



The Impact of Pharmacist-Led Meningitis Vaccination Program for the College-Aged Population in Texas

Presented at the 2012 National Immunization Conference, March 26-28, 2012

A pharmacist-led meningitis vaccination program expanded convenient access to immunization services to Texas college students to help them comply with a Texas state mandate.

BACKGROUND

- In the United States, an estimated 1,400 - 2,800 cases of meningitis occur annually, causing severe illness and death. College students, especially those residing in dormitories, are at increased risk for meningococcal disease.¹
- In May 2011, the state of Texas issued a mandate requiring all entering college students younger than 30 years of age to be immunized for meningitis before the 2012 semester.²
- A national community pharmacy implemented a program offering meningitis vaccine services in over 700 locations throughout the state to help students comply with the mandate.

OBJECTIVE

- To evaluate the impact of a pharmacist-led meningitis vaccination program implemented to support a state mandate.

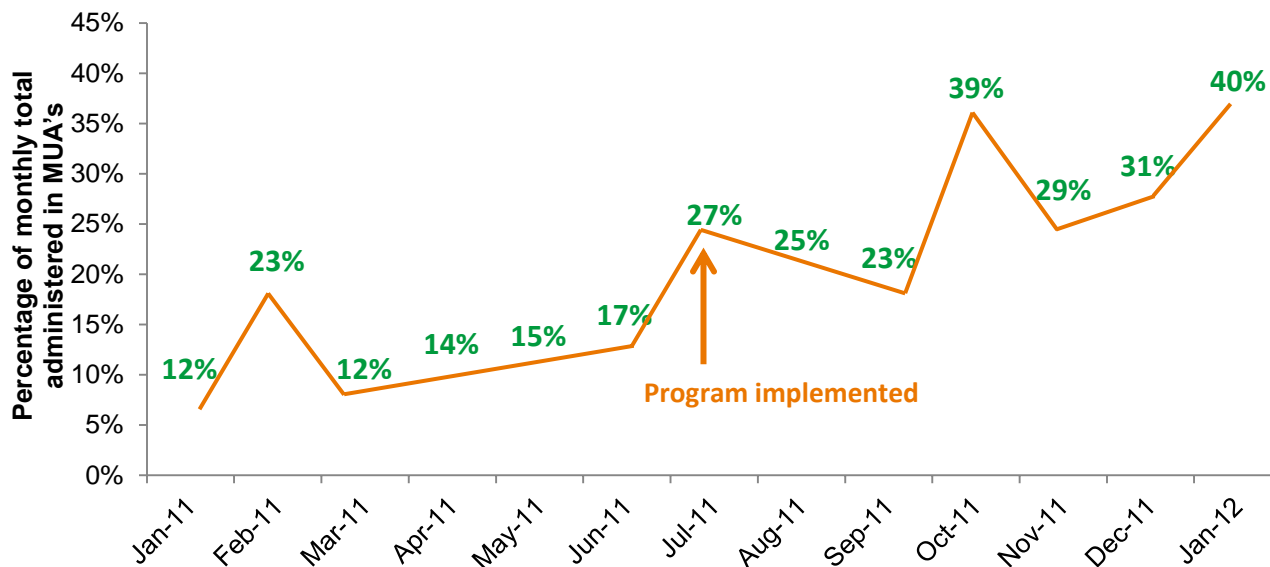
METHODS

- The program entailed development of educational and marketing materials, training of personnel, arrangement of standing orders, and initiation of an “all-day, everyday” offering of the meningitis vaccine.
- The study population included patients aged 16 to 29 years, with a meningitis vaccination administered in Texas, and a date of service from January 2011 through January 2012.
- We analyzed Walgreens pharmacy claims data to calculate the total number of meningitis vaccinations administered, and the penetration of the program into medically underserved areas.

