Making Health Equity a Reality: Utilizing Mobile Vaccination Community Clinics to Increase COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Racially and Ethnically Minoritized Groups

Dr. Jacinda Abdul-Mutakabbir PharmD, MPH, AAHIVP Assistant Professor Pharmacy Practice Loma Linda University, School of Pharmacy



MANY STRENGTHS. ONE MISSION.

School of Pharmacy

A Seventh-day Adventist Organization

Disclosures

I have no conflicts of interest to report.

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Objectives

At the conclusion of this lecture participants should be able to:

- » Describe the interrelationship of structural racism and health equity
- » Identify the appropriate stakeholders necessary for conducting community vaccination clinics
- » List the proper strategies involved in engaging racially and ethnically minoritized groups in COVID-19 vaccination efforts

Racism



Intrapersonal Level:

- Internalized racism
- Stereotype threats

Interpersonal Level:

- Overt discrimination
- Implicit bias

Systemic Level

- Immigration policies
- Incarceration policies
- Healthcare policies

Institutional Level:

- Hiring and promotion practices
- Under-or-over-value of contributions

Community Level:

- Differential resource allocation
- Racially or class segregated schools

Structural Racism Impact on Minority Health

- » Structural racism limits opportunities for social, economic, and financial advancement
- » The experience of racism results in chronic depression, anxiety, and stress
- » The collateral damage of these experiences contribute to many diseases disproportionately diagnosed in minoritized individuals

Health Inequity

Disparities in health attributed to preventable differences, such as:

- Access to healthcare
- Education
- Occupation



What Does Health Equity Look Like?





Equity vs. Equality. Better Bike Share Partnership. Available from: https://betterbikeshare.org/2019/10/24/equity-vs-equality/

Let's Put This Into Perspective

- » COVID-19 has affected racial and ethnic communities disproportionately
- » The COVID-19 vaccine creates an opportunity to change this statistic
- » Institutional distrust limits COVID-19 vaccine uptake
- » Healthcare access limits vaccine allocation in heavily affected urban area

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics in San Bernardino County, CA

» In California greater than 17 million individuals have been vaccinated against COVID-19

» 2.7% of those vaccinees have been Black individuals

» Loma Linda University served as the largest mass vaccination site in San Bernardino County, CA

»As of February 5, 2021 only 3% of the the mass vaccination clinic site vaccinees had been Black individuals

Three-Tiered Approach For Creating Equitable COVID-19 Vaccination Access

» The tiers utilized in our approach to promote equitable COVID-19 vaccine access include:

» Engagement of Black faith leaders

- » Delivery of COVID-19 vaccination education from a Black pharmacist
- » Low-barrier community vaccination clinic held within a Black community

Engagement of Black Faith Leaders

- » The United States is a highly religious nation and faith leaders occupy large roles in minoritized communities
- » Leveraging existing relationships with two church organizations: Inland Empire of Concerned African American Churches and Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement we gained access to their Black membership
- » The faith leaders organized platforms to disseminate information, and orchestrated major processes necessary for the clinics

COVID-19 Faith Summit

- » Faith summits are conducted prior to community vaccination clinics
- » Moderated by the University's Vice President of Community Engagement
- » Includes presentations from a Black psychologist and Black pharmacist
- » Number of Attendees: 100-200 per summit



Delivery of COVID-19 Vaccination Education from a Black Pharmacist

- » The United States has a long medical history of discrimination and wrong doings against Black individuals
- » Cultural representation amongst practitioners has been shown to lead to improved communication
- » The propagation of misinformation related to the COVID-19 vaccines presented the necessity of a trusted, culturally representative, messenger to deliver accurate information

Role of Trusted Healthcare Professional in COVID-19 Community Vaccination Clinic

- » The Black pharmacist, with infectious diseases training, manages the transport of the vaccines
- » The pharmacist also ensures that each of the vaccines are accurately prepared



Low-Barrier Community Vaccination Clinic

- » Several barriers to vaccination include:
 - Access
 - Transportation
 - Internet/ computer-access
- » To overcome these barriers, we instituted the following:
 - Paper-based registration
 - Pop-up clinic at a church located in the Black community



