

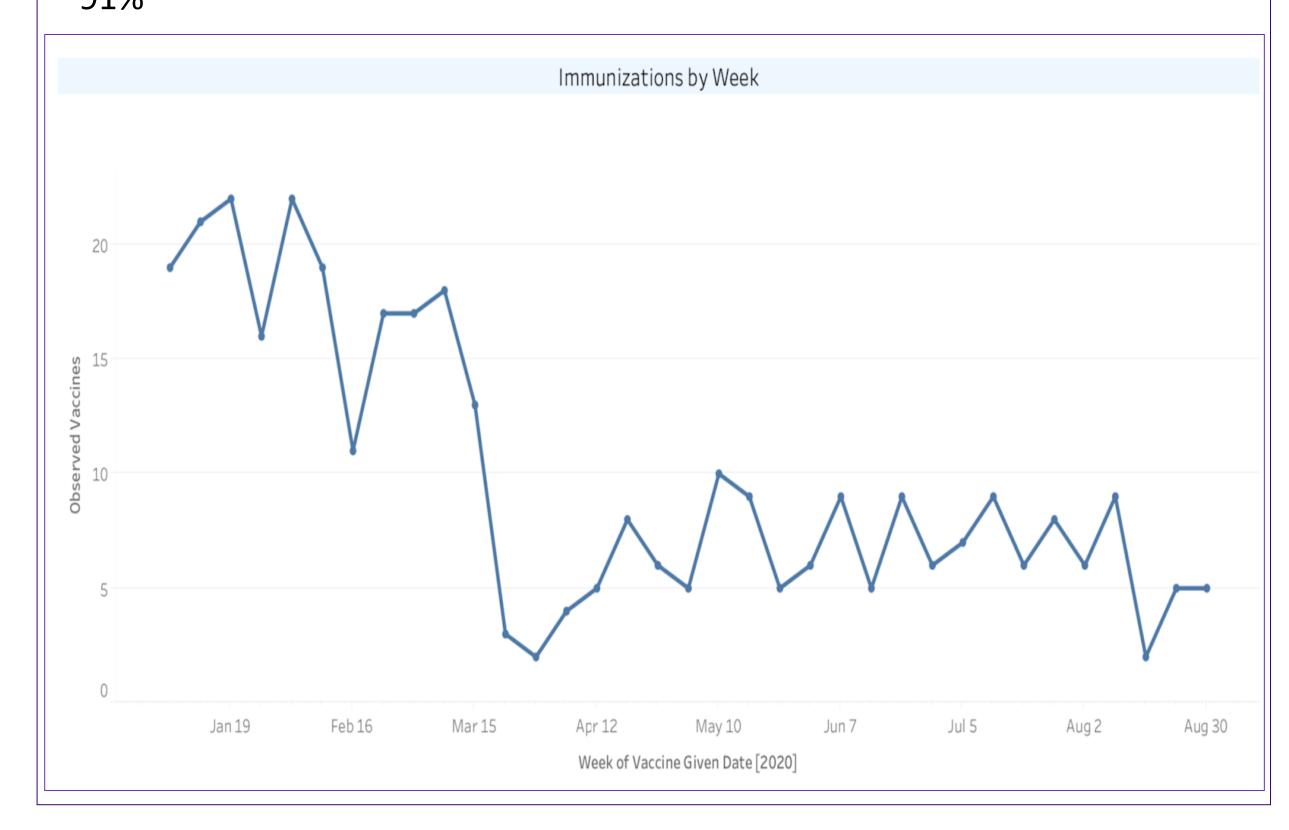
Addressing Immunization Gaps: Improving Rates of Immunization Among Adolescents for Routine, Recommended Vaccines

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BACKGROUND

- Vaccines have significantly reduced the rates of childhood viral and bacterial infections, saving an estimated 2-3 million lives annually¹
- However, adolescent immunization rates have steadily declined²
- At the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic from January to March of 2020, the East Carolina University Adult and Pediatric Health Care (ECU APHC) clinic witnessed a fall in number of weekly vaccinations by approximately 91%



PROJECT AIM

By December 2022, 75% of all ECU APHC Medicaid patients ages 11-13 would have received all age-appropriate immunizations against HPV, Tdap, and MCV.

