



One Flu Over the Cuckoo's Cue: Vaccination shortages: Recurring error or criminal negligence?

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- Is flu vaccination important?
- Flu vaccine been hard to get in the Bronx since 2000. Why?
- What happened in 2004?
- A bit about: “what’s going on?” Flu. Smallpox. Anthrax. \$\$\$\$\$, commodities, politics and (ir) responsibility
- The rugged slope: Practice of Health as a Right

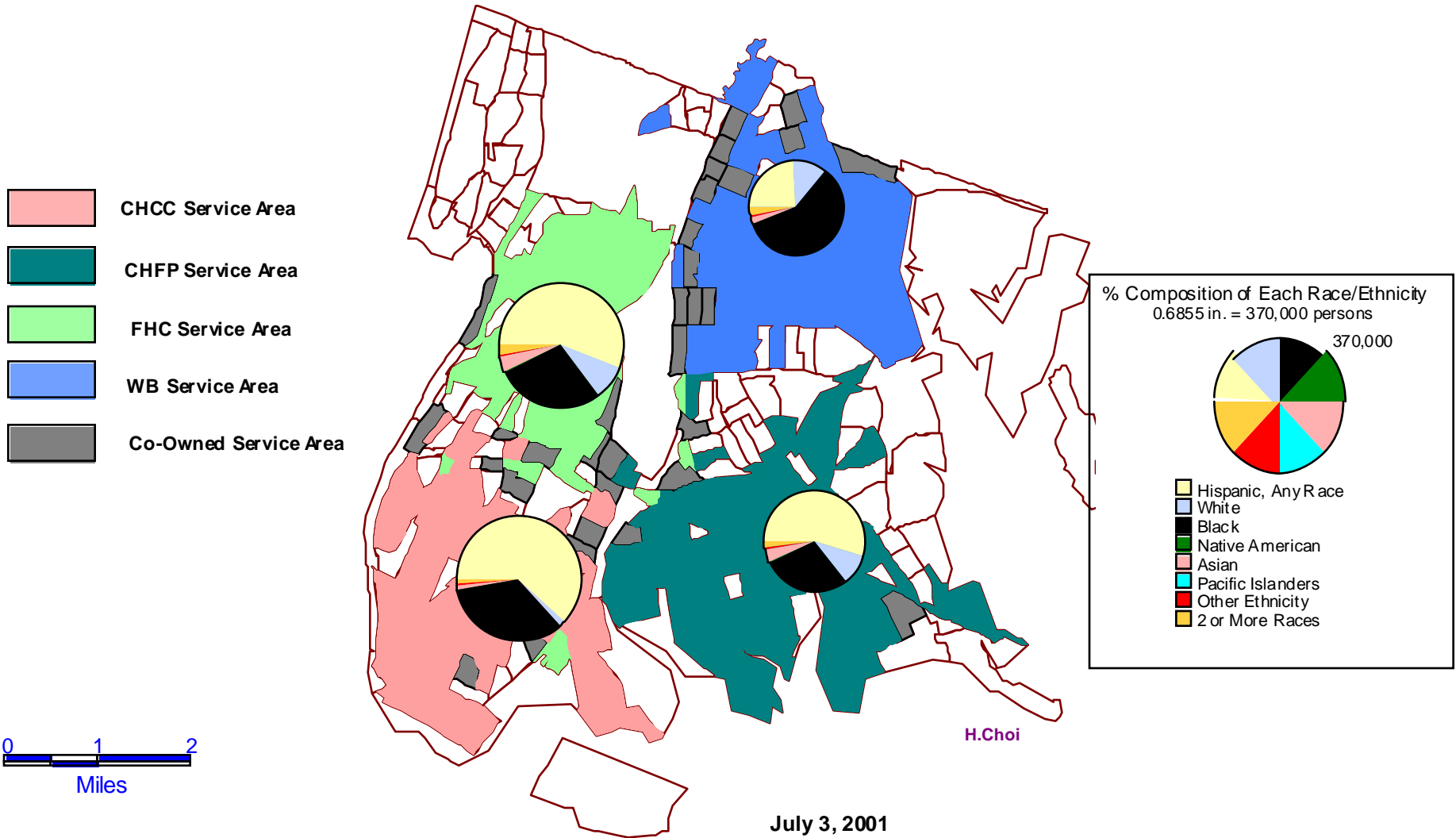




Importance:

- Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: each year 5% to 20% of people in the USA get the flu, more than 200,000 are hospitalized from complications and about 36,000 die.
- Study in Michigan (ACP Journal Club) found inactivated vaccinated flu rate 1.3% vs. 5.8% placebo in healthy adults aged 18-46 for '04-'05.

Race/Ethnicity Composition of Population within Montefiore Medical Group Service Area



July 3, 2001
 Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
 Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Source: 2000 US Census, 1999 MERRITT



Liberation Medicine

- The conscious, conscientious use of health to promote social justice and human dignity.





- **Some High-Risk Patients May Not Get Flu Vaccine**
- by [Renee Montagne](#)
- [Morning Edition](#), October 6, 2004 - Dr. Bruce Gellin, director of the National Vaccine Program Office at the Department of Health and Human Services, talks about the shortage of the flu vaccine. Gellin says people should be aware that some at high risk for influenza should get vaccinated first. Hear NPR's Renee Montagne and Gellin.



