

# The Implementation of Mobile and Clinic-based Strategies to Aid the Increase of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Rate in El Paso County, Texas for Adolescents and Young Adults, Ages 13 to 26.

Monica Leal, MPA, CHES

City of El Paso Department of Public Health – Medicaid Waiver Program

## Background and Purpose

Seventy-nine million Americans are infected with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Those affected most by HPV are those in their late teens and early 20s (Genital HPV Infection –Fact Sheet, 2017). Although in most cases HPV does not cause serious health problems, in women, certain strains can alter normal cells on the surface of the cervix into cancerous cells leading to cervical cancer (Human Papillomavirus infection, 2017). According to the CDC, “White and Hispanic women had higher rates of HPV-associated cervical cancers than any other races of non-Hispanic women,” and Hispanic men had higher rates of HPV-associated cancers than white and non-Hispanic men did. The City of El Paso is predominately Hispanic with an 80.96% making up its entire population. Persons under the age of 24 make up 38.81% of the city’s population (Paso Del Norte Institute for Healthy Living, 2018). The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (CEPDPH) Medicaid Waiver program aims to increase HPV immunization rates through the collaboration with CEPDPH’s internal Preventive Medicine clinic, Immunization clinic, and community organizations. The Medicaid Waiver program serves the El Paso, TX, population by increasing access to immunizations and health screenings. The program staff identify persons who are in need of select health screenings and immunizations by using the Race, Ethnicity, and Language (REAL) interview survey and linking them to services. Participants are connected to services using a voucher system with CEPDPH clinics and/or private physicians.



## Methods and Materials

The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (CEPDPH) Medicaid Waiver program utilized the REAL survey to identify the health and immunization needs in the prioritized population. Persons 13 to 24 years of age were screened to determine if they needed to start or complete the HPV series and were linked to services using a voucher system. The following strategies were implemented by the CEPDPH Medicaid Waiver program to increase the immunization rate in El Paso County, TX.

### Community Outreaches

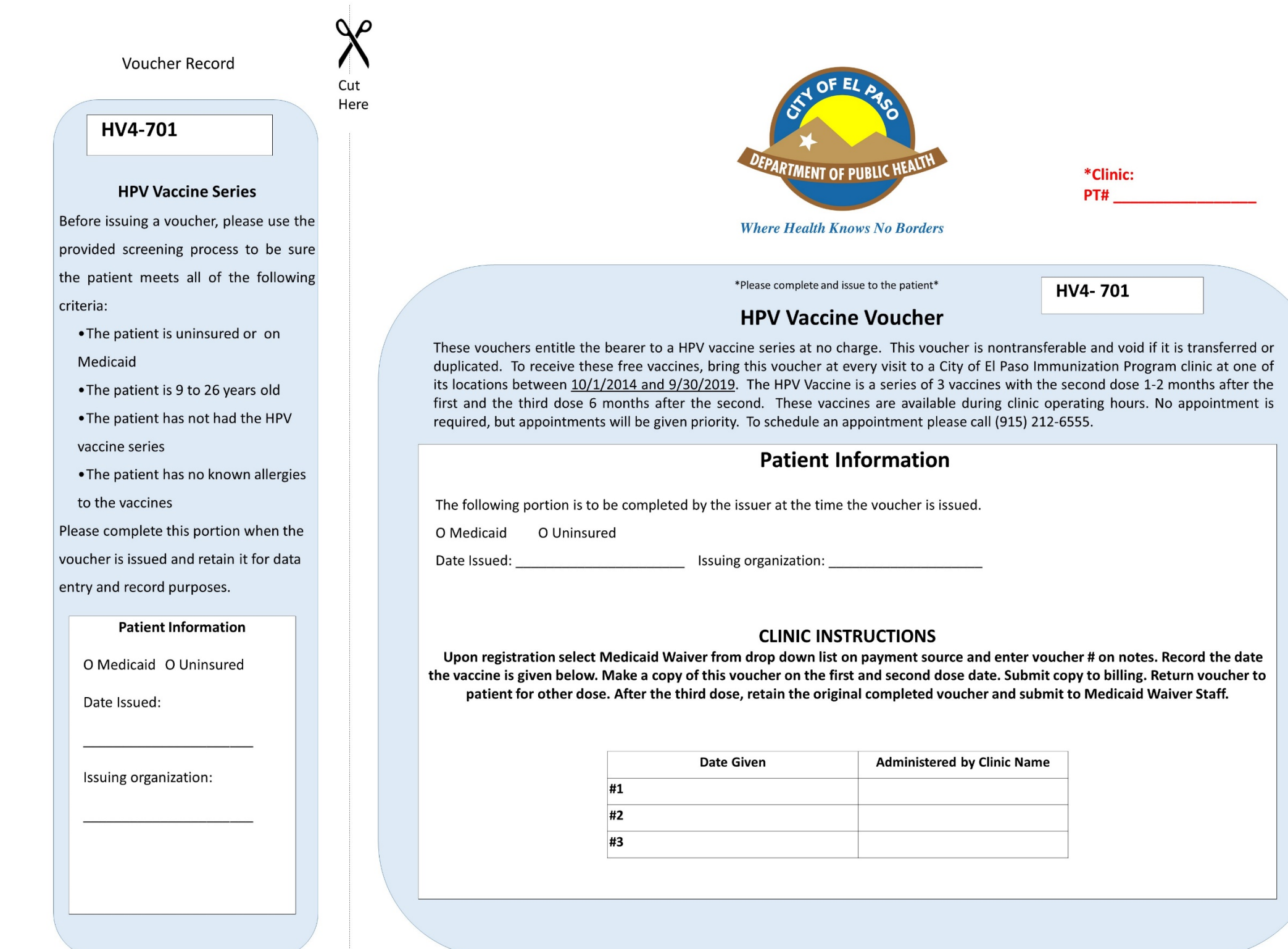
- Onsite services to persons throughout El Paso, TX
- Referrals to CEPDPH immunization to receive services

