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Influenza News



The National Influenza Vaccination Disparities Partnership (NIVDP) is comprised of multi-sector partners who work to promote flu vaccination among underserved populations including African Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians/Alaska Natives. The partnership and this newsletter are supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Notable NIVDP Events Mark National Influenza Vaccination Week

In this issue, we highlight notable events organized during National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW), which was observed December 7-13, 2014. These grassroots efforts reached African American, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native and Asian/Pacific Islander populations of all ages and backgrounds. Community centers, churches, consulates, schools, recreation centers, and local leaders participated. These events include:

- A flu vaccination event for seniors at the Betty T. Fisher Recreation Center Complex in Miami Gardens, Florida. This event was organized by the Florida Coalition on Black Civic Participation as an informational forum on the benefits of flu vaccination;
- A partner recognition event at St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank of Georgetown in Seattle, Washington, honoring the work of grassroots partners who promote flu vaccination and encourage future collaborations;
- Flu vaccination promotion events at Christ the King Church and Parochial School in Seattle, Washington, providing access to flu vaccination for students and families;
- A health fair and flu vaccination event at the Farrell Howell Gymnasium in Denver, Colorado resulting in a commitment from partners to host an NIVW event on an annual basis; and
- A flu vaccination event for the homeless at the Church of the Reconciler in Birmingham, Alabama exemplifying the importance of flu vaccination education and outreach.

SPOTLIGHT ON PARTNERS

BETTY T. FISHER RECREATION CENTER COMPLEX IN MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA HOSTS FLU VACCINATION EVENT FOR SENIORS

On December 10, 2014, the Betty T. Fisher Recreation Center Complex in Miami Gardens hosted a NIVDP flu vaccination event for seniors. The Florida Coalition on Black Civic Participation and the Office of Councilwoman Lillie Odom organized the event, attended by about 50 seniors, to provide information about the benefits of the flu vaccine and Affordable Care Act. Dr. Alvaro Meija-Echeverria from the Miami-Dade County Department of Health attended and answered questions.



Miami Gardens Mayor, Oliver G. Gilbert III, getting vaccinated by a Walgreens pharmacist

Miami Gardens Mayor, Oliver G. Gilbert III, and City Manager, Cameron Benson, were both publicly vaccinated against the flu. Also in attendance were State Representative Sharon Pritchett; April Washington, Public Affairs Specialist, HHS, Region IV; and Lisa Carr, Associate Director for the HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.



Left to right:

- Salandra Benton, Convenor, Florida Coalition on Black Civic Participation
- Lillie Odom, Councilwoman, City of Miami Gardens
- Janice Coakley, Member and Event Organizer, Florida Coalition on Black Civic Participation
- Sharon Pritchett, Florida House of Representatives

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD BANK OF GEORGETOWN EVENT RECOGNIZES NIVDP GRASSROOTS EFFORTS IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

On Friday, December 12, 2014, St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank of Georgetown hosted a special partner recognition event to acknowledge the collaborative work of the NIVDP grassroots partners in Seattle that promote flu vaccination. Those recognized were El Centro de la Raza; National Asian Pacific Center on Aging; Sea Mar Community Health Clinic, Seattle Children's Hospital; Seattle Indian Health Board; Mexican Consulate, *Ventanillas de Salud* Program; Washington Immunization Action Coalition; WithinReach; and the Young Women's Christian Association.

Guest speakers addressed an appreciative audience about the merits of partner collaboration. Speakers included: Dr. Paul Throne, Manager for Health Promotion and Communication, Washington Department of Health; Suzy Villalobos, Clinical Manager, Seattle Health Indian Board; Eun Jeong



Left to right: Ned Delmore, Executive Director, St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank and Suzy Villalobos, Clinical Manager, Seattle Indian Health Board

Lee, National Director, Senior Community Service Employment Program, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging; and Eduardo Baca, Consul, the Consulate of Mexico. In addition to the event program, Senator Maria Cantwell sent congratulatory remarks and Seattle Mayor Ed Murray issued a proclamation, a formally written document, recognizing the achievements of the NIVDP partners in promoting flu vaccination.



