



# From Start To Finish: Running A Successful Large Scale Immunization Clinic



Lori Candela, RN, EdD, FNP-BC, CNE  
Associate Nursing Professor  
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Susan Brooks, MS, PNP  
Founding Director  
Helping Kids Clinic

William Emmerling, EdD, ThD, DD, FNP-C  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Helping Kids Clinic

## BACKGROUND

The nurse practitioner run clinic provides free health care, including immunizations to uninsured and underinsured children in Southern Nevada. The state ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation for number of children fully immunized. The clinic has provided up to 3,000 immunizations/ week at locations across the community. One stop alone provides immunizations for up to 700 infants, children, and adolescence.



## SETTING

Immunization clinic sites vary: department stores, school auditoriums, recreation centers, and fire departments.

## POPULATION

The clinic serves a very diverse population; approximately 80% Hispanic; 12% African American; 3% Asian; and 5% Caucasian.



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The clinic manages a large scale mobile clinic in stages. Stage 1: initial contacts with the local immunization coalition, area schools, or fire departments to determine the need and logistics (date/ location) for the clinic. Advertising is completed through local radio, newspaper, and flyer announcements. Stage 2: recruiting volunteers & arranging for vaccines/ supplies. Stage 3: day of the clinic: traffic management, screening, safety checks, assuring privacy, data entry. Stage 4: debriefing.



## RESULTS / LESSONS LEARNED

In 4 years, the clinic has provided care to 27,600 patients and administered 40,800 immunizations. Next to state-run agencies, the clinic is now the largest provider of immunizations in the state. One of the biggest lessons learned is how to keep safety at a maximum while moving large crowds through the clinic by the use of four safety" check points". The need for organization and pre-planning for large scale immunization clinics is imperative so that patients, families, and staff experience a smooth process from start to finish.