### Bridging Preventive Medicine and Immunization Clinics

- Preventive Medicine Clinic screens vaccination history during routine testing.
- Same day services received from the immunization clinic if vaccine is needed.

### Education and Partnerships

- Collaborations with local university and community organizations to increase the knowledge and awareness of receiving the HPV vaccine.
- Focus on “cancer prevention” and not the “mode of transmission.”



Voucher Record  
Cut Here

HPV4-701

HPV Vaccine Series  
Before issuing a voucher, please use the provided screening process to be sure the patient meets all of the following criteria:

- The patient is uninsured or on Medicaid
- The patient is 9 to 26 years old
- The patient has not had the HPV vaccine series
- The patient has no known allergies to the vaccines

Please complete this portion when the voucher is issued and retain it for data entry and record purposes.

Patient Information  
 Medicaid  Uninsured  
 Date issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Issuing organization: \_\_\_\_\_

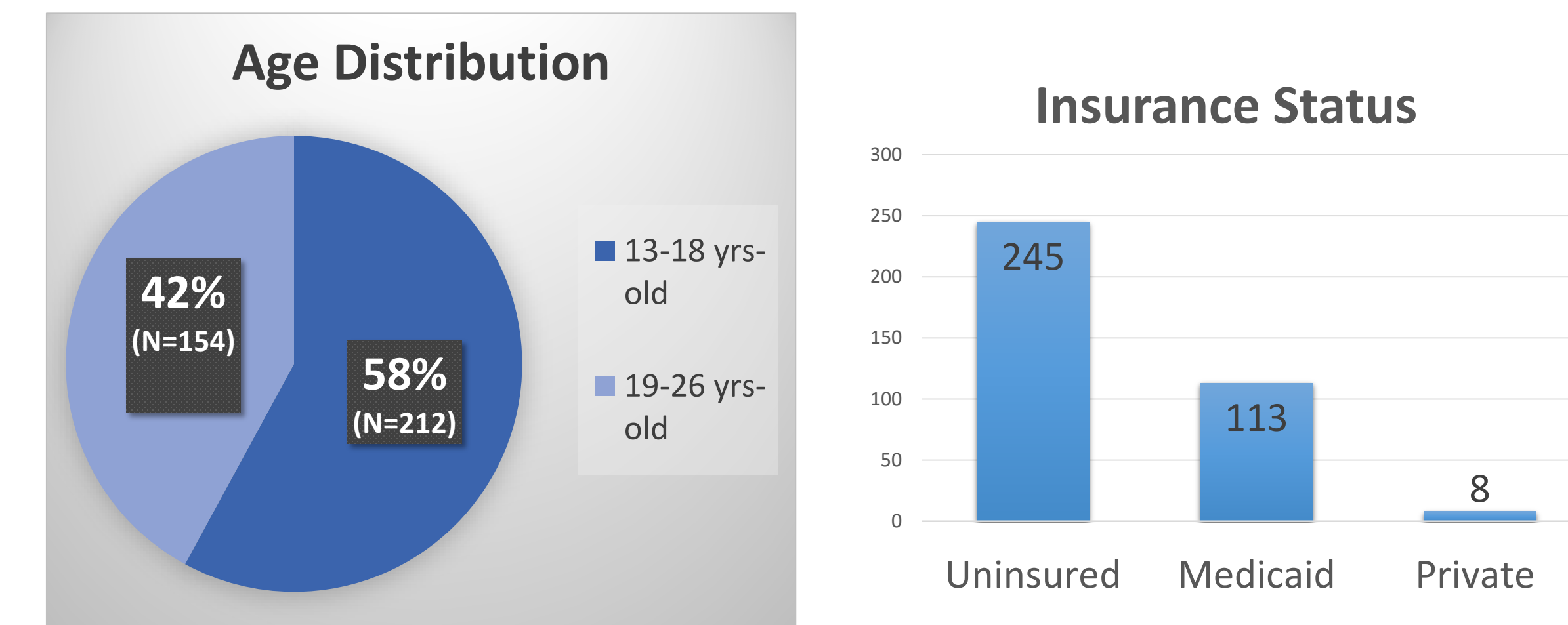
CLINIC INSTRUCTIONS  
 Upon registration select Medicaid Waiver from drop down list on payment source and enter voucher # on notes. Record the date the vaccine is given below. Make a copy of this voucher on the first and second dose date. Submit copy to billing. Return voucher to patient for other dose. After the third dose, retain the original completed voucher and submit to Medicaid Waiver Staff.

Date Given	Administered by Clinic Name
#1	
#2	
#3	

## Results

The City of El Paso Department of Public Health vaccinated 3055 persons ages 13-26 from with the HPV vaccine from January 2016 - December 2017. The Medicaid Waiver program linked 366 participants to continue and/or begin the HPV vaccination series by conducting onsite vaccination at community outreaches and same day vaccination during testing at clinic.

