



VOTE & VAX

Vote & Vax and Community Pharmacies Promoting Election Day Flu Clinics

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1. Walgreen Co., Deerfield IL 2. Vote & Vax/SPARC, Lakeville CT

Presentation Overview

- Background and History of Walgreens as Immunization Provider
- Background and History of Vote & Vax Program
- Results of the 2012 Walgreens/Vote & Vax Collaboration





Background and History of Walgreens as Immunization Provider



Essential Need for Immunizations

The broad incidence of flu

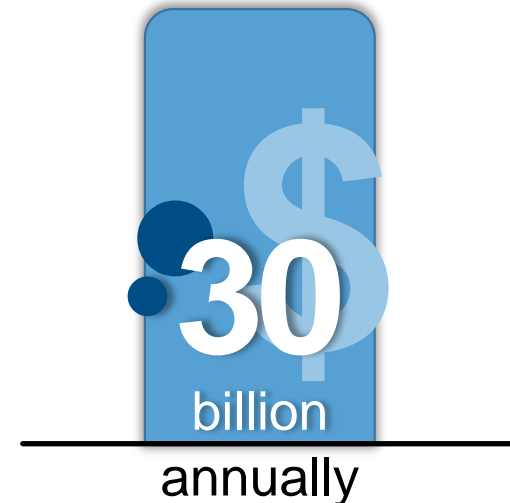
- Every year 31.4 million outpatient visits are due to seasonal influenza¹
- More than 60% of Americans fail to get an annual flu shot²

The related high cost

- Americans missed 230 million work days and lost \$8.5 billion in wages in 2012-13³
- Lost workdays cost employers \$30 billion annually³
- Average outpatient costs for flu⁴
 - \$130, not-at-risk adults (age 18-49)
 - \$765, at-risk adults (50-64)
- Costs for hospitalization run into tens of thousands of dollars per admitted patient⁴

The Cost to Employers:

