



# Fall 2018 Flu Shot Clinic: Lessons Learned in Pediatric Vaccination in New Orleans, LA



Paige Guillory, Saman Kamal, Tim Harmon, Alyssa Cruse

## Background: NOWCS Outreach & SRHC

The New Orleans Women and Children's Shelter (NOWCS) Outreach Program, is a student-run initiative that makes healthcare and health education more accessible to the residents of the New Orleans Women and Children's Shelter. They host sessions at the shelter 3x/month.

- Recent topics: oral health screenings, CPR and first aid, breast cancer education, eating healthy on a budget, sex education, fitness classes, and medication usage.

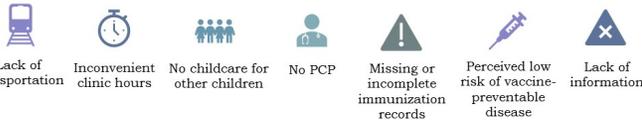
The LSU Student Run Homeless Clinics are a volunteer organization through LSU School of Medicine that serves 2 shelters in the New Orleans area.

- Weekly student-run clinics that provide physical exams, medications, flu shots, HIV/Hep C testing, and PPDs

## Flu Shot Clinic at NOWCS

- Without access to vaccines, the children at NOWCS remain susceptible to disease while living in a high-risk environment.
- Without complete vaccination records, children cannot attend school.
- In 2018-19, 143 children died from the flu nationwide and only 56.5% of children in Louisiana were vaccinated against the flu
- We selected flu shots for our pilot vaccine program at NOWCS because it is a yearly-needed vaccine

## Barriers to Vaccination in our Population



## Objectives

- Vaccinate all resident children for influenza
- Log their vaccine into LINKS and provide vaccine records for school use
- Identify missing vaccines and refer to a PCP

## Preparation



### NOWCS LOGISTICS

- Louisiana Office of PH donated 100 flu vaccines!
- Supplies: Syringes, needles, alcohol swabs, gloves, band-aids, sharps containers
- Registered NOWCS as a clinic site with LINKS: Louisiana Immunization Registry
- Supervising Pediatrician was confirmed



### SRHC Volunteer Training

- Mandatory for new volunteers
- Vaccine administration station was run by a SRHC Board member
  - Safe needle disposal precautions
  - Sanitation of patients and volunteers
  - How to draw up vaccines from a vial
  - How and where to administer vaccines

## Flu Shot Clinic Workflow Methods



**CDC VIS form:** required before giving a vaccine

**NOWCS Outreach Vaccine consent form**



**SRHC Volunteers** administered vaccines using our guideline sheet for dosing and location based on age.



Children were enrolled in **LINKS**, vaccine records were updated and printed, and referrals were made to **Tiger Care**.



## Results

- 21 children vaccinated for influenza**
  - Age range: 7 months to 14 years
  - 2 children opted out
  - 3 children received boosters in December 2019 for 1<sup>st</sup> time flu shots
- All children registered or updated LINKS records
- All families received printouts of LINKS records and this current vaccine proof
- Any child with incomplete records was referred to Tiger Care (LSU Pediatric Resident Clinic) for follow-up

## Lessons Learned

- Lesson 1: Empower patients with knowledge**
  - Give parents the space to ask questions and express concerns about vaccine safety before administering them
  - Discuss risks and benefits of vaccines
  - Reiterate importance of vaccination
- Lesson 2: Document everything**
  - Provide families with proof of vaccination for school, employment, and primary care records
  - Record vaccine administration in state registries (LINKS)
  - Document number of vaccines and ages for future funding
- Lesson 3: Connect patients to primary care to complete vaccines**
  - Impractical and expensive to stock vaccine vials for other childhood vaccines
  - Establish care with PCP to follow consistently and maintain records

## Next Steps

- 2019-2021:**
  - Continue to hold annual flu vaccine clinics
  - Maintain NOWCS as a LINKS site
  - Continue to refer to Tiger Care for PCP and vaccine completions
  - Host a "Ask a Doc" panel with LSU Pediatric residents
- Future Goals**
  - Start a SRHC satellite location at NOWCS
  - Offer sick visits for common childhood illnesses
  - Offer flu and expand to offer HPV vaccines

## References

- Anderson EL. Recommended solutions to the barriers to immunization in children and adults. *Mo Med*. 2014;111(4):344-348.
- Ventola CL. Immunization in the United States: Recommendations, Barriers, and Measures to Improve Compliance. Part 1: Childhood Vaccinations. *P T*. 2016;41(7):426-436.
- Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>. Published December 6, 2019. Accessed December 10, 2019.

## Acknowledgements

- We would like to thank Dr. Tina Ginaldo & Louisiana Office of Public Health for their support and for providing the vaccines for this project. We would also like to thank our advisors, Dr. Donna Williams and Dr. Jaime Alleyn. We would like to thank the Student Run Homeless Clinic leaders and student volunteers who helped put on the clinic. Most importantly, we would like to thank the shelter staff and residents at NOWCS for their support and participation in our program.