- 69 participants that initiated the first dose elsewhere, 52% completed the 3 series vaccine
- 297 participants that initiated the first dose with the Medicaid Waiver program 12% completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose
- Concurrent vaccination from participants vaccinated with 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 63% completed the series



## Challenges

- Teens rely on parents or others for transportation to the clinic to receive immunization services.
- Participant’s phone numbers are often disconnected or changed and follow up calls by the Health Education and Prevention Specialist cannot be completed.
- Underage participants need parental approval and consent to receive vaccine and cannot make the choice on their own.
- Mobile Immunizations team faces challenges in maintaining vaccine temperature during outreach events.
- Parents are reluctant to give consent for the HPV immunization because of previous beliefs.

## Lessons Learned and Discussion

- New ways to inform and recruit participants to the program are being implemented to test effectiveness.
- To reduce barriers, the CEPDPH Teen Initiative focuses on onsite school vaccinations and prescreen participants before the vaccine event.
- Collaboration agreements with community organizations to do follow up with participants and give incentives for completion of immunization series.
- Health Educators and Disease Intervention specialists will contact participants to give information on community outreaches close to participant’s location
- Create reminders on participant’s cellphone to remind them to get the next HPV vaccine.
- To Increase time at outreach event, the Medicaid Waiver program is retrofitting a mobile unit that can keep vaccines at a viable temperature.

## References

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