

# Expanding and Sustaining Influenza Vaccination Acceptance Amongst Adults with HIV in Delaware during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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## BACKGROUND

- Influenza vaccination remains vital for people with HIV (PWH) who experience more severe disease & poorer clinical outcomes than people without HIV
- Vaccination indirectly eases strain on healthcare systems
- Annual programmatic adult influenza vaccination rates were 65% with an increase to 85.5% coverage achieved during a 2020-21 pilot site (N=750) quality improvement (QI) initiative

## METHODS

- An expanded QI initiative sought to again achieve >80% influenza vaccination coverage for the 2021-22 season in PWH ≥18 years old attending program sites in Delaware (N=1853) (Fig. 1)
- A voluntary multidisciplinary team continued the initiative with a fishbone diagram detailing previously successful, rapidly implementable, & reproducible levers for change (Fig. 2)
- Space changes included diverse, prominent visual displays, phone messaging, virtual platform utilization
- The team provided consistent, multi-modality staff education
- Vaccinations were confirmed by statewide electronic health records or tangible proof-of-vaccination receipt. Vaccinations were cross-referenced with Ryan White CareWare data.
- Overall & county-specific vaccination rates were monitored and displayed weekly to patients & staff

Figure 1. Distribution of HIV Program Sites in Delaware

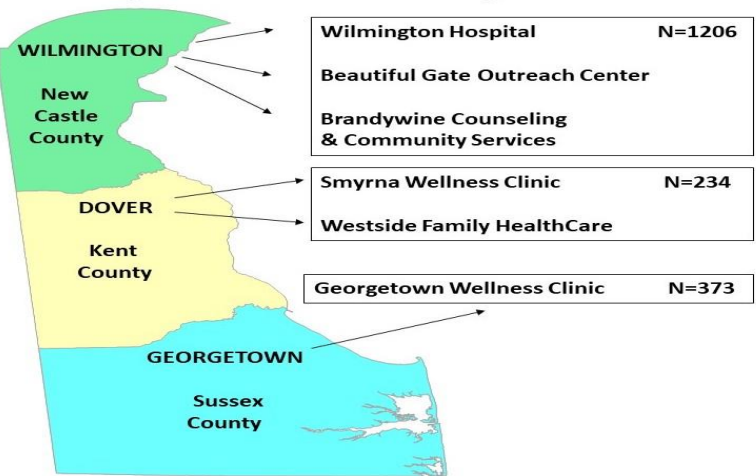
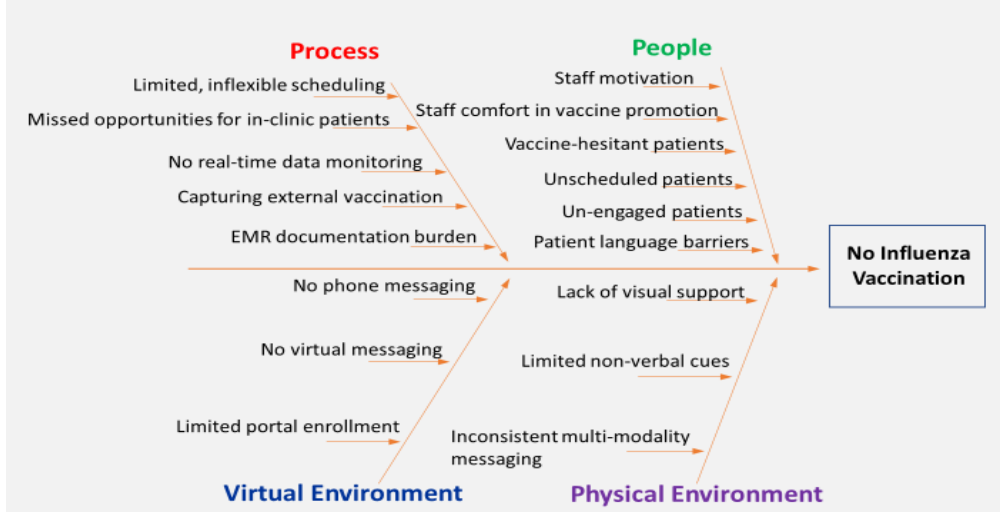


Figure 2. Levers for Change to Promote Influenza Vaccination



## RESULTS

- 84.9% influenza vaccination coverage was achieved program-wide with county level rates ranging from 79.1% to 89.7% (Table 1)

## CONCLUSION & DISCUSSION

- Our statewide initiative to sustain & expand overall high influenza vaccination acceptance rates again exceeded 80% in adult PWH attending an array of HIV clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Components vital to success include harnessing a motivated multi-disciplinary team, focusing on feasible, wide-reaching change levers to promote desirability & accessibility of vaccination to patients, & real-time sharing of progress with patients & staff
- The bundled delivery approach challenges efforts to understand individual change effects on measured outcome
- Opportunities to improve site-specific outcomes remain, specifically in Sussex County
- Translation of this work has contributed to >85% of adult PWH receiving ≥ 1 vaccination against COVID-19
- This work will continue to inform our larger goal of further program-wide expansion targeting increased acceptance of all recommended vaccinations amongst PWH

Table 1. Program-wide Influenza Vaccination Rates

	2020-21 (N=780) <sup>a</sup>	2021-22 (N=1813)
<b>Overall Vaccination Rate</b>	<b>667/780 (85.5%)</b>	<b>1539/1813 (84.9%)</b>
<b>Delaware County</b>		
New Castle	667/780 (85.5%)	1034/1206 (85.7%)
Kent		210/234 (89.7%)
Sussex		295/373 (79.1%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	423/486 (87%)	1053/1228 (85.7%)
Female	238/287 (82.9%)	476/573 (83.1%)
Transgender Female	5/6 (83.3%)	9/11 (81.8%)
Transgender Male	1/1 (100.0%)	1/1 (100.0%)
<b>Race</b>		
African American	474/555 (85.4%)	965/1162 (83.0%)
Caucasian	121/139 (87.1%)	391/463 (84.4%)
Hispanic	70/84 (83.3%)	157/159 (98.7%)
Multi-Race	2/2 (100.0%)	18/19 (94.7%)
Other <sup>b</sup>		8/10 (80.0%)

<sup>a</sup>Wilmington Hospital pilot site

<sup>b</sup>Includes individuals who identify as Asian Pacific Islander or American Indian

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