Cape May County Influenza Vaccination Activities, 2006-2007

Summary

While there was no shortage of influenza vaccine for the 2006-07 season, distribution was delayed, resulting in a late vaccination program. Cape May County ordered 797 multi-dose vials of FluZone vaccine from Sanofi Pasteur. The vaccine delivery date was delayed to the end of November or mid-December. Most vaccine administration agencies had received at least partial shipments by the end of October 2006. Several privately organized clinics were held at local stores in October and November. Cape May County, however, had not received any vaccine, thereby postponing all public vaccination activities. Once the vaccine was received, two mass vaccination drive-through clinics were held, on November 19 and December 3, 2006, with a total of 5,476 people receiving their flu vaccine at one of these two clinics.

At the end of March 2007, a total of 7,699 influenza vaccinations had been given to County residents, representing 16 municipalities. Six thousand eight hundred eighty-four vaccinations were provided directly by the Department of Health. Out of these 6,884 vaccines, 80% were given to residents at high-risk of influenza complications. The number vaccinated who were at high-risk substantially increased this season from 60% in the 2005-06 season. This increase is due in part to the expanded recommendation to designate persons 50 years and older as a high-risk category, as compared to 65 years and older. Seventy-three percent of persons vaccinated this season were 50 years of age or older. Over the past three years, the percentage of persons vaccinated by the County aged 65 or older has decreased, from 70% in 2004-05 to 35% in 2006-07.

Ninety percent of vaccine recipients identified themselves as white, and 55% were female. The majority of vaccine recipients were from Middle Township, Lower Township, and Cape May City. Increased marketing and education efforts are needed to target the upper parts of the County, particularly Ocean City, Upper Township, Dennis Township, and Woodbine.

Eighty percent of persons vaccinated by the Department of Health received their vaccine at one of the two drive-through clinics. A further 13% were vaccinated at a clinic held at the Department of Health, 3% were vaccinated at a clinic held in the community, and 4% were vaccinated during non-clinic times.

Apart from the County Department of Health’s vaccination activities, a number of residents received the influenza vaccine this season from local hospitals, physicians, pharmacies, and supermarket clinics. Maxim Health Systems provided 6,392 influenza vaccinations, for a fee, in Cape May County this season.

Seventy-seven percent of those vaccinated this year by the County Department of Health also received the influenza vaccine last year. Seventy-two percent of those receiving the flu vaccine last year received it from the County, with 60% receiving their vaccine at the drive-through clinic. This percentage has dramatically increased since the 2004-05 season (26%) and the 2005-06 season (34%). The 2005-06 season is the first season in which the Department of Health was the principal coordinating agency for the drive-through clinic program. The high percentage of repeat clients demonstrates a high level of satisfaction with the drive-through flu clinic. Of those vaccinated by the County in 2006-07 and 2005-06, 39% were between 50-64 years of age and 42% were 65 years or older.

Information by high-risk group is available in Appendix A, and by municipality group in Appendix B.
Program Overview

While there was no shortage of influenza vaccine for the 2006-07 season, distribution was delayed, resulting in a late vaccination program. Cape May County ordered 797 multi-dose vials of FluZone from Sanofi Pasteur. The vaccine delivery date was delayed to the end of November or mid-December. Most vaccine administration agencies had received at least partial shipments by the end of October 2006. Several privately organized clinics were held at local stores in October and November. Cape May County, however had not received any vaccine, thereby postponing all public vaccination activities. Prolonged negotiations with Sanofi Pasteur resulted in the County receiving 7,970 single dose vials of influenza vaccine on November 2, 2006. The single dose vials were provided by Sanofi Pasteur at the cost agreed upon for the multi-dose vials. Once the vaccine was received, two mass vaccination drive-through clinics were held, on November 19 and December 3, 2006, with a total of 5,476 people receiving their flu vaccine at one of these two clinics.

An additional 1,173 people were vaccinated at one of 18 catch-up clinics or through sporadic appointments. Eleven clinics were held at the Department of Health:

- Five clinics to vaccinate children from 6 months of age to under 18 years (227);
- Three community clinics (350);
- Two County employee clinics (271); and
- Clinic for Municipal Utility Authority (MUA) employees (20).

