

The UNE Flu Crew: An Interprofessional Influenza Prevention Team



Christina Tsui¹, Annie Beauregard², Nathan Stoddard², Samantha Grela²,
Allison Bubar², Elise Reddington¹, Nicolette Schwab¹, Adam Lessard¹, Thomas Wickham¹
University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine¹ and University of New England College of Arts and Sciences²

Background

- Influenza is a contagious causative agent for respiratory illness that affects all people, though college students are particularly susceptible to the virus.
- There is limited available data on influenza vaccination rates among college students.
- Underlying barriers still exist to improving vaccination rates.

Project Objectives

- Conducted a survey assessment of influenza knowledge, perception, and beliefs of University of New England students and faculty
 - Analyzed survey data of 436 students/faculty on flu perceptions, knowledge and barriers to create a targeted educational media campaign (completed 2/2016)
- Designed and implemented a targeted media campaign addressing identified knowledge gaps in survey population
- Created and utilized a peer-to-peer education model to teach local elementary students about influenza prevention
 - Recruited 15 undergraduate students to design and implement a Flu Prevention curriculum in elementary schools
 - Designed and implemented a Flu Crew Curriculum to be presented to 400 elementary level students

UNE Campus and Community Outreach Methods

- Campus-wide survey
 - A 29-question survey created based primarily around information deemed integral by the Center for Disease Control online resources
 - Results used to formulate an educational intervention that targets barriers, misperceptions, and knowledge gaps among the UNE community
- Campus-wide media campaign using social and visual media to address stigmas and increase general education of influenza
- Health education program implemented on the UNE campus and in local community schools
 - Development of teaching curriculum to provide community outreach to local elementary schools
 - Held multiple sessions of small group activities with 4th & 5th graders



Survey Preliminary Results

- As of February 2016, 31.4% (n=136) of respondents did not receive an influenza vaccination this year.
- 34.4% of respondents do not receive an influenza vaccination annually
- Of those who were unvaccinated, 17.9% did not want to receive the vaccination.
- Reasons against vaccination:
 - 14.2% believed that the vaccine does not work
 - 12.5% believed that they can tolerate being infected by the influenza virus
 - 11% believed that the vaccination could cause serious side effects
 - 8.9% believed that the vaccination would give them “the flu”
 - 5.4% believed that the influenza strain covered in the vaccination is not the same strain that affects the community

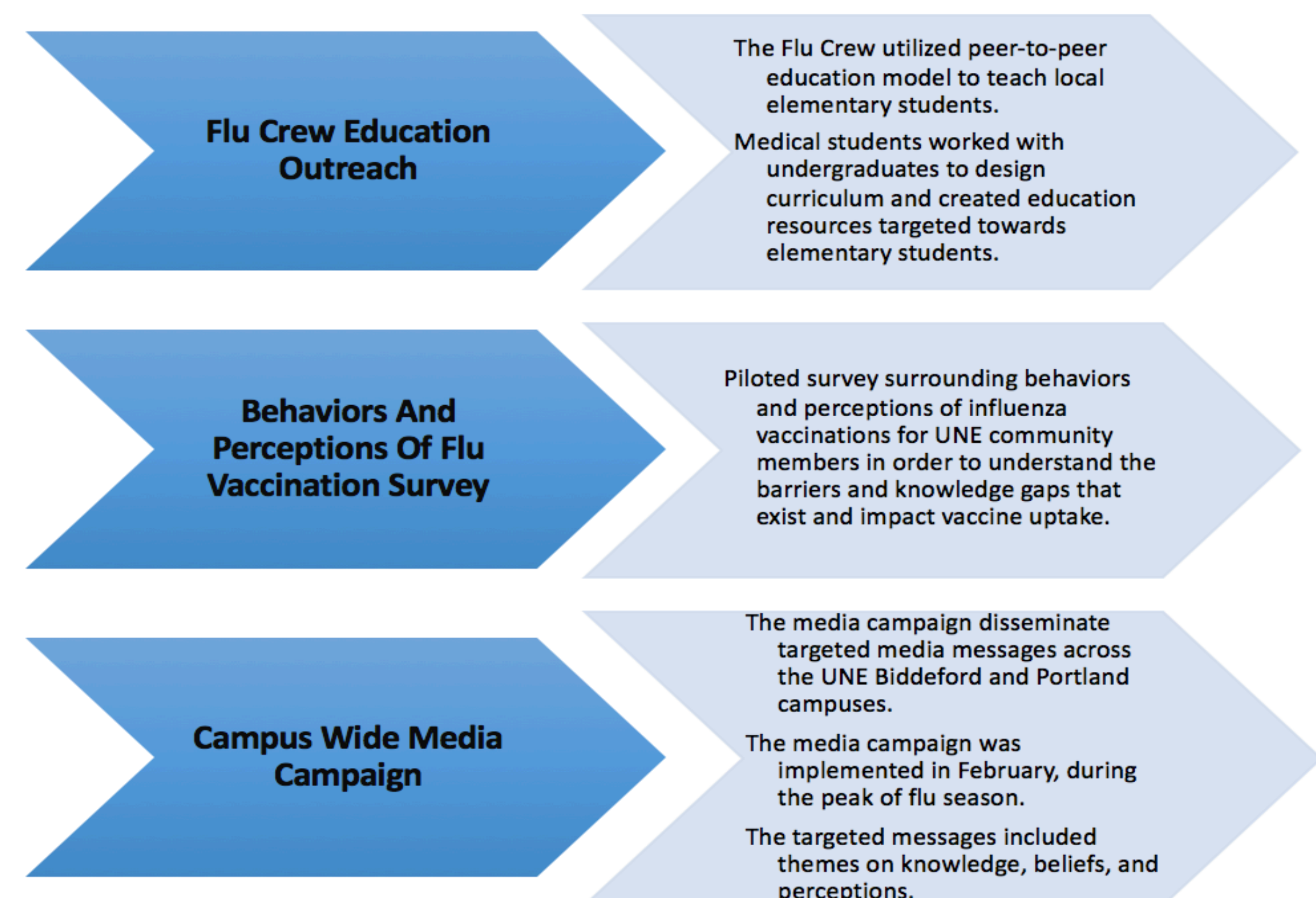
IPE Survey Results

- **36 participants of the Educational Outreach Program were surveyed on knowledge and perspectives of working in interprofessional teams.**
- 86% of participants were familiar with working in interprofessional teams, but only 47% had participated in training in interprofessional teams.
- 98% of participants agreed that to be an effective interprofessional team, members should understand the work of their fellow team members.
- 100% of participants agreed that they can effectively work in teams, contribute valuable insight to teams, and coordinate tasks effectively, while 86% were less than very confident that they could not take on a leadership role in a team.
- Participants were asked to identify important elements for interprofessional practice, results were: asking for assistance when needed, working together to solve problems, and collaborating to improve quality of care.

Future Directions

- Implement follow-up survey (intended April of 2017) surrounding behaviors and perceptions of influenza vaccination to measure effects of educational media campaign. Target sample size >n=250 of UNE students and faculty.
- We intend to run a community influenza clinic to supply vaccinations to the residents of the York County Shelter in Alfred, ME.
- Continue and expand community education to support the health of UNE students and the greater community.
- Support the professional development of medical and undergraduate students through collaborative projects and integrative community experiences.

Overview of the Flu Crew Projects



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our Public Health club advisor Jennifer Gunderman-King, MPH and members Cameron Bubar, Jeff Wisniowski, and Jessica Harnisch-Boyd. Funding support was graciously provided by the Office of the Provost, University of New England.