

Could the San Antonio Food Bank Increase Influenza Immunization Rates Among its Clients?

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Background

- Over half of adults (18 to 64) in the US were not vaccinated during the 2018-2019 flu season.¹
- Influenza vaccination rates in the U.S. are still below Healthy People 2020 goals.²
- Approximately 12,000 and 61,000 total deaths due to influenza have occurred annually since 2010³
- In 2018-2019, **34,157** estimated deaths occurred due to influenza³
- Common barriers to vaccination: inconvenience, cost and lack of easy access or health insurance.²

Objective

- Our objective was to document the need and willingness of clients at the San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB) to access free influenza vaccines at the SAFB, if offered.

Methods

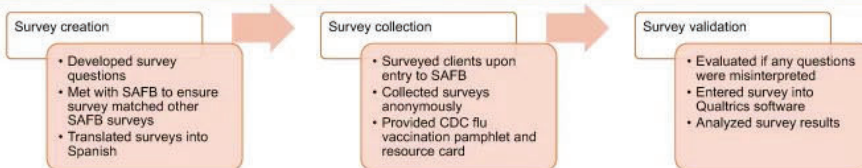


Figure 1: Process of Survey Development and Collection

University of Texas at Austin
College of Pharmacy
Community Health Survey

1. How likely are you to get some form of the flu vaccine this flu season (August 2019-March 2020)? Please check one response.

Very unlikely (1)
 Somewhat unlikely (2)
 Neither likely nor unlikely (3)
 Somewhat likely (4)
 Very likely (5)
 I have already gotten some form of the flu vaccine this season (6)

2. Did you get some form of the flu vaccine last flu season (August 2018- March 2019)?

Yes No

3. What has prevented you from getting some form of the flu vaccine (Please check all that apply)

I have already gotten some form of the flu vaccine
 I have not had time
 It is too expensive
 I don't know where to get my flu vaccine
 I'm afraid the flu shot will make me sick
 I don't think I need it because I never get the flu
 I have another method of preventing the flu that isn't a vaccine
 I don't care if I get the flu
 I'm afraid of needles
 Other: _____

Figure 2: Survey Questionnaire

Results

Figure 3: Self-Reported Influenza Vaccination Rates (2018-2019 Flu Season)

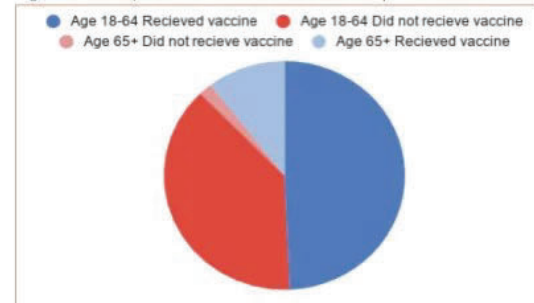


Figure 5: Likelihood to Become Vaccinated (2019-2020 Flu Season)



Figure 4: Barriers to Accessing the Influenza Vaccination

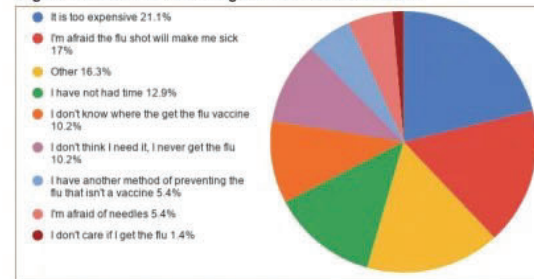


Figure 6: Potential Impact of Immunization Program

| | | |
|--|---------------|--|
| The SAFB provided walk-in benefits services to | 20,782 | people from June 2018-July 2019 |
| Of all survey respondents, | 76.60% | are interested in getting the flu shot from the SAFB |
| The SAFB could benefit | 15,919 | people with a flu vaccination program |

Discussion/Conclusions

- Indicated a need and willingness to access free influenza vaccinations at the SAFB
- A program providing free influenza vaccines to clients would address the barriers of cost and time, as the vaccine could be given while clients are waiting for other services
- Limitations:** Incomplete or unclear survey answers
- Lessons learned:** Importance of guiding clients through the surveys to ensure they have a proper understanding of the survey content
- Next Steps:** Find a community partner to provide immunization resources for the SAFB, and assess need for vaccinations beyond the flu vaccine

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Disclosures

- Jose Patterson is an employee of the San Antonio Food Bank
- The UT Health San Antonio IRB determined that the project did not require approval
- The authors have nothing else to disclose

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