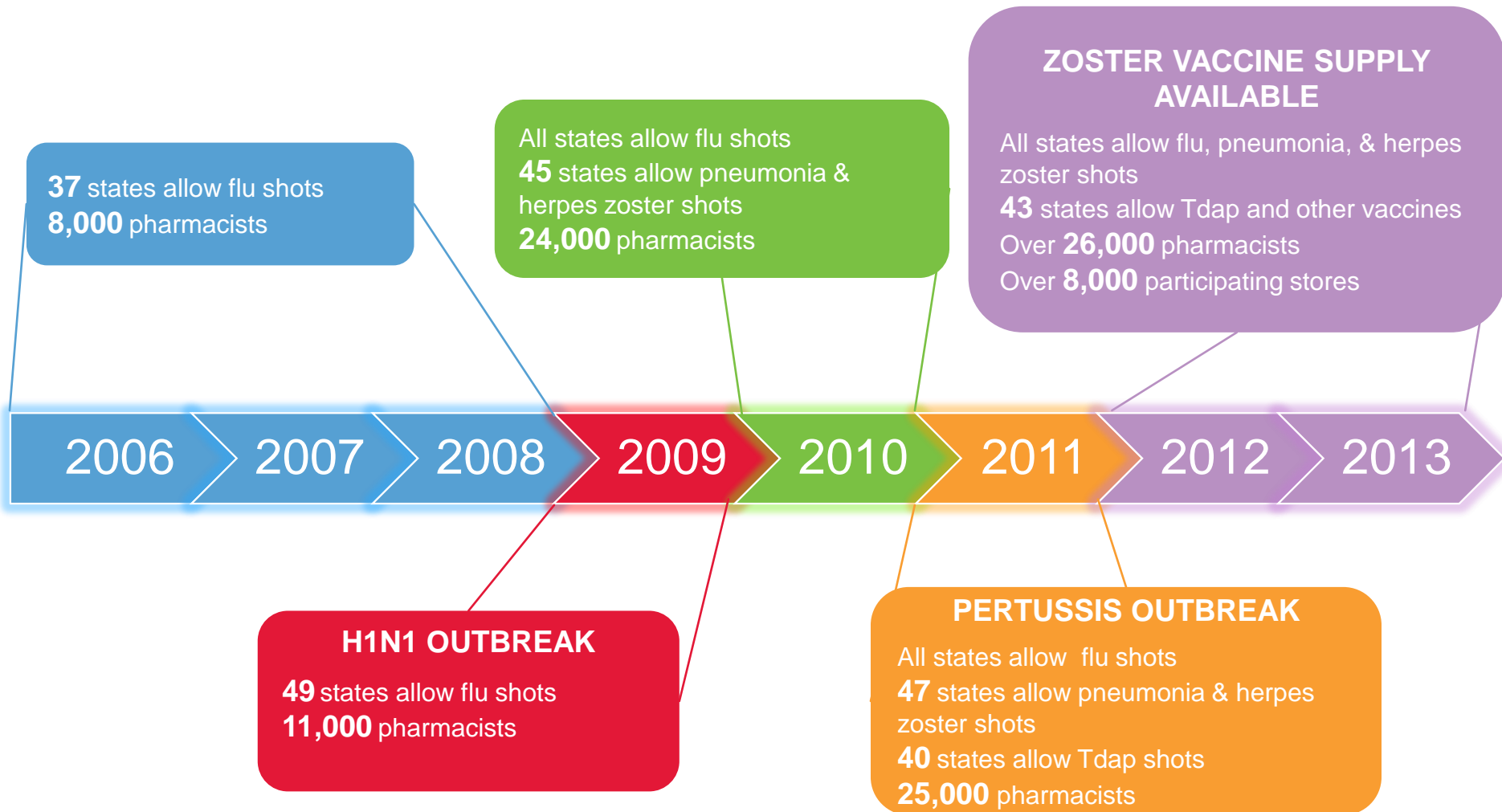
Lost Workdays



¹Molinari NAM, Ortega-Sanchez IR, Messonnier ML, Thompson WW, Wortley PM, Weintraub E, et al. The annual impact of seasonal influenza in the US: measuring disease burden and costs. *Vaccine* 2007;25(27):5086-96. ²Centers for Disease Control (CDC). National Early Season Flu Vaccination Coverage, United States, 2012-13 Flu Season. 2012; <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview/nifs-estimates-nov2012.htm>. Accessed January 22, 2013. ³Walgreens Flu Impact Report. Oct 2013. ⁴Prosser LA, O'Brien MA, Molinari NA, et al. Non-traditional settings for influenza vaccination of adults: costs and cost effectiveness. *PharmacoEconomics*. 2008;26(2):163-178.



Pharmacists as Immunizers Timeline



Pharmacies Offer Immunization Services that are Accessible and Convenient

- A study conducted in rural West Virginia suggested that convenience was the primary determining factor in mothers' decisions to take their children to pharmacies for their vaccinations¹
- A survey conducted in the UK found that the most frequent reason for choosing to be vaccinated in the pharmacy was convenient location (54.3%), followed by not needing an appointment (51.2%)²
- A US survey found that only 20-30% of internists and family physicians stocked all CDC-recommended vaccines, with nearly 80% not planning to increase their offerings and 2% planning to stop carrying them altogether³

¹ Ndiaye SM, Madhavan S, Washington ML, et al. The use of pharmacy immunization services in rural communities. *Public Health*. Mar 2003;117(2):88-97. ² Evans A, Hinchliffe A, Jenkins N. Can providing NHS flu vaccination in community pharmacies reach people who otherwise would not get vaccinated? Experiences from the national community pharmacy seasonal influenza service in Wales *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice* 2013; 21 (S2): 120-1 ³ Freed GL, Clark SJ, Cowan AE, Coleman MS. Primary care physician perspectives on providing adult vaccines. *Vaccine*. Feb 2011;29(9):1850-1854.



Pharmacies Offer Immunization Services that are Accessible and Convenient (cont.)

- CDC refers to pharmacies as non-traditional locations to receive vaccines, offering advantages such as community-based locations, access, and convenience¹
- In the 2010-2011 influenza season, 18.4% of people were vaccinated in a store (e.g., supermarket or drug store)²
- Of all vaccinations offered at Walgreens pharmacies, 30.5% were provided during off-clinic hours:
 - weekends (17.4%),
 - evenings (10.2%),
 - and holidays (2.9%) when traditional vaccine providers are likely unavailable³

¹ Postema AS, Breiman RF. Adult immunization programs in nontraditional settings: quality standards and guidance for program evaluation. *MMWR Recomm Rep*. Mar 24 2000;49(RR-1):1-13. ²CDC. Place of influenza vaccination among adults --- United States, 2010-11 influenza season. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2011;60(23):781-785.

