

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM SURVEY- Maternal and Child Health

Contact Information

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Short Title: School based immunization catch up program for high school seniors

Program Location: USA, Providence, Rhode Island

Objectives and Goals:

Vaccinate Before You Graduate (VBYG) is a free adolescent vaccination “catch-up” program for 12th grade students in Rhode Island schools. The program offers the opportunity for students to receive new vaccines and “catch-up” on vaccinations they may have missed. Our goal is to assist the medical community to ensure that all high school seniors are fully immunized against vaccine preventable diseases.

The program was launched in 2001 in response to many adolescents in Rhode Island who did not have all of their vaccines currently recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. This is both because of newly available vaccines and new recommendations made to the childhood vaccination schedule.

Methods:

By working with school systems we attempt to reach the majority of youth while they are still enrolled in school and eligible for free vaccine through the state’s Vaccine for Children’s Program. We maintain a great working relationship with our School Nurse Teachers. We also hired a wonderful vendor to administer the program. (The Wellness Company). The Wellness Company has been a partner in the successful evolution of VBYG and its growth from 30 schools in 2001 to over 79 schools in 2009.

Program Length:

September- June: Immunization Clinics

July-August: Summer immunization catch up clinics

Number of target population reached by effort:

2007-2008 DATA

1,505 students enrolled in the program

1,459 students received one or more immunizations

4,143 shots administered

Demographic Info:

Vaccinate Before You Graduate is offered to every school throughout the state of Rhode Island. VBYG is offered to all schools that have students in grade 12 or age appropriate students. Schools represent a rich variety of public, private, independent, and special needs schools

Overall Cost:

\$165,000

Funding Sources:

100% Federal

Outcomes:

VBYG is now finishing its seventh year, and has vaccinated over 11,000 twelfth grade students in 79 schools. In 2007-2008 we vaccinated over 1500 students in 69 high schools and administered 4,143 shots. Data for this past school year not available at this time.

Did you make any estimates regarding costs deferred, outbreaks averted or deaths prevented?

No

Additional Information:

Vaccinate Before You Graduate offers a one to one relationship between each school nurse teacher and The Wellness Company. (vendor) The Wellness Company employs three veteran nurse coordinators and several *per diem* nurses. Due to the high cost of vaccines we collect insurance information from students in order to bill for the cost of the shot administration only. If a student does not have insurance or the insurance does not cover immunizations, there will be no charge. Under no circumstances will a student be asked to pay, and no student will be turned away for lack of insurance information.

Future Plans:

Vaccinate Before You Graduate will provide services for the upcoming school year (2009-2010). We will offer an expanded influenza program to all students in participating schools starting this fall.