- **Flu Vaccine Supply Cut in Half**
- by [Richard Knox](#)
- [Morning Edition](#), October 6, 2004 - One of the nation's two makers of flu vaccine has lost its license, and 48 million doses of the company's vaccine will be destroyed. Due to the unexpected shortage, healthy Americans are encouraged to delay or skip getting shots so that enough will be available for the elderly and those most at risk. Hear NPR's Richard Knox.



- **Flu Vaccine News Sends Health Officials Scrambling**
- by [Robert Siegel](#)
- [*All Things Considered*](#), October 5, 2004 - News that a British flu-vaccine company will be closed instead of providing vaccines for the upcoming flu season has health officials working to get the available vaccine to those who need it most. Hear NPR's Robert Siegel and Dr. Richard Raymond, president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.



- **Q: Are authorities going to ration vaccine supplies?**
- **DGZ** A. Not exactly. The CDC has worked out a system with Pennsylvania manufacturer Aventis Pasteur to redirect tens of millions of flu vaccine doses that haven't been shipped out yet. There were 22 million unshipped doses at the time of the British shutdown. CDC director Julie Gerberding says that approximately 14 million of these doses will be targeted to areas where supplies might run out before high-risk people get vaccinated. Another 8 million will be held in reserve and distributed once the flu season begins. That way, she says, CDC can locate flu "hotspots" and make sure people in these areas get covered.



- **Q: Does the government have the power to do this?**
- **A:** The arrangement with Aventis Pasteur is voluntary. The federal government has control only over vaccine contracts it has for hospitals like the Veterans' Affairs medical system. State governments control only what they distribute through state health departments. Laws vary from state to state about how much power the government has over privately owned medical supplies, such as vaccines.





- **Vaccines and Privatization**
- Published: October 28, 2004
- To the Editor:
- When you state in "**Vaccine** for Congress and the Bears" (editorial, Oct. 23) that the **flu** crisis is upon us "because the private sector essentially handles the manufacturing and distribution of **flu vaccine**, as government officials monitor and exhort from the sidelines," you put your finger on an ominous trend that threatens the welfare of our society: the Republican preference for "**privatization**" -- in education, in the prison system, in Social Security, in the management of social welfare through faith-based, private, religious groups, to name but a few.
- **Privatization** means nothing more or less than the abandonment of government responsibility. In the instance of the **flu vaccine** debacle, it means endangering the people's health.
- It is a right-wing trend that bodes disaster. Government ought not be "outsourcing" its primary responsibilities.

Meyer Rangell
Bloomingburg, N.Y., Oct. 23, 2004



No Child Left Behind








New York Times

- By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
- Published: November 3, 2006
- HOUSTON, Nov. 2 (AP) — The city has stopped offering free [flu](#) shots at early voting sites after [Republicans](#) alleged it was a ploy by the mayor to lure more [Democrats](#) to the polls.

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- “I think the program was completely motivated by a plan to turn out Democratic voters,” Mr. Jared Woodville, the Harris County Republican chairman, said.
 - A \$320,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation financed the “Vote and Vax” flu shot drives in Houston and 24 other American cities, according to the foundation, a health advocacy organization. The 10-year-old program singles out areas where relatively few people get flu shots.
 - Foundation officials say the program is a convenient way for older people, who are especially vulnerable to the flu, to get vaccinated for a disease that kills 32,000 people over 65 every year. Polls provide access to many people who need the vaccine.
 - Dr. Douglas Shenson, the director of the program for the foundation, said he did not know of problems in any other city.





A Pox on your Health System!

- “Smallpox Campaign Taxing Health Resources: Program Siphons Funds, Staffing from other Projects, State and Local Officials Say,” by Ceci Connolly, Washington Post Staff Writer, Monday March 10, 2003, p. A04.



- NACCHO study: of 539 health departments surveyed, 79% said flu vaccines for elderly, etc. had been “deferred, delayed or cancelled” due to the Small Pox Vaccination Mandate



- Note on how to address racial disparities in Small Pox Vaccination...



- **Former federal official joins Emergent board**
- **Washington Business Journal - June 15, 2007**
- **by Neil Adler Staff Reporter**
- **The directors of Emergent BioSolutions Inc. appointed Sue Bailey, a physician with experience in health affairs at the Defense Department, to the company's board. She was elected for a two-year term that will expire at Emergent's 2009 annual stockholders meeting, the Rockville-based biopharmaceutical company said in a statement Friday.**
- **Bailey was assistant secretary of defense for health affairs from 1998 to 2000, where she headed the department's \$17 billion military medical system. After leaving the Defense Department, Bailey was administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and then a news analyst for NBC from 2001 to 2006, focusing on national security, bioterrorism, environmental safety and public health.**
- **Emergent (NYSE: EBS) has a vaccine for anthrax infection on the market.**



Rights Perspective

- Money for Health, Not for War!
- Federal program of vaccine support prioritizing flu vaccines, especially for minorities and other underserved
- Diverse Sources of Vaccines





Health for All, NOW!



- PHM www.phmovement.org
- Liberation Medicine, see Doctors for Global Health www.dghonline.org
- Journal of Social Medicine, see www.socialmedicine.info
www.medicinasocial.info
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