³Goad JA, Taitel MS, Fensterheim LF, Cannon AC. Vaccinations Administered During Off-Clinic Hours at a National Community Pharmacy: Implications for Increasing Patient Access and Convenience. *Ann Fam Med* 2013;p-p. doi:10.1370/afm.1542.



Other Community Initiatives

Vaccinate Chicago Week: Promote awareness of the importance of receiving an influenza vaccination and to increase vaccination uptake



Texas Meningitis: Implemented a program offering meningitis vaccine services in over 700 locations throughout the state to help college students comply with Texas mandate requiring meningitis shot¹

Tdap Vaccinations - Provide education and administration of Tdap vaccinations to close contacts of neonates identified in a women's hospital²

¹Rubin J, Fensterheim L, Cannon A, Cantlin J. (2012 March). "The Impact of a Pharmacist-Led Meningitis Vaccination Program for the College-Aged Population in Texas." Poster presented at the 2012 National Immunization Conference, March 26–28, 2012, online forum. ² Mills B, et al. (2012 March). "Pharmacist-led Tdap Vaccination of Close Contacts of Neonates in a Women's Hospital." Poster presented at the 2012 APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition, New Orleans, LA, March 9-12, 2012.





Background and History of Vote & Vax Program



Background on Vote & Vax Program

Vote & Vax on Election Day(s)

- Founded by SPARC, Inc., a non-profit organization that promotes improving preventive service delivery rates across the U.S.
- Immunization clinics at polling places or in-store on election day



Background on Vote & Vax Program (cont.)

- Vote & Vax received early support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and from AARP
- Vote & Vax is a national program that works with local public health providers to assist them in launching vaccination clinics at or near polling places across the country
- Since its first multi-state program in 2004, Vote & Vax has helped provide tens of thousands of influenza vaccinations to at-risk Americans



Background on Vote & Vax Program (cont.)

- Vote & Vax significantly expanded its efforts in 2008, ultimately delivering 21,434 influenza vaccinations at 331 locations in 42 states and the District of Columbia
- Of those vaccinated through the project, almost half (47.7%) were "new" recipients (did not receive a flu shot in the preceding year or would not have otherwise been vaccinated)
- Walgreens began the process of working with Vote & Vax in June of 2012



Vote & Vax Principles

Not for the exclusive benefit of voters

Not a “Get Out the Vote” initiative

No partisan political activities

Clinic accessible *after* people have voted

**Charge for vaccine as at other community flu shot clinics
or pharmacies**



Vote & Vax Website



VOTE & VAX

ABOUT US
FOR CLINIC PROVIDERS
FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS
GET A FLU SHOT
NEWSROOM

Log In to the
Provider's Extranet

EMAIL

PASSWORD

[Not a Member?](#)

GO

Learn More About
Vote & Vax Clinics

Download a free resource
guide that explains how to
participate in the Vote & Vax
program.

Americans should not only have
the opportunity to vote but to protect
themselves against the flu.

Vote & Vax is a national program of the community health organization
SPARC (Sickness Prevention Achieved through Regional Collaboration).
We work with all public health providers who would like to offer conve-
nient flu vaccinations at or near polling places across the country.

★ [CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR RESULTS FROM ELECTION SEASON 2008.](#)

Find a Vote & Vax
clinic near you.

SEARCH
FOR A CLINIC

VOTE & VAX
IN ACTION

Vote & Vax has built a network
of providers across the United
States who organized and run



Vote & Vax Video



[Click to play video](#)



2012 Walgreens/Vote & Vax Collaboration



Details of 2012 Walgreens/Vote & Vax Collaboration

- Walgreens partnered with Vote & Vax to administer influenza vaccinations during the November 2012 election:
 - Provided flu shots at Vote & Vax locations across 5 states.
 - Walgreens was a key partner, along with other major pharmacies and health clinics
 - Overall, Vote & Vax 2012 held 1,585 clinics in 48 states, Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Participating patients could receive vaccinations at polling place or nearby Walgreens pharmacies
- Vote & Vax was promoted through its national outreach efforts along with regional Walgreens pharmacies



