



EMORY

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PUBLIC
HEALTH

Interfaith Health Program
Hubert Department of Global Health

Faith-based Community Health Initiative

South Brooklyn Interfaith Coalition for Health and Wellness

Presented by Fran Picone, RSM

Core Partners

- NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Our Lady of Refuge R.C. Church
- Emory University
- Medical Reserve Corps
- ArchCare Time Bank



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Objective 1: Expand faith-based and other partnerships to build community health promotion capacity

- Reaching 150 congregations and expanding to new ones in where there is low vaccine uptake and larger numbers of food pantries and soup kitchens
- Growth of 300% in new congregation partnerships from 2 to 8 congregations – for wellness team development, health screenings, and social service resources
- Increase of 86% in flu shot administration – 17 clinics, 260 in 2013 > to 484 in 2014
- Expanded number of congregations using online ‘Keep on Track’ initiative from 2 to 4 (linked to DOH database tracking health screenings and impact from educational programs)



ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

Objective 2: Build capacity of partnerships to increase reach and impact on vulnerable, at-risk populations

- Growth of 270% in volunteers from 10 to 37 – trained 27 new health and wellness team members
- 100% increase in congregations with wellness teams from 2 to 4
- 8 congregations now host a regular schedule of health and wellness activities
- 20% increase in individuals knowing and tracking their blood pressure



CHALLENGES

- Securing FBO leadership buy-in and participation in building partnership
- Community misinformation about vaccinations limits participation in flu shot events
- Highest risk participants are difficult to reach due to unstable living arrangements and other socioeconomic barriers
- Limited space available for program activities



CAPACITIES

- Our partnership with NYC DOHMH enables expanded support and resources with training, educational literature, speakers, data system, volunteers
 - Model Practices: Circle of Core Partners and Network Connections
- NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers and its functions as an intermediary agency that leverages health, social service, and volunteer resources in high need communities through the South Brooklyn Interfaith Coalition
 - Model Practices: Leadership anchors the network, Circle of Core Partners, and Network Connections



OPPORTUNITIES

- Faith-based model provides entrée; trust and confidence is built through long-standing relationships
 - Opportunity to increase confidence in vaccine despite current community mistrust in low vaccine uptake communities
- Model provides access to diverse communities
 - Opportunity to reach high risk populations in specific ethnic or geographic communities
- Intermediary agency serves as linchpin between health care and faith communities



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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What more would you like to know about this site's work?
2. LMC has a long history of partnership work with the NYC DOH. One outgrowth of this is the adoption and use of the online 'Keep on Track' DOH database. Is this successful or not? How so? What are the opportunities for this kind of assessment and planning tool across all sites?

