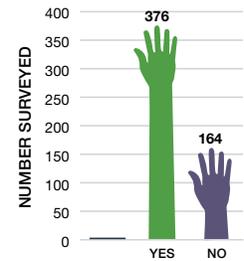


WINS & NEEDLES: How Pharmacists Give Influenza Vaccination A Shot in the Arm

THE ISSUE

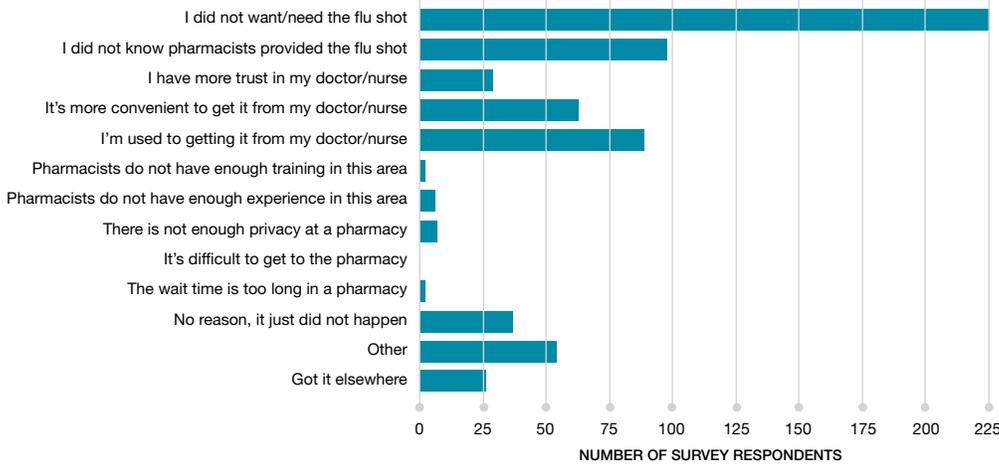
We all want healthier communities, and there's no better example of cost-effective public health initiatives than vaccinations. More than 50 per cent of Ontario pharmacies have been part of the free influenza vaccine administration program since 2012, creating a net increase of almost 500,000 vaccinated Ontario residents. But in 2014 OPEN undertook a survey of members of the public who had not been vaccinated by Ontario pharmacists. More than half of respondents said they didn't need or want the influenza vaccine. More than a quarter didn't know pharmacists could deliver influenza vaccinations. Our research suggests that the convenience of getting an influenza vaccine at the pharmacy, plus the trust clients have in the advice of their local pharmacists, could lead to even higher influenza vaccine coverage in the province. Vaccination-trained and certified pharmacists in Ontario are willing to take a broader role in vaccination.

DID YOU KNOW THAT PHARMACISTS CAN GIVE THE FLU SHOT?

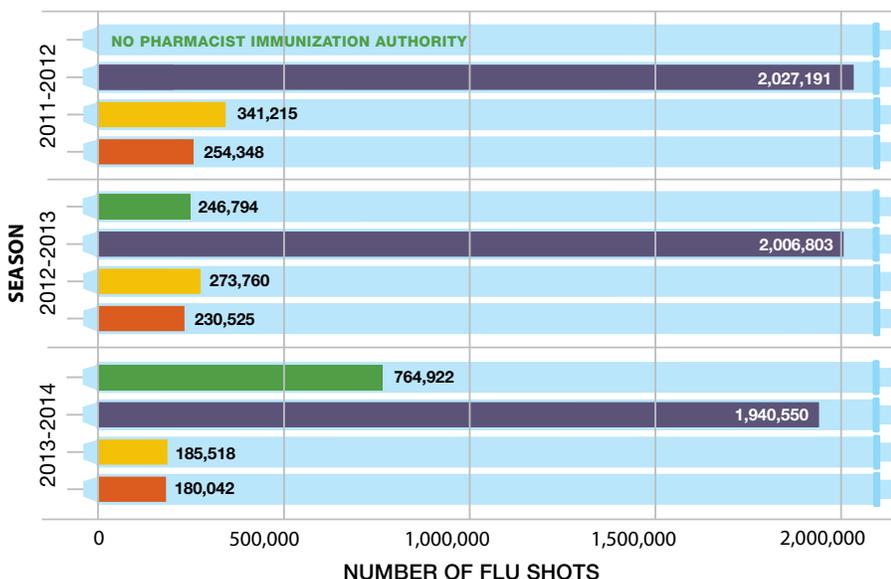
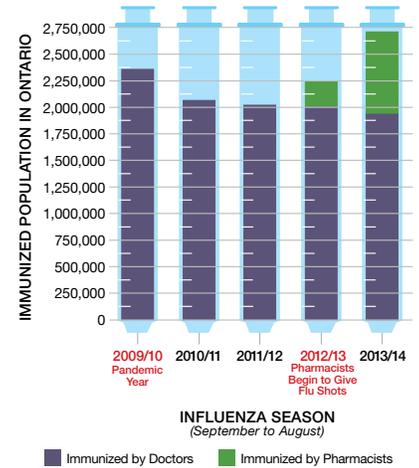


(Above) Ontario residents in pharmacies who had not been vaccinated by a pharmacist

WHY DID YOU NOT GET THE FLU SHOT FROM A PHARMACIST IN THE PAST YEAR?



