

TITLE: Who Pneu? An Innovative Public Health + Hospital Partnership Boosts Pneumococcal Vaccination Rates

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Topic: Public Health and Healthcare Clinical Collaboration; Immunizations; Public Health Partnership with Hospitals Help Boost Pneumococcal Vaccinations

Target Audience: Public health professionals, healthcare professionals, program developers and evaluators, and researchers.

ABSTRACT: Lane County Public Health (LCPH) had a dilemma. Adults coming through PeaceHealth hospitals in Lane County were a potentially captive audience to boost vaccinations against pneumococcal disease. The infection is the #1 cause of bacterial pneumonia and hospital readmission in the country, and high-risk adults are significantly undervaccinated for pneumococcal disease. But turning awareness of the need for vaccination during hospitalization into actual practice is difficult in health care settings. LCPH embarked on an innovative partnership with PeaceHealth to implement a hospital vaccination program. According to calculations, vaccinating roughly 7.5 people per week could prevent 250 pneumonias, avoid 50 pneumonia-related hospitalizations, and save \$500,000 in direct hospital costs. The partnership is well on their way to helping the region reap some of those benefits. Between 2018 and 2019, over 650 hospitalized adults were vaccinated, averaging 15 per week. But the project successes have not been without obstacles. We will present the 'behind the scenes' machinations of how this all began as a separate project, what it took to get PeaceHealth leadership support, how we leveraged Modernization and Hospital Foundation monies, and OHA vaccine, and then 'held on by the skin of our teeth' with all the personnel changes at PeaceHealth.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe the need and opportunities to increase pneumococcal vaccination rates among at risk populations, as a strategy to improve individual and population health, and reduce medical costs. Conceptualize an innovative partnership model between government public health and hospitals to implement a pneumococcal vaccination program, as well as the challenges and lessons learned.
