

Improving Access to Immunizations in Underserved Rural South Carolina Communities

Aimed to help increase trained students to improve competency and expand role of clinical pharmacists for rural communities as well as increase the amount of pharmacists in rural areas as well as decrease immunization deserts in South Carolina

Project Aims

- To identify “vaccination deserts” in underserved, rural South Carolina communities.
- To assess barriers and facilitators to vaccination delivery in community pharmacies located in identified “vaccination deserts” and develop implementation strategies to address identified barriers.
- To evaluate selected implementation strategies in rural community pharmacies.

Successes

- Mapped SC pharmacy locations
- Engaged pharmacy residents and successfully obtaining APHA resident incentive grants to support their involvement
- Completed survey data collection identifying barriers and facilitators to pharmacy-based immunization services
- Pharmacy residents presented two posters describing survey preliminary results at the 2021 American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting

Future Directions

- Deliver an immunization training program for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in vaccination deserts
- Evaluate training program sustainability in terms of program costs and durability
- Collaborate with community leaders to build trust in vaccination efforts and increase pharmacy-based immunization demand

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