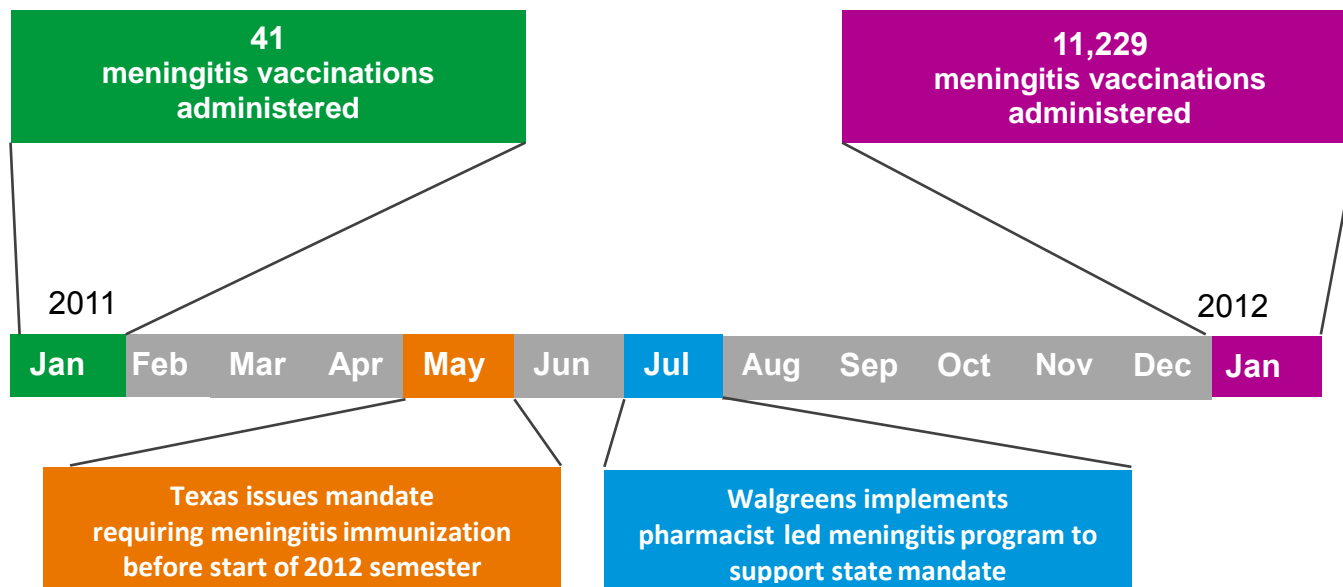
RESULTS

- The pharmacy provided 16,604 meningitis vaccinations to the study population. The number of vaccinations increased dramatically year-over year from 41 in January 2011 (pre-mandate) to 11,229 in January 2012 (post-mandate).
- The proportion of meningitis vaccinations provided in medically underserved areas increased from 12.2 % in January 2011 to 39.6% in January 2012 ($p<0.01$).

Meningitis Vaccinations Administered to Study: Population in Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs)



Timeline of State Mandate & Meningitis Program



CONCLUSIONS

- This pharmacist-led meningitis vaccination program expanded convenient access to immunization services to assist college students in complying with a Texas state mandate.
- The significant increase in the proportion of vaccinations provided in medically underserved areas demonstrates that the program provided vaccination services where most needed.
- The above findings illustrate how community pharmacies can support state governments and improve public health.

References:

1. Biluha OO, Rosenstein N. Prevention and Control of meningococcal disease. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *Recommendations and reports: Morbidity and mortality weekly report*. Recommendations and reports/Centers for Disease Control. May 27 2005; 54(RR-7):1-21.
2. Davis et al. De. S.B. 1107. In: Board THEC, ed. 82R9026 KSD-F2011.

AMA Citation:

Rubin, J, Fensterheim, L, Cannon, A, Taitel, M, Cantlin, J. The impact of pharmacist-led meningitis vaccination program for the college-aged population in Texas. Presented at the 2012 National Immunization Conference, March 26-28, 2012.

Contributing Authors:

Jason Rubin, RPh,¹ Leonard Fensterheim, MPH,¹ Adam Cannon, MPH,¹ Michael Taitel, PhD,¹ Jack Cantlin, RPh,¹ Walgreens. Deerfield, IL

For more information on this presentation, please contact: research@walgreens.com.

This research was funded internally by Walgreen Co. All authors are employees of the employer, Walgreen Co., for whom this research was conducted.