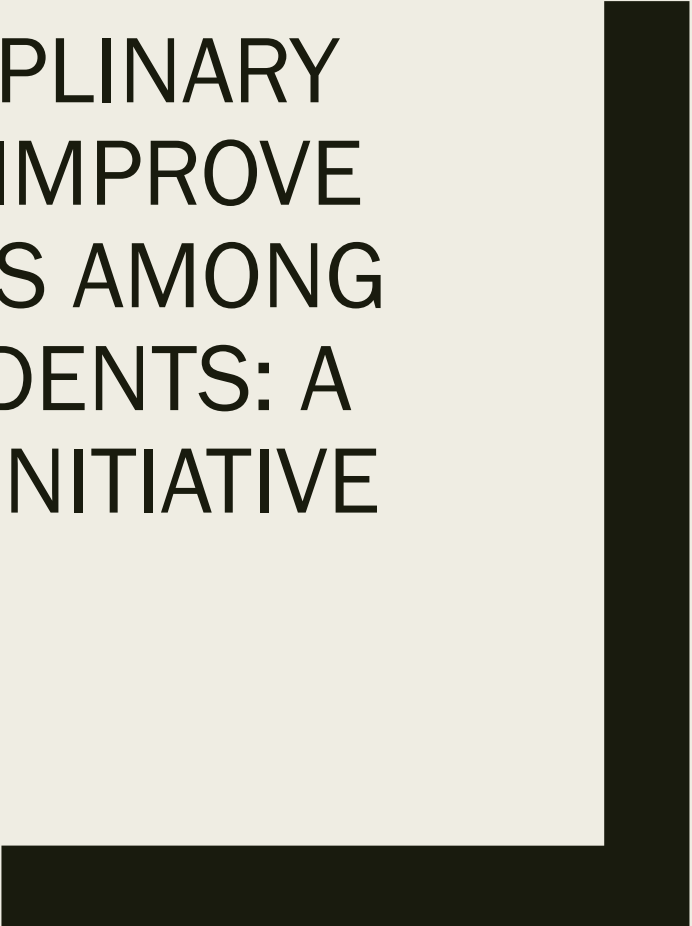


EXPANSION OF A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM TO IMPROVE
INFLUENZA VACCINATION RATES AMONG
ASSISTED LIVING HOME RESIDENTS: A
PHARMACY STUDENT-DRIVEN INITIATIVE

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OBJECTIVE

Upon conclusion of the program, the participant should be able to:

Identify the barriers elders may have to vaccination services and how pharmacists, working with-in an interdisciplinary team can assist those in need.

BACKGROUND

- Each year approximately **100,000 adults** in the United States **die of vaccine preventable diseases**
- **70%** of vaccine preventable **deaths** occur in people **over 65 years of age**

QUESTION

How many seniors do not get the flu shot annually?

- A. One out of ten
- B. One out of three
- C. Fifty percent
- D. None! Don't you know that vaccine stuff is black magic!



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BACKGROUND

- More than 654,000 elders nationwide reside in assisted living homes (ALHs)
- 659 ALHs are registered in the state of Alaska

QUESTION

What percentage of ALH residents still drive?

- A. 67%
- B. 32%
- C. 4%
- D. I don't care! Just keep 'em off the road!



QUESTION

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PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

- To improve vaccine **access** for ALH residents through on-site vaccine administration
- To reduce the incidence of preventable disease transmission through no-cost, volunteer driven, vaccination of ALH residents, family members, and staff

METHODS

A UAA/ISU student-led pharmacy organization (American Pharmacist Association – Academy of Student Pharmacist “Operation Immunization”) partnered with a multidisciplinary team of volunteer providers from Providence Health and Services and other healthcare providers with in the community.

