

Prevalence and Patterns of Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Among School Children In Pitt

County: A Health Education Module to Improve Its Outcome



Omar Taha, Ahmed Hamed M.D., Terri Joyner MSN, RN

BACKGROUND

Food allergy is a growing problem among children in U.S. schools. A significant percentage of them suffer from severe allergic reactions, which can be life threatening.

PROJECT AIM

The aim of our work is to improve the community awareness of the importance of recognizing, preventing, and managing food allergy and anaphylaxis at school.

LESSONS LEARNED

There is a need to improve the community awareness of Food allergy, epinephrine carriage and food allergy action plan enrollment among school students and staff in our area.

CHANGES MADE (PDSA CYCLES)

Plan

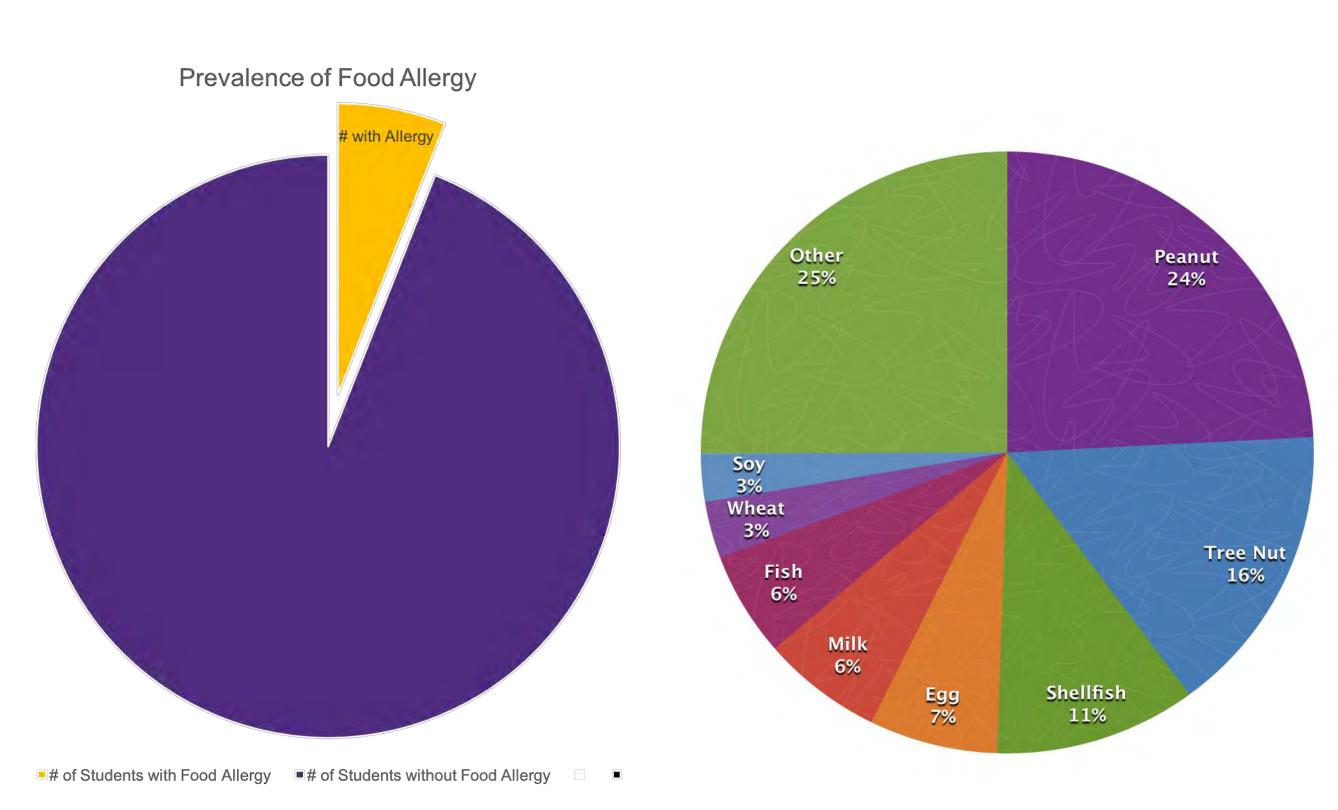
- Improving the awareness of food allergy at Pitt county schools
- Improving recognition and management of food allergy at schools through promoting the use of epinephrine and food allergy action plans in students with significant food allergy.
- We plan to assess the impact of the project during the 2017-2018 school year using the same parameters – Epinephrine and Food Allergy Action plan possession

