

Increasing Access to Vaccination: Extended Hours Program



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Background

Every year Texas public schools require children to receive vaccinations based upon age and grade-level entry. While this creates an environment that protects children against vaccine-preventable diseases, parents face many barriers to having their children vaccinated, including cost of the vaccine and time and travel to local clinics.

Population

The target population is school-aged children within a five mile radius of the GIC.

Interventions

- The GIC's hours of operation were extended by 10 hours throughout the week from July – October 2011.
- A survey was used to collect data on the demographics of the children whose parents utilized the extended hour appointments and the motivation for why the parents chose to attend the extended hours clinic, and preferences for future extended hours.



Needs Assessment

- The Goodwill Immunization Clinic (GIC) is surrounded by almost 60 schools from four different school districts.
- A quarter of the population surrounding the GIC consists of school-aged children.
- There are a high number of employed residents and single-parent households around the GIC.
- The GIC is one of only two vaccination clinics located in the general proximity of the north central and northwest sides of town serving Vaccines for Children (VFC) qualified patients.

Results

	Number of respondents (% of Total)
Insurance Status (N=150)	
No insurance	70 (47)
Medicaid	44 (29)
CHIP	21 (14)
Private Insurance	12 (8)
Insurance does not cover immunization	3 (2)

Patient age at time of service (% of total)

0-11 months	1-3 years	4-5 years	6-10 years	11-14 years	15-18 years	19+ years	TOTAL
3 (2)	11 (6)	29 (16)	27 (15)	83 (45)	27 (15)	5 (3)	185 (100)

Parent/Guardian motivation for attending extended hours (% of total)

Didn't want child to miss school	Didn't want to miss work	Personal Preference	Other	TOTAL
55 (30)	71 (39)	38 (21)	17 (9)	181 (100)

Recommendation for Future Extended Hours

Number of responses (% of total)

A greater number of evening appointments	63 (41.2)
A greater variety of days of the week offering evening appointments	49 (32)
Saturday morning appointments	71 (46.4)

Discussion

Results of the Extended Hours Program were consistent with other alternate hours programs in terms of which hours were offered, the targeted population for the extended hours, and the desire from the respondents to continue and expand upon the program. Since no extra costs were incurred by holding the extended hours, it would be advantageous to continue these hours on a permanent basis and increase the number of extended hours at other immunization clinics.