METHODS

- Increase the number of eligible health care providers administering vaccinations
- Provide no cost, In-Kind influenza vaccine to ALH residents, family members, and staff
- Analyze and compile vaccine administrative and demographic data

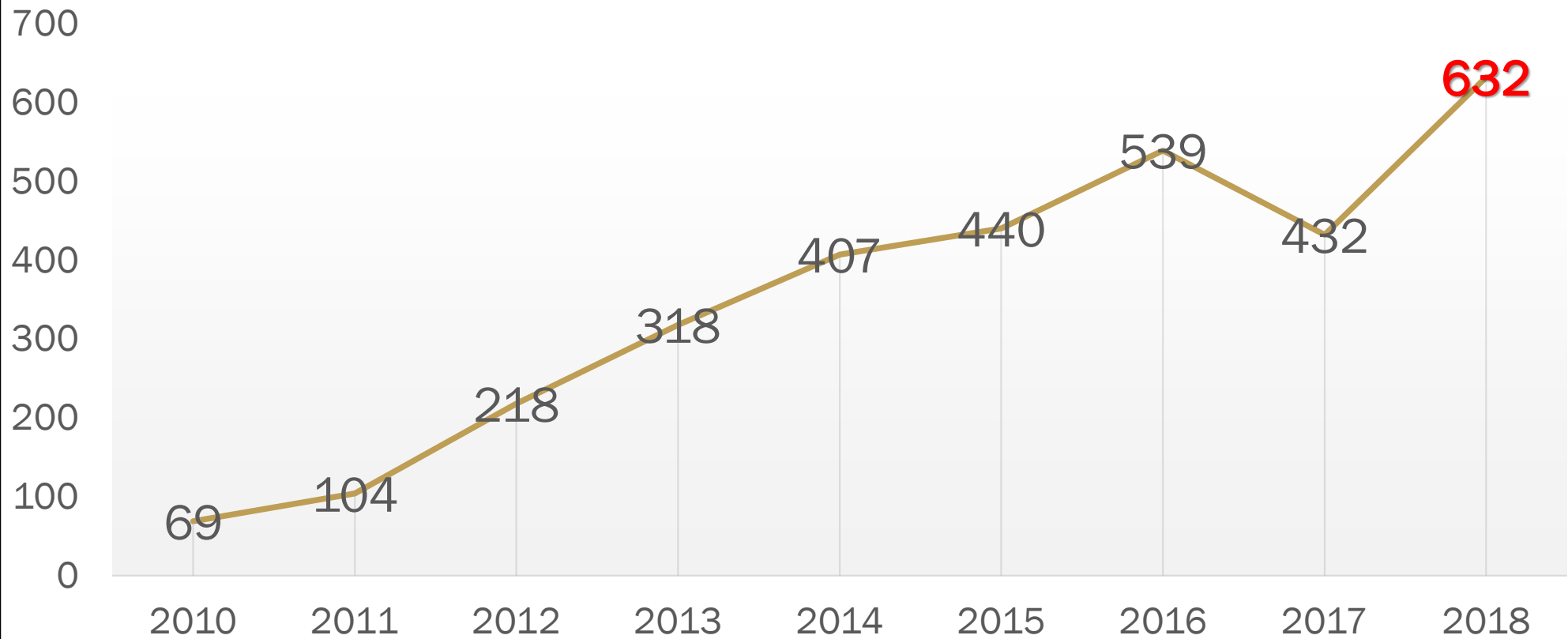
RESULTS

- Based on GIS and census data, many ALHs in Alaska lie within poorer (~44% below the national poverty line) and racially diverse communities (~38% non-white)
- Many ALH's are not connected to public transportation suitable for elders

RESULTS

- UAA/ISU student-led "Operation Immunization", increased pharmacist participation by 300%
- Over 1/3 of the local college of pharmacy students travelled to homes to administer vaccines
- 44% more elders gained access to vaccines

Influenza Vaccine Administration per year from
In-Kind Donations through the ALH
Vaccination Program



RESULTS

- The number of qualified volunteers is still inadequate to meet demand
- Despite the increased number of ALHs reached, 76% remain unsupported

CONCLUSION

- Vaccine preventable diseases remain a significant health problem for elderly people in the United States

CONCLUSION

- Pharmacy student/pharmacist involvement increased the number of ALH's visited and elders vaccinated, expanded access to vaccinations, and potentially improved population immunity

CONCLUSION

- Studies have shown that seniors in small assisted living facilities greatly benefit from outreach services that increase access and adherence to preventative vaccines shown to decrease expensive hospital visits and untimely death

CONCLUSION

- Pharmacists should continue to seek out opportunities, working with interdisciplinary teams, to change public perception of what the pharmacist role in healthcare is



UAA/ISU Doctor of
Pharmacy Program
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DISCLOSURES: NONE OF THE AUTHORS HAVE ANYTHING TO DISCLOSE

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QUESTIONS?