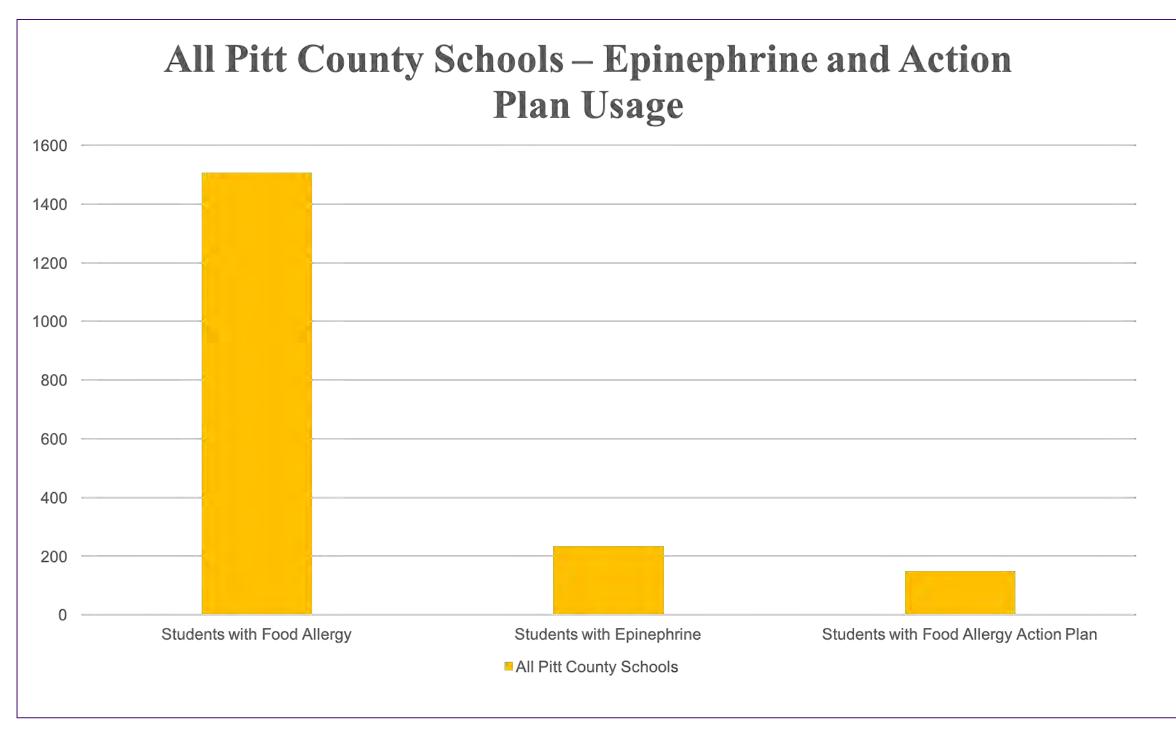
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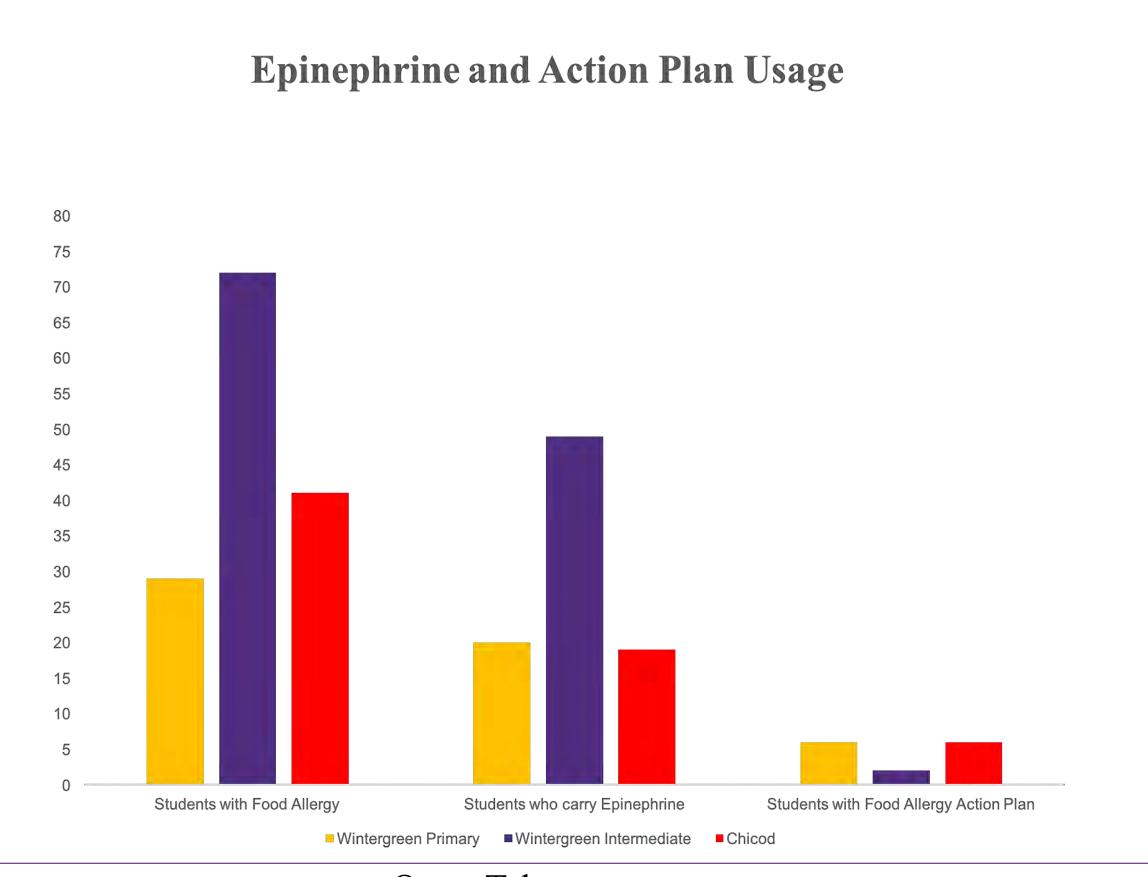
- We analyzed food allergy data for the school year 2016-2017 of 23,674 students from Pre-K to 12th graders in 43 schools (23 elementary, 13 middle, 7 high schools) in Pitt County in order to assess the magnitude of the problem.
- This data was obtained from the school health program at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, NC.
- - A sample of two schools were chosen as a target for a health educational module developed by our team of high school students.
- - It included interactive presentations and questionnaires delivered to over 500 students, teachers, staff and cafeteria workers during the 2016-2017 school year.
- Epinephrine and food allergy action plan possession were the main parameters used to assess the impact of the project.

Study

RESULTS/OUTCOMES







Omar Taha
Arendell Parrott Academy
Patriots for Food Allergy Awareness
Pfaa.co
Greenville, North Carolina 27858
252.481.7131
Omartaha2913@gmail.com