The Department of Health also informed municipalities, schools, and other interested groups that if they had 40 or more people interested in receiving the influenza vaccine, they could organize their own clinic and the Department of Health would administer the vaccinations. Seven groups responded and were provided a total of 235 influenza vaccinations by the Department of Health:

- Clinic for Cape May City (26)
- Clinic for Lower Township schools (42)
- Clinic for Wildwood City (30)
- Clinic for Middle Township schools (43)
- Clinic for Petersburg/Upper Township schools (31)
- Clinic for Atlantic Cape May Community College students and faculty (20)
- Clinic for Ocean City (43)

While it was stated that a minimum of 40 persons was required, only 3 clinics had this number of people, with an overall mean of 34 persons vaccinated per clinic. These small clinics were not a cost effective way to provide influenza vaccinations.

A total of 815 doses were transferred to other organizations for them to administer, including:

- Crest Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (130 doses)
- Bayada Nursing staff (10 doses)
- Woodbine Developmental Center staff (100 doses)
- Prosecutor and jail employees/inmates (200 doses)
- Volunteers in Medicine staff and patients (150 doses)
- Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital patients (200 doses)
- County Vocational Technical School staff (25 doses)
At the end of March 2007, a total of 7,699 influenza vaccinations had been given to County residents, representing all 16 municipalities. Six thousand eight hundred eighty-four vaccinations were provided directly by the Department of Health\(^1\). Apart from the County Department of Health’s vaccination activities, a number of residents received the influenza vaccine from local hospitals, physicians, pharmacies, and supermarket clinics. Maxim Health Systems provided 6,392 influenza vaccinations, for a fee, in Cape May County this season.

### High-Risk Group Status

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended influenza vaccination for the following groups in 2006-07:

- Persons at high risk for influenza-related complications and severe disease, including
  - Children aged 6-59 months,
  - Pregnant women,
  - Persons aged $\geq$ 50 years,
  - Persons of any age with certain chronic medical conditions; and

- Persons who live with or care for persons at high risk, including
  - Household contacts who have frequent contact with persons at high risk and who can transmit influenza to those persons at high risk, and
  - Healthcare workers.

ACIP also recommended that children aged 6 months to $< 9$ years of age who have not been previously vaccinated should receive a second dose of vaccine $\geq 1$ month after the initial dose.

Out of 6,884 vaccine doses administered by the Department of Health to the public, 5,513 (80%) were given to residents considered to be at “high-risk of influenza complications”, as defined by ACIP. The percentage of high-risk residents vaccinated by the Department of Health in 2006-07 is significantly higher than in the 2005-06 season\(^2\). The increase in high-risk patients is due, in part, to ACIP’s expanded recommendation to designate persons 50 years and older as a high-risk group, as compared to 65 years and older.

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\(^1\) 271 doses (3.4%) of vaccine were wasted and/or not used and ultimately destroyed.

\(^2\) High-risk groups are defined by CDC/ACIP each season. During 2004-05, vaccine was prioritized to target high-risk groups.
Of those persons at high-risk (n=5,513):

- 5,009 were 50 years of age or older,
- 1,185 had a chronic health condition,
- 508 were household contacts or caregivers of persons at high risk,
- 247 were healthcare workers (including employees of long-term care facilities),
- 77 were children aged 6 to 59 months, and
- 20 were pregnant women.  

### Percentage of Persons Vaccinated by High-Risk Category

- **50 yrs or older**: 73%
- **Chronic condition**: 17%
- **Caregiver/HH contact of high risk**: 7%
- **Healthcare worker**: 4%
- **6-59 months**: 1%
- **Pregnant**: 0%

### Demographics

#### Age

The mean age of vaccine recipients was 57 years, ranging from less than 1 year to 99 years (62 records missing age). The highest number of vaccinations, 2,616 (38%), was given to persons between 50 and 64 years of age, followed by 2,393 vaccinations (35%) given to persons aged 65 and older. Seventy-three percent of vaccinations were given to persons aged 50 and older. Nineteen out of 159 children (12%) aged 9 years or younger were given a repeat vaccination. Over the past three years, the percentage of persons aged 65 years and older has steadily decreased, from 70% in 2004-05 to 35% in 2006-07.