Evaluation of Collaboration

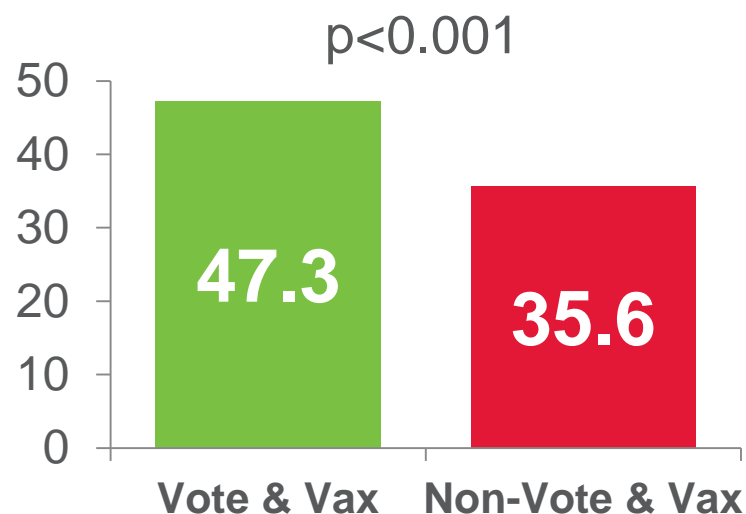
- Vaccine volume for Vote & Vax sites was compared with non-Vote & Vax Walgreens locations
- Vaccination rates were calculated as the number of patients receiving a vaccination per 1,000 pharmacy patients filling a prescription at a Walgreens
- Z-tests were used to compare the percent difference between sites



Results of Collaboration

- The rate of influenza vaccination was **32.7%** higher in Vote & Vax clinics
 - Vote & Vax clinics saw a vaccination rate of **47.3** per 1,000 pharmacy patients
 - Non-Vote & Vax clinics had a vaccination rate of **35.6** per 1,000 pharmacy patients
 - The difference is significant ($p < 0.001$)
- The average age of vaccinated patients was 55.8 years
- 40.1% were aged 65 years and older
- Females made up 60.2% of those vaccinated

Flu vaccinations per 1,000 pharmacy patients



New Flu Shot Patients

- Approximately **58%** were new flu shot patients receiving a vaccination in Vote & Vax locations **on election day** that did not receive a flu shot in the previous 2011-2012 flu season at Walgreens*
- Approximately **62%** were new flu shot patients receiving a vaccination in Vote & Vax locations **during the 2012-2013 flu season** that did not receive a flu shot in the previous 2011-2012 flu season*
- More than two-thirds of non-white Vote & Vax participants in 2012 were not regular flu shot recipients†
- Among the total U.S. population, 2012 coverage estimates were:
 - Overall (>=6 months) = 36.5%
 - Non-Hispanic, White = 38.0%
 - Non-Hispanic, Black = 28.7%
 - Hispanic = 25.0%

*According to Walgreens data

†According to Vote & Vax data

Coverage estimates from CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluvoxview/nifs-estimates-nov2012.htm>; http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/fluvoxview/kennedy_2013_summit_slides2.pdf



Impact on Public Health Practices Beyond Seasonal Influenza Protection

- Acceptance of program by many local public health departments and the national Medical Reserve Corps as a prototype for a disaster preparedness strategy
- Program staff suggested polling places could be used to provide widespread immunization against the H1N1 influenza virus when the pandemic emerged in 2009
- New attention to the polling place as a platform for other public health interventions, such as delivering other immunizations (pneumococcal, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, etc.), cancer and cardiology screenings, and other preventive health services

Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "Vote & Vax: A Community Based-Strategy to Promote Adult Immunization. National Program Executive Summary Report." January 14, 2013.



Conclusion

- Expanding access and convenience to immunization services in polling places can increase the rate of influenza vaccination
 - Important opportunity among elderly pharmacy patients, who are a large portion of voter turnout
- Community pharmacies can collaborate with state and local health departments to serve as health care providers
- Multiple and convenient access points for vaccinations allow community pharmacies to aid in pandemic response



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?



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