VACCINATION RATES IN ONTARIO (2009 to 2014)



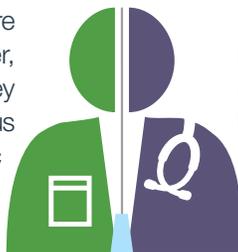
FLU VACCINES ADMINISTERED

Despite a decrease over time in the number of influenza vaccines administered at physician offices, public health clinics, and other locations, Ontario had a net increase of 468,666 influenza vaccinations due to the involvement of pharmacists.

- Community Pharmacy
- Physician Offices
- Public Health
- Other
(including workplace clinics, retirement homes and walk-in clinics)

WHO GOES TO WHOM?

OPEN research shows that pharmacists in Ontario are more likely than physicians to vaccinate younger, higher income, and healthier patients, especially if they have had pharmacy services that day or in the previous year. But that is not true if they live in some Public Health Unit regions such as Toronto, Peel, York, Niagara, Eastern Ontario, and Windsor-Essex, where



they are more likely to go to their physicians' office to get vaccinated. We know that we can do more to reach out to this younger, important demographic. They are important because they can transmit influenza to both younger and older members of their communities, including those who are at high risk for influenza-related complications.

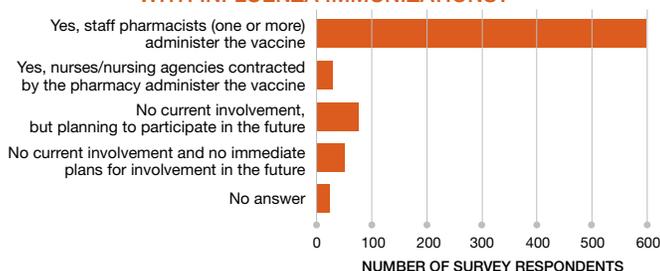
MORE LIKELY TO BE VACCINATED BY A PHARMACIST

- 20-64
- Non-immigrant
- Live in higher income neighborhood
- Immunized in November, December or January
- Had billable pharmacy services in last year or on day of vaccination
 - Admitted to hospital in last year
- Previously vaccinated by a pharmacist

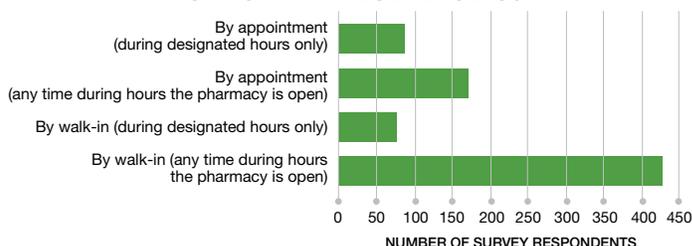
MORE LIKELY TO BE VACCINATED BY A PHYSICIAN

- Younger than 20, or 65 and older
- Immigrant
- Live in lower income neighborhood
- Immunized in October, February or March
- Had an emergency room or physician visit or a long-term care stay in the last year
- Has diabetes or is hypertensive
- Previously vaccinated in a doctor's office

IS THIS COMMUNITY PHARMACY CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATIONS?



HOW WERE THE INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS MADE AVAILABLE IN THIS COMMUNITY PHARMACY DURING THAT INFLUENZA SEASON?



POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Based on our evidence, pharmacists have the ability, training, experience, and capacity to administer influenza vaccinations. This is especially important since public health clinics offering influenza vaccinations are gradually closing down. For those people who received their vaccine from public health clinics in the past, it makes sense that they can still access vaccination easily and conveniently.

Wider access to influenza vaccination from pharmacists could be given to: people without an OHIP card; children younger than five years of age; and all Ontario residents outside of community pharmacies, including residents of retirement homes or during MedsCheck at home visits.

Many pharmacists OPEN surveyed believe they can also effectively administer: hepatitis A and B, varicella zoster, tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis, HPV, and other vaccines, including those for travel. Our research suggests that the infrastructure, training, and experience of influenza vaccination in Ontario have laid a solid groundwork for pharmacists to step up to this frontline healthcare and health education challenge to include more vaccines to all Ontario residents.

Alsabbagh, W., Wenger, L. M., Papastergiou, J., Pojskic, N., Raman-Wilms, L., Schneider, E., & Waite, N. *Ontario community pharmacy patrons' perspective of pharmacists as influenza immunizers.* (Manuscript in preparation)
 Kwong, J., Cadarette, S., Schneider, E., Campitelli, M., Church, D., Consiglio, G., Pojskic, N., Houle, S., Alsabbagh, A., & Waite, N. *Community pharmacies providing influenza vaccines in Ontario: A descriptive analysis using administrative claims data.* (Manuscript in preparation)
 Alsabbagh, W., Church, D., Pojskic, N., Raman-Wilms, L., Schneider, E., Waite, N., & Wenger, L. M. *Pharmacists' perspective on administration of influenza vaccination: A survey of community pharmacists in Ontario.* (Manuscript in preparation)

Known as OPEN, the Ontario Pharmacy Research Collaboration is a multi-institutional research program funded primarily by the Government of Ontario to provide evidence on the quality, outcomes and value of medication management services provided by pharmacists and other healthcare professionals. OPEN studies featured here were funded by a grant from the Government of Ontario (Ministry grant no. 06674). The funder had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the document. The views expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the funder.