

Counties across Oregon share their experiences with working with outreach, education or vaccination work taking place in jails/corrections, shelters, or with other community organizations that serve high risk communities (people experiencing homelessness/unstable housing, drug use, MSM) for Hepatitis A.

- Benton County

- Currently model for increasing Hep. A awareness is continuing to utilize Benton County's Harm Reduction workers through outreach work in the camps, and in addition taking vaccinations to high risk communities
  - Mostly used our Harm Reduction workers for both projects because they are such an experienced & knowledgeable street-level outreach team – and because IDUs have also a huge part of the populations catching Hep-A in outbreaks throughout the US
- It was important getting the communication out there early to vulnerable populations
  - Materials directed with the effected population early
  - Jess Horowitz, hired with limited-duration Modernization funding was sent out to camps, shelters, and services for unsheltered people were provided early on outbreak occurs
    - ❖ Went out early and provide basic sanitation supplies and well-prepared information about hepatitis-A risks to promote vaccination, and would later return to the same area with the health professionals and emergency response partners (nurse or medical professional) to provide vaccinations and other preventative measures
      - Establishing trust in the beginning with vulnerable populations is key
    - ❖ Involve Local Health Department (LHD) and community groups that provide services for unsheltered people personnel in the beginning
    - ❖ Consistent communications of materials with local providers
      - Emphasize it as a local effort and have communities' allies come together
    - ❖ Encouraging providers and emergency providers to use ALERT IIS
    - ❖ Leverage existing partnerships within the communities to increase
      - Critical to have exiting trust
- Update: Benton County conducted another vaccination outreach clinic for unsheltered people in a local hangout site (a skatepark where a community-based organization does Saturday food service). This was the most successful community-based clinic so far, reinforcing a previous finding that it takes sustained and consistent effort to engage and gain the trust of this population.
  - One additional change that was made this time that proved very successful was to also offer Tdap vaccine. The nurse and outreach worker offered 'check and see if it's time for your tetanus booster'.
    - ❖ It served as an effective and more familiar/less surprising way to open a conversation with this normally very wary population.
    - ❖ Since many (most?) of these folks knew they need a 'tetanus booster' every so often, it turned out to be a successful way to get the conversation started with a number of folks we'd been offering Hep-A to unsuccessfully all winter. A significant number of them then agreed to get their first dose of Havrix, even though most were already up-to-date on tetanus.

- ❖ Of course, this also required that we have a way to check ALERT in the field, but per earlier info was provided
- Concerns: How to increase vaccination rate among populations in jail?
  - ❖ Benton Co chose single-valence Hep-A vaccine (Havrix or equivalent) to provide maximum effectiveness with 1<sup>st</sup> dose since recall / follow-up is challenging for the target populations Most important to aim would be to administer the 1st does in the series
- Clackamas County: Anna Summer
  - Use Modernization Funding to forward efforts in Hep. A prevention
  - Partnered with:
    - Local fire district and paramedic personnel (Clackamas Fire District 1 with Amy Jo Cook)
    - Key needle exchange groups (Outside In), and other groups that work heavily with homeless population (Clackamas Service Center)
  - While working with key partners, was able to vaccinate 50-60 individuals
  - Challenges:
    - Difficulty to complete the series
    - Difficulty in collecting data in that individuals often go by an alias and/or do not have an address; small-scale operation, would like to have a larger group of individuals to depend on for vaccination campaigns; need stronger community partnerships in communities to call upon for prevention and response efforts
  - Working with internal Data Informatics Coordinator to better understand Clackamas' risk factors, vaccination coverage, and prevalence of Hep A in Clackamas County.
  - Would appreciate more regional data sharing to inform our understanding of this disease and associated risk factors.
- Deschutes County
  - Completed outreach clinics offering Hep A and Tdap vaccines at Jericho Table in Redmond (provides meals), the Back Door in Bend (provides meals) and the Deschutes County Jail.
  - A vaccination clinic offering Hep A and Tdap vaccines is planned for Tuesday, 5/18 at the Community Kitchen in La Pine (provides meals).
  - Provided information and education for the Medical Director at the Deschutes County Jail regarding 317 funded vaccine and the possibility of the jail's medical unit staff doing on-going Hep A, Tdap and flu vaccination during 14-day health assessment visits. The Medical Director at the jail is reviewing enrollment process requirements and determining whether resources are adequate to support on-going vaccine administration and associated requirements. Steve R. confirmed that OHA is open to the idea of the jail as a Deschutes Co. delegate or stand alone.
  - Coordinated with Mosaic Medical (FQHC) to help them acquire Hep A 317 vaccine to offer on their mobile van. The medical van visits locations where high-risk populations frequent including Shepherd's House (shelter) and the Methodist Church in Bend (meals).
  - We have reached out to additional organizations that do work with high risk populations such as COVO (Central Oregon Veterans Outreach) and Bethlehem Inn (shelter) and are continuing to seek opportunities to increase uptake among high risk populations.
  - Administered about 65 doses of Hep A vaccine for this outreach effort in Deschutes County so far
- Douglas County
  - Current model for increasing Hep. A awareness and outreach work can easily be replicated
  - Community workers within Douglas Public Health (PH) was to travel to shelters and vulnerable populations with high susceptibility of Hep. A

- Portable refrigerators from Oregon Immunization Program's (OIP) Vaccine for Children (VFC) program was helpful
  - Possible tactic: Would approach emergency departments with hospitalization rates related to Hep. A to bring awareness of situation to hospital administrators
- Malheur County
    - Received a small grant to provide strategic outreach to this specific population to offer screening/risk counseling and immunizations
    - partnered with drug and alcohol centers, the county jail and the homeless shelter to offer these services at their sites for no fee
    - Grant period was short, but felt like efforts have been successful
- Marion County
    - Last year, Marion County Health and Human Services received a supply of Hepatitis A vaccine for outreach activities
      - Currently, have some of the doses left
    - With the vaccine, Marion County participated in 2 events that specifically provide services to homeless individuals
    - Vaccines were also given to the county jail several times between March 2018 and May 2019
    - In addition, Marion use the vaccine in their clinic to immunize homeless or other individuals at risk
- Multnomah County
    - Work to incorporate Hep. A vaccination at shelters
    - County and state personnel would set up pop-up clinics to provide vaccines
    - Vaccines for Hep. A are also being distributed to local harm reduction groups
      - Around 100 vaccinations have been administered
    - Hep. A messaging material:
      - [Press release](#)
      - [Portland metro clinician communication](#) (sent simultaneously via email)
    - Trying to align with metro county partners (Clark, Clackamas and Washington)
    - Next steps with left over funds, provide basic medical care and working with local partners
    - Strategizing to work more with other key groups to have community engagement
- Washington County
    - Work with the severe weather shelters in Washington County to provide Hep A vaccination during operating hours and fairs
    - Details on the outreach Washington County did around Hepatitis A.
      - 12/04/17: Severe Weather Shelter, Sonrise Hillsboro
      - 01/26/18: Project Homeless Connect (Fair)
      - 03/20/18: Severe Weather Shelter, United Church of Christ, Forest Grove
      - 03/21/18: Severe Weather Shelter, Sonrise Forest Grove
      - 07/27/18: Project Homeless Connect (Fair)