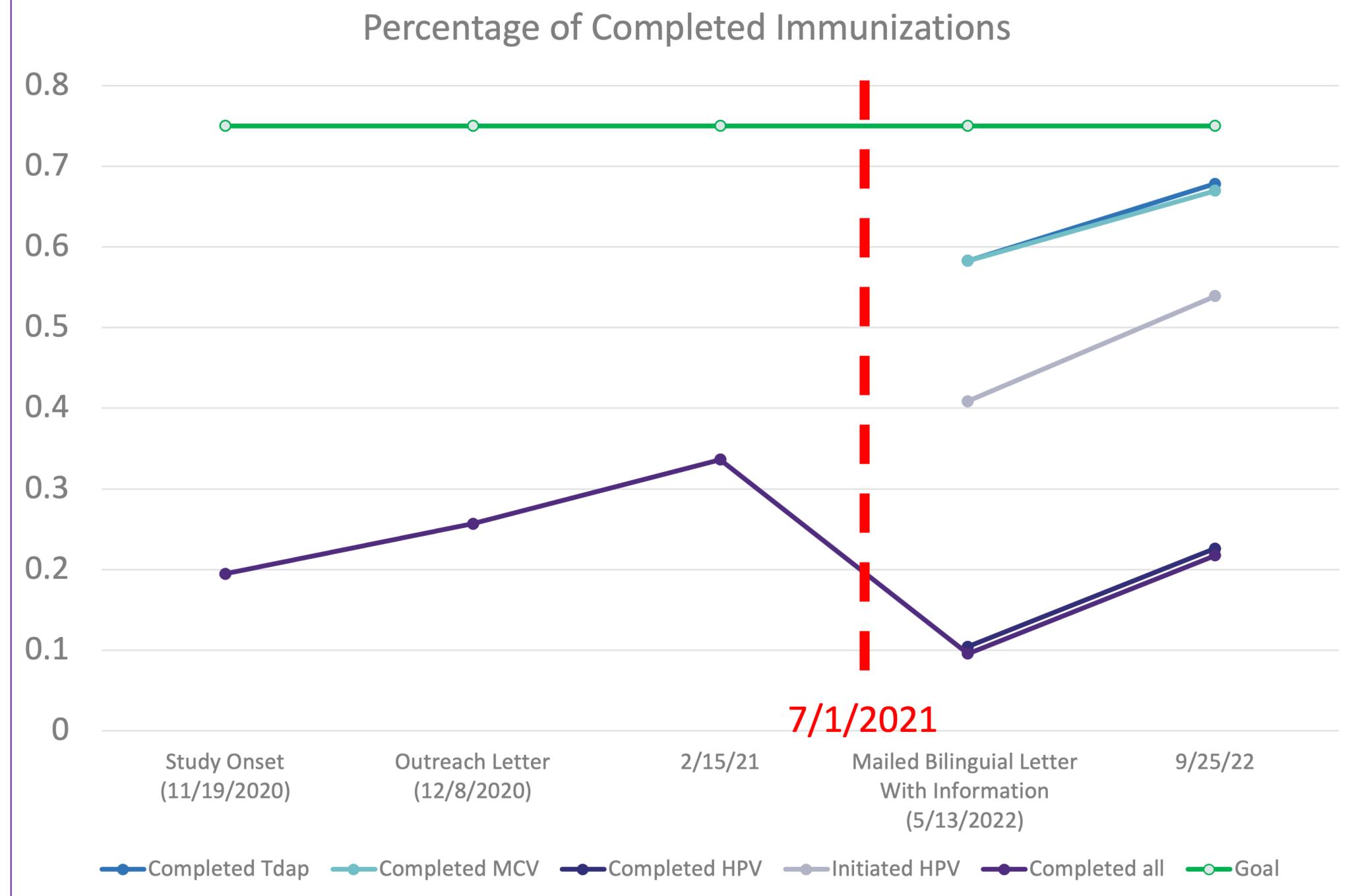
PROJECT DESIGN

- Data collection occurred primarily through electronic health record chart review
- Implemented changes included:
 - Contacting patient families
 - Information sheets on vaccine-preventable diseases
- Mitigating language barriers through Spanish translations
- Progress was measured as percent of patients in the target population who received the three vaccines.
- Rates of completed Tdap immunizations
- Rates of completed MCV immunizations
- Rates of completed HPV immunizations
- Rates of *initiated* HPV immunizations
- Rates of completed Tdap, MCV, and HPV immunizations

CHANGES MADE (PDSA CYCLES)

- PDSA 1 \rightarrow 11/13/2020: Patient outreach through electronic health record
- PDSA 2 \rightarrow 11/19/2020: Outreach letters mailed to homes of patient families
- PDSA 3 \rightarrow 7/12/2021: Created information sheets on the three target vaccines of the study
- PDSA 4 → 7/18/2021: Outreach letters and vaccine information sheets translated into Spanish
- PDSA 5 \rightarrow 5/13/2022: Bilingual outreach letters and vaccine information sheets mailed to patient family homes

RESULTS



Goal: 75% Initiated HPV: 53.9% Completed all: 21.7%

Tdap: 67.8% Completed HPV: 22.6%

NC Medicaid Restructure

MCV: 66.9%

LESSONS LEARNED

- Method of contacting adolescent patient families
- Education on rationale behind healthcare vaccine recommendations
- Addressing language barriers
- Reliable data collection for project sustainability
- Unique approach for HPV immunization
- Vaccination rates affect public health of general population

NEXT STEPS

- Understanding parent perspectives regarding adolescent immunizations
- Nuanced approach to HPV immunization recommendations
- Automated generation of study data

REFERENCES

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- 2. Webb NS, Dowd-Arrow B, Taylor MG, Burdette AM. Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among US Adolescents, 2010-2016. Public Health Reports. 2018;133(6):667-676. doi:10.1177/0033354918805720

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