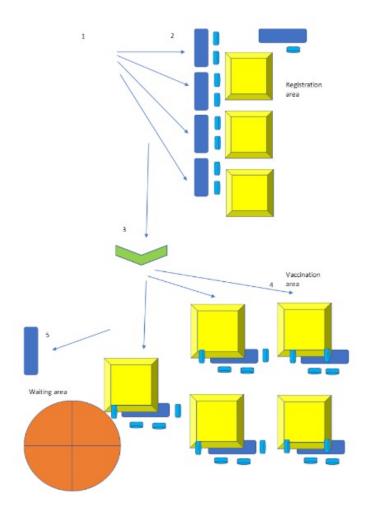
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Stakeholders in Community Vaccination Clinics

The important stakeholders in the community vaccination clinics include:	Faith Leaders
	Pharmacists
	Additional Pharmacy Staff (students, technicians, interns)
	Medical professionals (physicians, nurses, dentists, etc.)
	Community Health Workers, Church Volunteers
	Administration Personnel
	Supply Chain Management

Low-Barrier Clinic Workflow

- » The clinics are conducted either indoors or outdoors
- » The format is consistent irrespective of location
- » The personnel includes:
 - Registration: 4 individuals (church personnel, CHWs)
 - Vaccinators: 6-8 individuals (professional students, licensed professionals as preceptors)
 - Vaccine draw area: 1 licensed pharmacist and 4 professional students or non-clinical faculty
 - Checkout: 4 individuals(3 CHWs) plus one physician for observations



Measurable Outcomes From Community Vaccination Clinics

- » Number of Moderna first-dose community vaccination clinics in the Black community: 2 (673 individuals vaccinated)
- » Number of Moderna second-dose community vaccination clinics in the Black community: 1 (366 individuals vaccinated; 87% return rate)
- » Number of Johnson & Johnson community vaccination clinics in the Black community: 1 (314 individuals vaccinated)
- » 0.6% increase in Black vaccinees at mass vaccination site following community vaccination clinic

Patients Vacci Mass Vaccinat		Patients Vaccinated in Mobile Vaccination Community Clinic	
Black	579 (3%)	Black	351 (83.5%)
American Indian or Alaskan Native	63 (0.4%)	American Indian or Alaskan Native	1 (0.2%)
Native Hawaiian	22 (0.13%)	Native Hawaiian	1 (0.2%)
Asian	2,687 (15.6%)	Asian	3 (0.7%)
White	11,483 (66.4%)	White	19 (4.5%)
Other	611 (3.5%)	Other	10 (2.4%)
Unknown	1,815 (10.5%)	Unknown	35 (8.3%)
Total Number Vaccinated	17,212	Total Number Vaccinated	420

Integration of Professional Students in COVID-19 Community Vaccination Clinic

- » Professional students are often taught about illness without the context of social determinant of health inequities
- » Volunteer opportunities in community vaccination clinics provide them with tangible experiences
- » This could potentially translate to their provision of better healthcare



Reproducibility of Community Vaccination Clinics

- » We have conducted a total of three community vaccination clinics in primarily LatinX communities
- » These clinics include the following:
 - First-dose Moderna Pop-up clinic: 258 individuals vaccinated
 - Second-dose Moderna Popup clinic: 253 individuals vaccinated (97% return rate)



Differences Amongst Minoritized Groups

Community Vaccination Clinic in Targeted Black Community:

Patient Race Grouping	First Dose Clinic- Moderna Vaccine	Patient Race Grouping	Single Dose Clinic – Johnson and Johnson Vaccine
Black	351	Black	143
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	Pacific Islander Asian	1 18
Native Hawaiian	1	LatinX	99
Asian	4	White	19
LatinX	31		
White	14	Unknown	31
Other	10	Other	3
Unknown	5		–
Grand Total	417	Grand total	314

Community Vaccination Clinic in Targeted LatinX Community:

Patient Race Grouping	First Dose Clinic-Moderna Vaccine
Black	5
Pacific Islander	0
Asian	3
LatinX	239
White	12
Unknown	1
Other	0
Grand total	260

Future Directions of Community Vaccination Clinics

- » Black and LatinX individuals continue to be disproportionately affected by many diseases
- » We have begun to provide information related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) pre-exposure (PREP) in the waiting area of the COVID-19 community vaccination clinics
- » We have plans to continue to conduct the faith summits and integrate information pertaining to other disease states (influenza, shingles, human papillomavirus (HPV), and etc.)
- » Following the dissemination of information, we hope to include additional vaccinations, as well HIV rapid testing in a community vaccination clinic setting



Conclusion

» Health inequities are a product of structural and systemic racism

- » Equitable processes are essential to ensuring positive patient outcomes in minoritized groups
- » Providing these equitable approaches require multidisciplinary support and collaboration

Resources

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