



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

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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.

Objectives

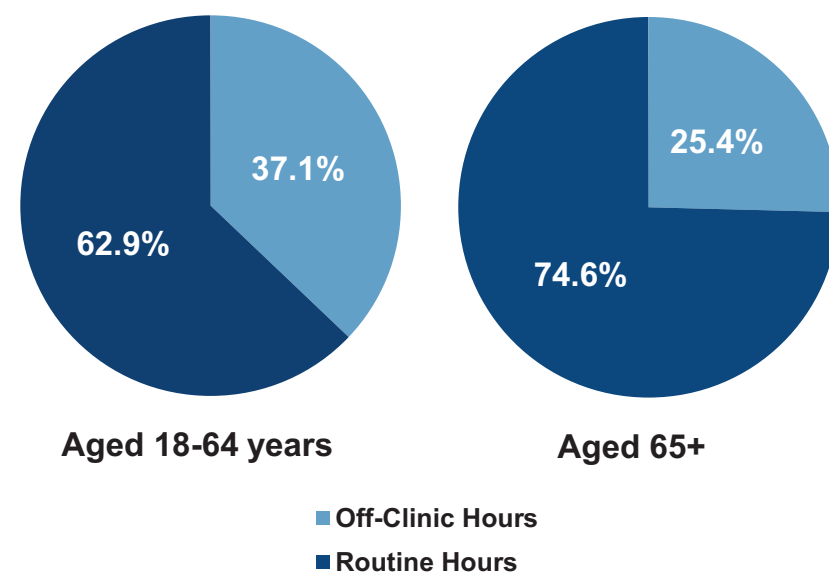
To examine patient populations receiving vaccinations during off-clinic hours in a national community pharmacy and its implications for increasing patient access and convenience.

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.

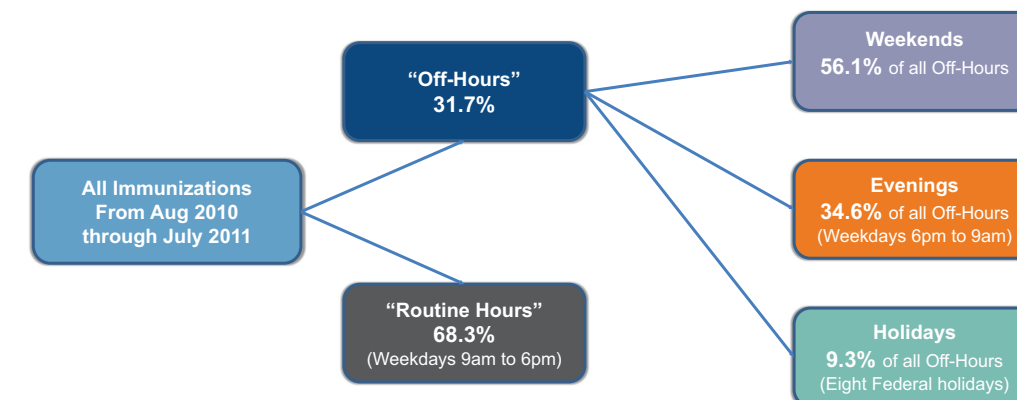
Results

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



Results (continued)

Temporal Patterns of Immunization



- 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