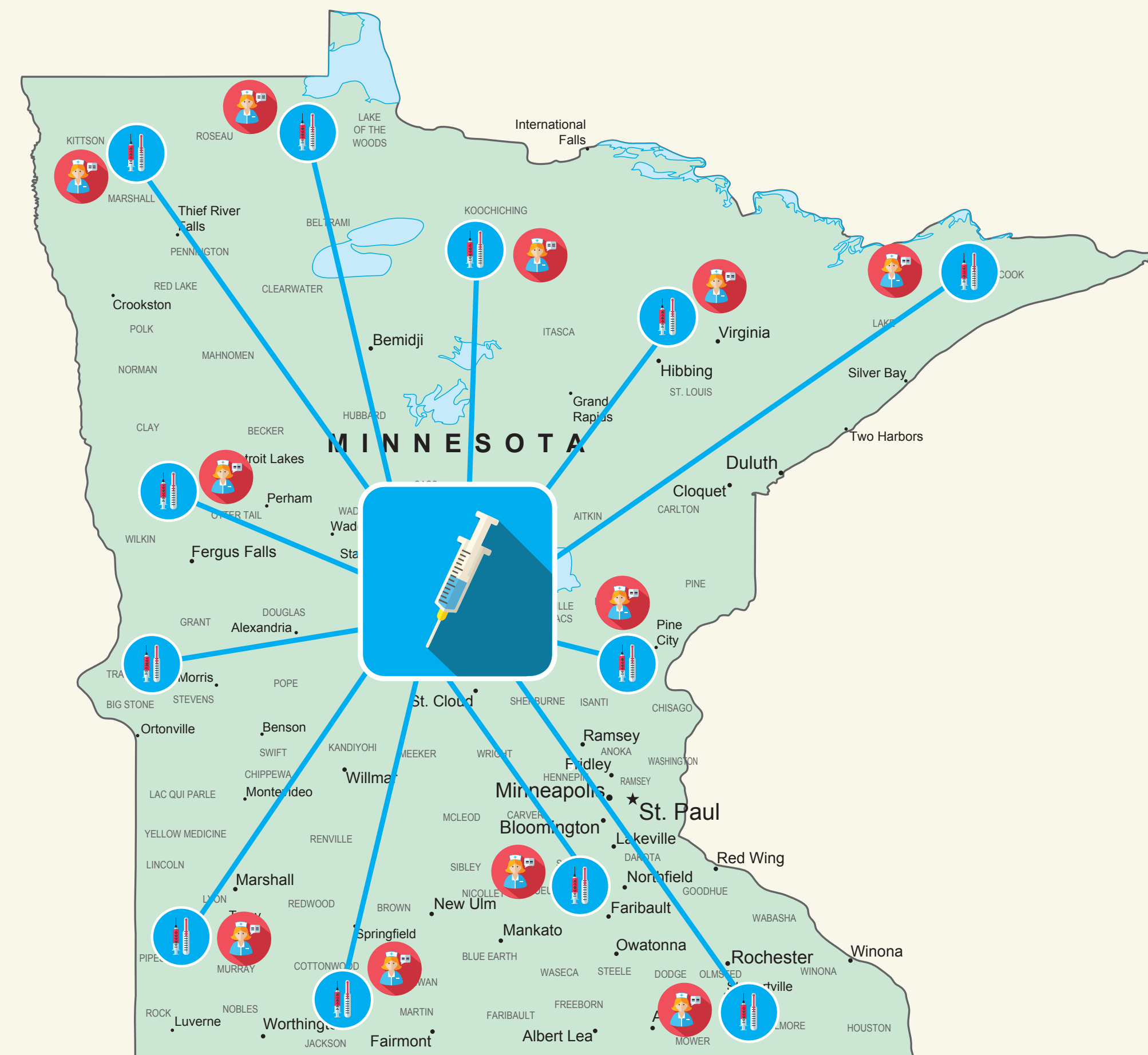
MINI's formula is also about building trust.

Often faith leaders endorse vaccination by getting vaccinated in front of their congregants. Trust in their leadership encourages people to consider getting vaccinated themselves.

This approach has helped overcome many barriers such as access, scheduling conflicts, transportation, trust deficits in the government and medical profession, and lack of health insurance.

Over the past decade, MINI has further refined their procedures and protocols to make immunization clinics work more smoothly. With each successive year, MINI partners find new ways to make immunization services more accessible.

### Minnesota Immunization Networking Initiative: Building Trust as a Powerful Resource



MINI has demonstrated that by partnering with and cultivating the trust of faith-based and community-based organizations, they can reach at-risk, vulnerable populations.

- In 2013–2014, MINI held 147 multi-culture clinics and provided 8,743 flu immunizations at no cost.
- Since 2006, MINI has immunized more than 60,000 people. 13% of those served received a flu shot for the very first time.
- Records of all vaccinations are submitted to the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC).
- Populations served included: Asian (Hmong, Vietnamese, Burmese, Chinese) - 37%; Latino - 36%; Caucasian - 10%; African (Somali, Ethiopian, Liberian) — 7%; African American — 7%; Native American - 2%; Multi-racial - 2%, Unspecified - 4%.
- The majority (45%) were between the ages of 19–44; 25% were between the ages of 45–64.
- 134 volunteer vaccinators participated during the 2013–2014 season, many working multiple clinics. They reported high satisfaction with the experience.

Since 2006, the MINI partners have maintained their commitment and developed greater efficiencies, believing that “none of us can do this alone.”

MINI has become a trusted agent within the community. They are usually invited to return to provide vaccination clinics year after year. “Trust” is an essential component of this sustained community effort.



For more information: <http://miniprojectmn.weebly.com/index.html>

This “What Works” vignette is one in a series of examples collected by the Provider Workgroup of the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit. For more information or to nominate an example of “what works” to improve adult immunization, go to <http://www.izsummitpartners.org/>. This vignette does not constitute an endorsement from any of the organizations that participate in the Provider Workgroup or the NAIS.

