

# Creating Partnerships Protecting Communities



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# School Children and Influenza



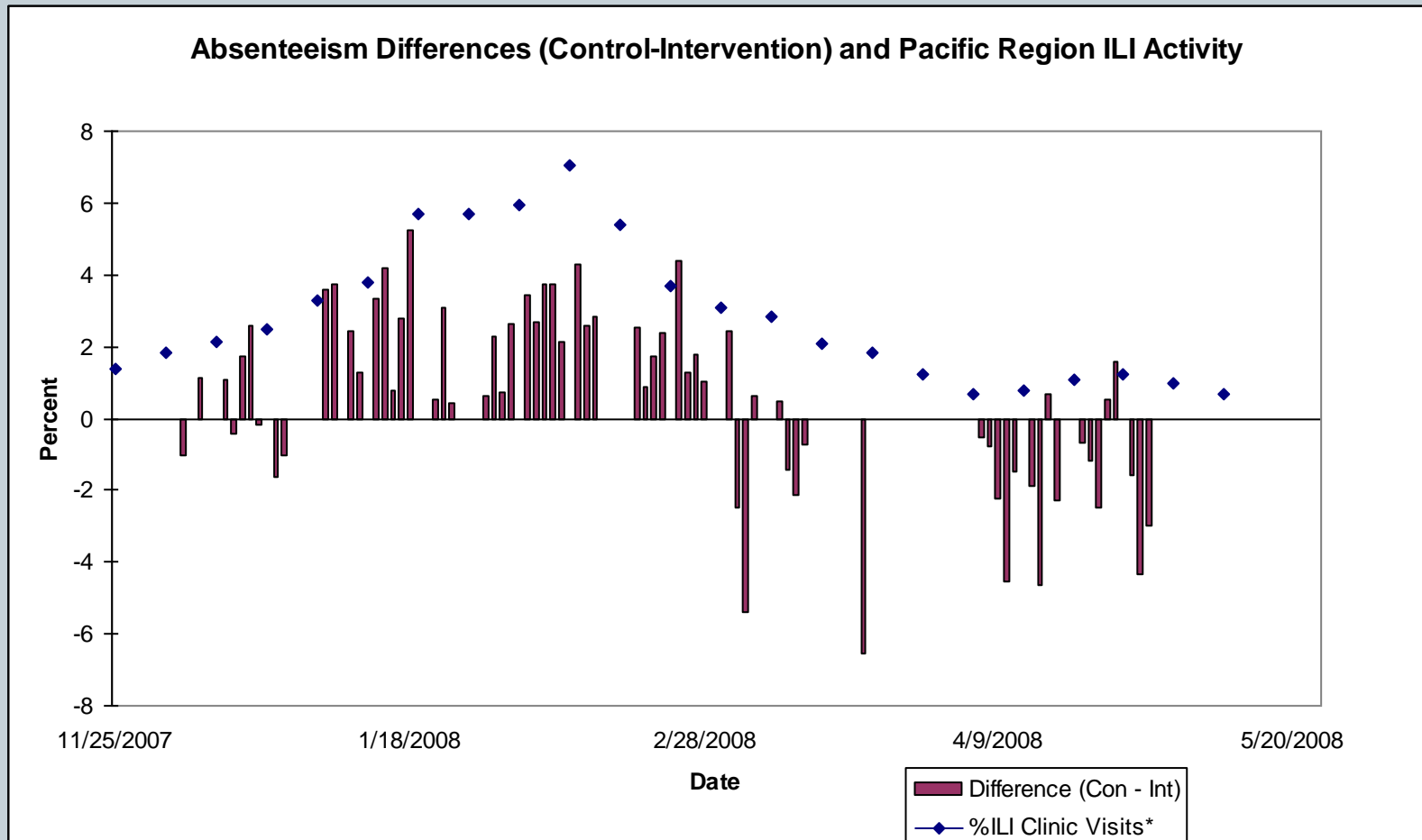
- School children are at highest risk for contracting and transmitting influenza
- Many studies show that when high levels of flu immunization are achieved among school children, community influenza burden is decreased
- School- located influenza clinics
  - Efficient- you can immunize large numbers of children in just a couple of hours
  - Convenient for parents
  - Well-received by parents, students and staff
  - Have the potential to improve levels of influenza immunization

# The Beginning



- We began the program in 2007 when universal influenza vaccine was recommended by CDC
- 2 schools were chosen to receive free vaccine clinics
- Reached out to school nurse leads for entree
  - Principals had the final say
- Consent forms sent home w/ all students
  - Consent forms in English and Spanish
- Clinics done during school hours
- Staffing- 2 RNs and 2 nursing students
- We tracked absenteeism at 2 intervention schools and 8 control control schools

# Absenteeism Higher in Control Schools



CDC Sentinel Provider ILI Activity for the Pacific Region (Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii)

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/regions2007-2008/data/senreg9t.htm>

# Growing- 2013 Numbers



School District	Total Population of Intervention Schools	# Vaccinated (by our program)	Percent School Population Vaccinated
Tacoma ( 15 schools)	6833	1093	16.0%
Clover Park (10 schools)	4025	655	16.0%
University Place (2 schools)	964	110	11.5%
Sumner (3 schools)	787	123	15.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,609</b>	<b>1,981</b>	<b>15.7%</b>

# Current Project Goals



- Protect individual school aged children
- Protect the community by decreasing disease circulation in schools
- Assist implementation of universal flu immunization coverage
- Expand availability of services by including private providers and enlisting volunteer MRC support
- Capture revenue as possible while not charging clients- this is the incentive for private providers to participate

# Setting up Clinics in Schools



- **Principals are the gatekeepers**
  - Send introductory letter
  - Explain the benefits to children, families and schools
  - Use stats on absenteeism (seats in seats = dollars)
- **Work with school nurses and school office staff**
  - Remember, they are volunteering to add this to their schedule
  - Stress the advantages to families and students
  - Many medically high risk students are now in school- talk about protecting them
  - If at all possible, bring some vaccine for staff

# Spread the word



- Every positive experience will be spread from school nurse to school nurse
- Parents with children in more than one school may request the service at another school
- Advertise- posters, website, school newsletter
- Speak at school nurse meetings, PTA meetings
- Talk to as many staff as possible- If ALL staff are enthused you will see more children
- Have school send a telephone blast message a few days before the event- This Works!



# Sustainability



- Remember- critical people may leave
- Everyone has budget constraints
  - We have added information about insurance this year
  - Both the HD and private offices are billing for administration fees- there is never a charge to parents
  - One private office added the question on consent forms: “are you a patient at our office?”- it was easier to bill and may add to trust
- Tool Kit Under Construction- [www.tpchd.org](http://www.tpchd.org)

# Contacts



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