



Vaccinations Administered During Off-Clinic Hours at a National Community Pharmacy: Implications for Increasing Patient Access and Convenience

Adam Cannon, MPH; Michael Taitel, PhD; Leonard Fensterheim, MPH;
Zhongwen Huang, MS; Yubei Lou, PhD; Jeffery Goad, Pharm. D., MPH

Presented at the 2012 National Immunization Conference,
March 26-28 2012



Vaccinations Administered During Off-Clinic Hours at a National Community Pharmacy: Implications for Increasing Patient Access and Convenience

Adam Cannon, MPH;¹ Michael Taitel, PhD;¹ Leonard Fensterheim, MPH;¹ Zhongwen Huang, MS;¹ Youbei Lou, PhD;¹ Jeffery Goad, Pharm. D., MPH¹

1. Walgreens, Deerfield, IL 2. University of Southern California, School of Pharmacy, Los Angeles, CA

Background

- Approximately 50,000 adults die annually from vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States. Although childhood rates of vaccination are relatively high, most adults are not vaccinated as recommended, leaving them vulnerable to illness and death.¹
- While most traditional clinic-based providers administer vaccinations during routine business hours,² community pharmacies offer expanded hours that allow patients to receive vaccinations at more convenient times.

Objective

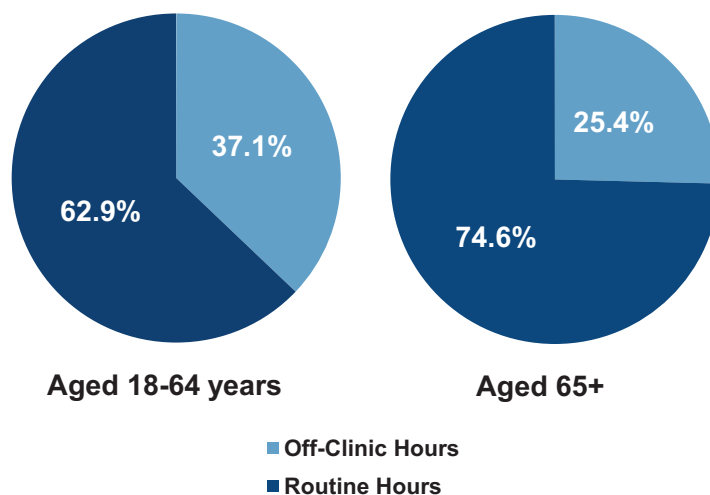
To examine patient populations receiving vaccinations during off-clinic hours in a national community pharmacy and its implications for increasing patient access and convenience.

Methods

- All claims for vaccinations administered at a national community pharmacy from August 2010 to July 2011 were analyzed.
- The time of vaccination was categorized as routine (9am to 6pm weekdays) or off-hours, consisting of weekdays 6pm to 9am, weekends, and federal holidays.
- Demographic characteristics were described.

Results

Age Distribution of Patients Receiving Vaccinations During Off-Clinic and Routine Hours



References:

1. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Immunizations Overview. 2012; <https://www.cms.gov/immunizations/>. Accessed January 16, 2012.
2. Schoen C, Osborn R, Huynh PT, Doty M, Peugh J, Zapert K. On the front lines of care: primary care doctors' office systems, experiences, and views in seven countries. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. Nov-Dec 2006;25(6):w555-571.
3. Molinari NA, Ortega-Sanchez IR, Messonnier ML, et al. The annual impact of seasonal influenza in the US: measuring disease burden and costs. *Vaccine*. Jun 28 2007;25(27):5086-5096.

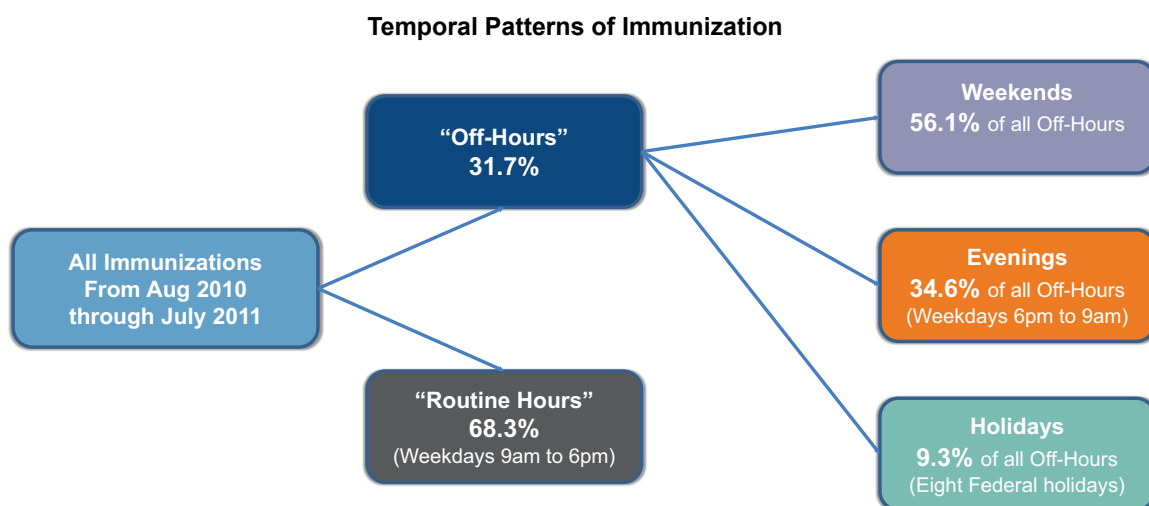


Vaccinations Administered During Off-Clinic Hours at a National Community Pharmacy: Implications for Increasing Patient Access and Convenience

Adam Cannon, MPH;¹ Michael Taitel, PhD;¹ Leonard Fensterheim, MPH;¹ Zhongwen Huang, MS;¹
Yubei Lou, PhD;¹ Jeffery Goad, Pharm. D., MPH¹

1. Walgreens, Deerfield, IL 2. University of Southern California, School of Pharmacy, Los Angeles, CA

Results (continued)



- During the study period, there were 6.3 million vaccinations administered at the pharmacy to patients with a median age of 62; of these 92.1% were for influenza and 7.9% were for other vaccine-preventable diseases such as pneumonia, shingles, and meningitis.
- Approximately 31.7% of all vaccinations were provided during off-hours: weekends (56.1%), evenings (34.6%), and holidays (9.3%). Of the 44.2% of patients over 64 years of age and the 53.0% who were 18-64 years, 25.4% and 37.1%, respectively, received vaccination during off-hours.

Conclusions

- Results demonstrate that a large proportion of community pharmacy patients receive vaccinations during evening, weekend, and holiday hours when traditional vaccine providers are unavailable.
- Nearly half of the patients vaccinated were seniors with a quarter of those visiting during off-clinic hours, likely for convenience.
- Lastly, more than half of the vaccine recipients were of working age with nearly a third getting vaccinated during off-clinic hours, potentially minimizing disruptions in work schedules and ultimately decreasing illness, absenteeism, and presenteeism.³



Adam Cannon, MPH;¹ Michael Taitel, PhD;¹ Leonard Fensterheim, MPH; ¹ Zhongwen Huang, MS;¹

Youbei Lou, PhD;¹ Jeffery Goad, Pharm. D., MPH²

1. Walgreens, Deerfield, IL 2. University of Southern California, School of Pharmacy, Los Angeles, CA

For more information about this presentation, please contact: michael.taitel@walgreens.com