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
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 with 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 schools.
Absenteeism Higher in Control Schools

CDC Sentinel Provider ILI Activity for the Pacific Region (Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii)
## Growing - 2013 Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Total Population of Intervention Schools</th>
<th># Vaccinated (by our program)</th>
<th>Percent School Population Vaccinated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tacoma (15 schools)</td>
<td>6833</td>
<td>1093</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clover Park (10 schools)</td>
<td>4025</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Place (2 schools)</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumner (3 schools)</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>12,609</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,981</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.7%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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
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- Megan Barker Kathryn McKinstry Farah Schumacher