

# Immunization Need Assessment and Intervention Strategies Within a Community College Population

## WHAT WAS LEARNED

61% of surveyed community college students were unaware of recommended vaccinations for their age.

### BACKGROUND

Currently the rate of adult immunization is less than 70%. Immunization requirements for U.S. secondary educational institutions vary. The only legislated immunization for college students enrolled in non-health science curricula in Texas is the meningococcal vaccine. Lack of access to health care, preventive screenings and receipt of recommended immunizations pose a health risk not only to individual students but also to the college population and community.

### OBJECTIVES

- The purpose of this project was to gather baseline data regarding immunization knowledge and immunization rates among community college students.
- Secondary goals include development of interventions to increase the percentage of students receiving all recommended immunizations.

### METHODS

- Descriptive study
- Voluntary convenience sample
- 10 item survey was delivered to 536 students at an eastern Texas community college in the spring of 2010.



### INTERVENTIONS

- Current assessment is in process to determine the need for an on-campus healthcare clinic
- Use of social media to meet the immunization learning needs of this population. A Youtube video musical parody “Bad Virus” is in production.

### RESULTS

Question	Results	Male	Female	Frequency
Are vaccines up-to-date?	Missing	2	1	0.5%
	Yes	128	312	82%
	No	10	13	4.3%
	Uncertain	40	31	13.2%
Do you know what vaccines you should have for your current age?	Missing	1	5	1%
	Yes	66	138	38%
	No	65	128	36%
	Uncertain	48	86	25%
Where would you go first to find information regarding vaccines?	Missing	6	2	1.5%
	HCP	85	233	59.3%
	Family	57	32	16.6%
	Internet	28	56	15.6%
	Other	4	34	7%
Have you received an influenza (flu) vaccine within the past year?	Missing	2	5	1.3%
	Yes	74	204	51.8%
	No	94	136	42.9%
	Uncertain	10	12	4%

### DISCUSSION

Young adults are at risk for lack of access to healthcare, lack of medical insurance and the burden of chronic disease. Suboptimal immunizations levels within the college population pose several potential threats including failure to achieve academic success. Knowledge regarding why adults do not receive immunizations may improve immunization rates within this population. Assessment of vaccine coverage levels along with administration of recommended vaccines are simple cost-effective interventions to promote health within this population. Further research is needed related to college student health and evidence-based interventions.