Consul Eduardo Baca from Consulate of Mexico

Ned Delmore, the Executive Director of the Food Bank, emphasized the history King County has of serving those who are truly underserved. "We are honored to have such diverse organizations working for one common cause, to reduce health disparities."

SEATTLE PARTNERS INTEGRATE FLU VACCINATION INTO PATRON SAINT FESTIVITIES

On December 12, 2014, over 600 people attended festivities hosted by Christ the King Catholic Church and Parochial School which included promoting flu vaccination. Founded in 1949, the Church continues to be a pillar of the community, providing activities to nurture the well-being of its diverse parishioners. This year the school sponsored a children's coloring contest around the theme *Yo Me Vacuno* (I Get Vaccinated). A panel of community leaders, including Justin Coyle of Walgreens, volunteered to judge the



Young parishioners in line to get vaccinated

contest entries. In the early afternoon, the Seattle Mariner Moose mascot made a guest appearance to congratulate the winners, handed out special prizes, and mingled with the children and parents.



The Seattle Mariner Moose mascot and Justin Coyle, Walgreens Pharmacy Supervisor, with winners of the *Yo Me Vacuno* coloring contest

After the evening mass, parishioners were treated to mariachi music and traditional pan dulce and tamales to celebrate the Virgin of Guadalupe—the patron saint of the Americas. The Pastoral Coordinator, Marti Lundberg exclaimed, "This is brilliant" as she witnessed parents and young adults waiting in line to get vaccinated against the flu. A total of 100 people were vaccinated.



FARRELL HOWELL GYMNASIUM IN DENVER, COLORADO HOSTS HEALTH FAIR AND FLU VACCINATION EVENT

On December 13, 2014, over 100 people attended the health fair held at the Farrell Howell Gymnasium in Denver, Colorado. The fair hosted by NIVDP partners included: the Denver Indian Center; City of Denver, American Indian Commission; Denver Indian Health and Family Services; Native American Cancer Research Corporation; National Native American AIDS Prevention Center; and the Denver Indian Family Resource Center. Walgreens pharmacists administered 78 flu vaccinations. Spurred by the day's success, all of the NIVDP partners have committed to planning next year's NIVW event.

Richard Martel, a member of the American Indian Commission and representing Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, presented the Mayoral proclamation recognizing the achievements of the NIVDP partners in promoting and increasing awareness of flu vaccination. The proclamation, a formally written document, helped elevate the significance of the event and the importance of annual flu vaccination.



Toltec Aztec dance group performing at Farrell Howell Gymnasium

A major attraction for attendees was the performances by the Mile High UNITY youth dance group, a mix of fancy shawl, jingle dress and men's traditional dancing; and a Toltec Aztec dance group from Mexico.



Darius Lee Smith, Director, City of Denver, American Indian Commission, getting vaccinated by a Walgreens pharmacist



Billie Begaii, Program Manager, Denver Indian Center Elder Program, is proud of her flu vaccination

CHURCH OF THE RECONCILER IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA HOLDS FLU VACCINATION EVENT FOR THE HOMELESS



Homeless man getting vaccinated at the Church of the Reconciler in Birmingham, AL

On December 7, 2014, Birmingham District 6 Councilor, Sheila Tyson and NIVDP partner, Friends of West End, hosted a flu vaccination event for the homeless. The clinic was held after the service at the Church of the Reconciler in Birmingham, Alabama.

Walgreens pharmacists administered flu vaccines to 26 individuals, many who were vaccinated for the first time, including Brandy Alexander and her three children. Brandy's heartfelt story brought tears to those in attendance. Speaking to the reporters, she explained "I came here for one reason, to sign up for free housing, but God had other plans for me. I will now speak to others about the importance of flu vaccinations. I was blessed and want to pass this blessing on to others." Brandy Alexander has agreed to become a NIVDP campaign spokesperson.



Brandy Alexander and her children at the Church of the Reconciler, all receiving flu vaccines for the first time

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