

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM SURVEY- Influenza

Contact Information

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Short Title: Adult Immunization Program

Program Location: Rhode Island, USA

Objectives and Goals:

Rhode Island's groundbreaking adult influenza immunization program initiative was developed in response to legislation passed in 2006 mandating the Department of Health implement an adult immunization program.. The primary goal of the program is to increase immunization rates across the state leading to the outcome of preventing influenza-associated morbidity and mortality.

Methods:

IFL is modeled after Rhode Island's universal vaccine program for children birth - 18 years of age. The childhood program provides all vaccines recommended by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to health care providers at no cost to providers. Eliminating cost as a barrier to immunization through a universal vaccine policy has contributed to Rhode Island's high immunization rates among children. Our hope was that the adult flu immunization program would result in a similar outcome, and eventually expand to include other vaccines recommended for adults to be given in their medical home. Work on this pilot program began in 2006 to garner the support among the health plans, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. All health plans that write health or accident policies for beneficiaries in Rhode Island were assessed a fee to cover the purchase of influenza vaccine and the administrative costs of the program. In early 2007, influenza vaccine was pre-booked and the enrollment and ordering website was developed. A flu advisory committee was established with members representing a cross-section of all the state's adult care providers. With their input, the Department of Health decided on an official flu vaccination state date of October 17, 2007. A distribution contract was developed and implemented with a local distributor and providers received information and instructions for enrollment and ordering.

Program Length: 2006- ongoing.

Number of target population reached by effort:

The IFL program targets all Rhode Islanders 19 years of age and older who want to avoid getting influenza with special emphasis on high-risk individuals such as those ≥ 65 years, all adults with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women and health care workers.

412 enrollees in 2007, 461 enrollees in 2008

Demographic Info:

Influenza vaccine is provided to all Rhode Islanders who want to protect themselves against influenza. In addition, federal funding is used to purchase influenza vaccine for uninsured individuals who cannot afford to pay. This vaccine is distributed to community health centers and minority health centers.

Overall Cost:

Program Element	Projected Cost (\$)
One, full-time Adult Immunization Program Manager	100,000
Part of a Quality Assurance Specialist (60%)	35,000
Part of a Vaccine Manager (10%)	10,000
Software Development and Maintenance	65,000
Vaccine Distribution Contract	65,000
Mailings	3,000
Vaccine Costs	
Influenza vaccine costs (Health Plan Assessments)	1,800,000
Vaccine for Uninsured (CDC 317 funds)	60,000

Funding Sources:

____ 5% ____ % Federal
 ____ 95% ____ % State

Outcomes:

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey data reported that the influenza immunization rate for ≥ 65 years and older increased from 74.7% to 80% in 2008.

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

No estimates of this nature have been made yet.

Additional Information:

Future Plans:

The adult immunization program has been expanded in 2009 to include the provision of pneumococcal vaccine to providers enrolled in the program.