3 Sums to greater than 5,513 owing to multiple high-risk categories for some residents.
Gender

Three thousand one hundred twenty-six (45%) of those vaccinated were male, 3,758 (55%) were female.

Race

Out of a total of 6,884 vaccinations given by the Department of Health, 90% were white, 2% were black, 2% identified as other, and for 6% race was unknown or missing.
Residents were vaccinated from all 16 municipalities, with the highest number (1,642) living in Middle Township, followed by 1,391 from Lower Township and 781 from Cape May. The vaccination rates (persons vaccinated per 100 population), however, were highest in Cape May (19.36), followed by West Wildwood (16.07) and Cape May Point (15.77). The lowest vaccination rates were in Ocean City (1.99), Upper Township (2.55), and Dennis Township (4.24). Increased marketing and education efforts are needed to promote the County’s flu vaccination program in the upper part of the County.

Information on age, gender, race, and municipality by high-risk group is included in Appendix A. Specific information on age, gender, race, and high-risk group by municipality is included in Appendix B.

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There were 145 (2%) vaccines given to persons listing an out-of-county address on the patient registration form. Twenty-two persons did not list municipality.
There were 145 persons vaccinated who listed an Out of County address. Fifty-four percent were female, 50% were between the ages of 18-49. Fifty-six percent had a high risk condition.

Date of Vaccination

Out of 6,884 vaccinations administered by the Department of Health, 5,476 (80%) were provided at one of the two drive-through flu clinics. Eight hundred sixty-eight vaccinations were provided at Health Department clinics, 235 were provided at clinics held at various community locations, and 305 were provided at other non-scheduled clinic times. The percentage of persons vaccinated at the drive-through clinic was less in 2006-07 (80%) than in 2005-06 (85%).

Clinical Information

Patients were asked about allergies to eggs and latex\(^5\). Patients were also asked if they had experienced a previous adverse reaction to the vaccine, and if they had a fever on the day of vaccination. Three residents had an allergy to eggs and 36 residents had a latex allergy. Thirty-four residents (less than 1%) said they had experienced a previous adverse reaction to the vaccine and 3 persons had a fever on the day of vaccination. These individuals were referred to a healthcare worker for further medical evaluation prior to receiving the influenza vaccine.

Vaccination History

Five thousand two hundred ninety-six (77%) of those vaccinated this year by the County had also received the influenza vaccine last year. Of these 5,296 persons, 2,037 (39%) were between 50-64 years, and 2,199 (42%) were 65 years or older.

\(^{5}\) Since the 2006-07 vaccine was preservative-free, allergies to Thimerosal were not ascertained.
Five thousand sixteen residents out of 5,296 (95%) who received the vaccine last year specified where they received it. Responses were compiled into the following categories:

- Physician
- Drive-through flu clinic
- County clinic (non drive through)
- Supermarket or pharmacy
- Other type of clinic
- Hospital
- Employer
- Other/Unknown

Seventy-two percent of those receiving the flu vaccine last year received it from the County, with 60% receiving their vaccine at the drive-through clinic. This percentage has dramatically increased since the 2004-05 season (26%) and the 2005-05 season (34%). The 2005-06 season is the first season in which the Department of Health was the principal coordinating agency for the drive-through clinic program. The high percentage of repeat clients demonstrates a high level of satisfaction with the drive-through flu clinic.
By age group, most children received last year’s vaccine from their physician. In the three adult age groups, the majority who received their flu vaccine last year received it at the drive-through clinic, another County clinic, or their physician.

Program Marketing

The Cape May County Department of Health’s marketing plan for the 2006-07 season included several strategies to promote the drive-through flu clinics and catch-up clinics. Particularly for the drive-through clinics, it is critical that residents bring completed consent forms with them to the clinic, rather than obtaining and completing forms onsite. Having completed consent forms in advance improves traffic flow and the efficiency of the drive-through flu clinic. In addition, people stopping to complete consent forms in their cars is a safety hazard that the Department of Health wants to prevent. As part of the marketing effort, consent forms were disseminated in advance of the drive-through clinics to the public in a variety of settings:

- Health Department lobby and clinics
- Health Department’s website
- Advertising in the Atlantic City Press and Herald newspapers
- All County Post Office branches (hard copies)
- All County Pharmacies (hard copies)
- Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital outpatient clinics (hard copies)
- Healthcare community, including all physician practices, community clinics, and hospitals (via LINCS)
- Special needs groups, including County Departments of Aging and Social Services, US Coast Guard, County and Municipal senior centers, assisted living facilities, ARC, senior residences, Puerto Rican Action Committee (via LINCS)

Of the 5,476 persons receiving their influenza vaccination at one of the two drive-through clinics, 4,257 (78%) brought a completed consent form with them. The remaining 1,219 (22%) received and completed a consent form when they arrived at the drive-through clinic. This percentage is lower than the 83% of advance consent forms in 2005-06.
Of those that did bring a completed consent form, the majority obtained their forms from newspaper advertisements in the Herald (39%) and Atlantic City Press (21%) newspapers, followed by the County Department of Health’s website (18%) and copies available at the Department of Health (10%).
The Atlantic City Press showed the greatest percentage increase in use in the 2006-07 season among the highest three sources of consent forms, from 15% in 2005-06 to 21% in 2006-07. A total of 60% of advance forms were brought from local newspapers. While only 3% of advance forms were provided to patients from their physicians, this percentage has slightly increased from 2% in the 2005-06 season. As physicians become more familiar with the County’s vaccination program, they may provide increasing assistance in promoting the County’s flu vaccination program with their patients. Post Offices provided only 3% of advance consent forms.

By age group, persons 65 years of age or older were mostly likely to bring a completed consent form (83%) with them to the drive-through clinic. In contrast, persons between 18-49 years of age were the least likely (66%).
Persons 65 years of age or older were most likely to bring a consent form from the newspapers, and were the group most likely to have brought a form from both the Herald and the Atlantic City Press. This age group had the lowest percentage use of forms from the Department of Health’s website. In contrast, persons between 18-49 years were most likely to obtain their forms from the Department of Health, either in person or on the web.\(^6\)

### Source of Advance Consent Forms, by Age Group

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>CMCDH</th>
<th>Physician</th>
<th>Post Office</th>
<th>Pharmacy</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>AC Press</th>
<th>Herald</th>
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<td>153</td>
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<td>436</td>
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<tr>
<td>50-64 yrs</td>
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<td>55</td>
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<td>332</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-49 yrs</td>
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<td>116</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;18 yrs</td>
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Woodbine, Lower Township, and Sea Isle City had the largest percentage of advance consent forms, with Wildwood, West Cape May, Dennis Township, and Ocean City having the lowest percentages of advance consent forms.

### Percentage Advance Consent Forms by Municipality

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\(^6\) The number of persons less than 18 years with advance consents forms at a drive-through clinic is too small to calculate reliable estimates.
The Herald was most often used in the Wildwoods and Avalon and least used in Ocean City, Upper Township, and Woodbine. The Atlantic City Press was used as a large percentage in Ocean City, Upper Township, Dennis Township, and Middle Township. The website was a large percentage source particularly in Ocean City.

### Source of Advance Consent Forms by Municipality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>CMCDH</th>
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<th>Pharmacy</th>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodbine</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Information on marketing efforts by specific drive-through clinic date is available in Appendix C.

Apart from the drive-through clinics, information was sent to the public through the press, and to various groups to promote children's-only clinics and the catch-up clinics. Information was sent via LINCS to:

- Daycare and preschool facilities
- Physicians
- Hospitals
- Parents via school superintendent
- Emergency Medical Services
- County Department of Aging
- County and Municipal senior centers
- Municipal clerks
Appendix A: Demographic Information by High-Risk Category

50 Years of Age and Older (n=5,009)

Vaccinated persons aged 50 and older were slightly more likely to be white and less likely to be black. Other indicators were consistent.

Within 50-64 years, mean age is 58 years, range 50 to 64. Within 65+ years, mean age is 74 years, range 65 to 99.

Percentage of Residents 50+ yrs Vaccinated by Gender

- Female: 54%
- Male: 46%

Percentage of Residents 50+ yrs Vaccinated by Race

- White: 93%
- Black: 1%
- Other/UN: 6%

Persons 50 years or Older Vaccinated by Municipality

- Cape May Point: 0.7%
- West Wildwood: 1.2%
- Cape May City: 0.7%
- Out of County: 1.4%
- West Cape May: 1.5%
- Wildwood Crest: 5.5%
- Avalon: 3.3%
- Sea Isle City: 3.3%
- Stone Harbor: 2.2%
- Woodbine: 1.7%
- Upper Twp: 3.7%
- Dennis Twp: 4.2%
- Upper Twp: 4.7%
- Ocean City: 4.7%
- Wildwood: 4.7%
- N Wildwood: 5.5%
- Cape May City: 7.3%
- Middle Twp: 11.8%
- Lower Twp: 20.3%
- West Wildwood: 22.4%

Percentage of residents aged 50 and older were slightly more likely to be white and less likely to be black. Other indicators were consistent.
Vaccinated children aged 6 to 59 months less likely to be white and more likely to be black or other (some Hispanic persons marked Other for race). This is consistent with the high percentage of Hispanic children seen at the Health Department’s child health clinics. This group was also more likely to live in Wildwood. Gender was consistent.

Mean age is 2 years, range <1 year to 4.

**Percentage of Children <5 yrs Vaccinated by Gender**

- Female: 55%
- Male: 45%

**Percentage of Children <5 yrs Vaccinated by Race**

- White: 67%
- Black: 4%
- Other/UNK: 29%

**Children <5 yrs Vaccinated by Municipality**

- Middle Twp: 32.9%
- Wildwood: 17.1%
- Lower Twp: 13.2%
- Cape May City: 10.5%
- Upper Twp: 6.6%
- Wildwood Crest: 6.6%
- Woodbine: 6.6%
- Ocean City: 2.6%
- Dennis Twp: 1.3%
- West Cape May: 1.3%
- West Wildwood: 1.3%
Persons with Chronic Health Conditions (n=1,185)

Vaccinated persons with chronic health conditions were more likely to be 65 years or older and less likely to be between 18-49 years; slightly more likely to be white and live in Lower Township. Gender was consistent.

Residents with Chronic Conditions by Age Group

Mean age is 62 years, range 6 to 99.

Percentage of Residents with Chronic Conditions Vaccinated by Gender

- Female: 56%
- Male: 44%

Percentage of Residents with Chronic Conditions Vaccinated by Race

- White: 93%
- Black: 2%
- Other/UNK: 5%

Residents with Chronic Conditions Vaccinated by Municipality

- Cape May City: 23.0%
- N Wildwood: 10.9%
- Wildwood: 7.7%
- WW Crest: 6.0%
- Dennis Twp: 5.2%
- Upper Twp: 4.1%
- Ocean City: 4.1%
- Sea Isle City: 3.4%
- Avalon: 2.8%
- Woodbine: 1.8%
- Out of County: 1.8%
- West Cape May: 1.4%
- Stone Harbor: 1.3%
- W Wildwood: 0.8%
- Cape May Point: 0.2%
Healthcare Workers (Including Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Employees) (n=247)

Vaccinated healthcare personnel were less likely to be 65 years or older and more likely to be between 18-49 years; more likely to be female; less likely to be white and more likely to be black. Residency was consistent.

Mean age is 49 years, range 18 to 93.
Pregnant Women (n=20)

Vaccinated pregnant women were all between 18-49 years; none were black; and were more likely to live in Cape May City.

Mean age is 31 years, range 25 to 37.
Vaccinated persons who live with or care for persons at high risk were more likely to be between 18-64 years of age and less likely to be 65 years or older; more likely to be female; and slightly more likely to be white. Residency was consistent.

Mean age is 52 years, range 1 to 90.
Appendix B: Specific Information by Municipality

Barrier Islands (Avalon, Stone Harbor, Sea Isle City, n=490)

Vaccinated persons living on the barrier islands were more likely to be 50 years or older and less likely to be less than 49 years; more likely to have a high-risk condition; slightly more likely to be white and less likely to be black. Gender was consistent.

Note: Sums to greater than 100% owing to multiple risk categories for some residents.

7 Individual municipalities are combined into one of seven groups, as described on each page.
Cape May (Cape May City, Cape May Point, West Cape May, n=911)

Vaccinated persons living in the Cape May’s were slightly more likely to be 65 years or older and were less likely to be between 18-49 years. Other indicators were consistent.

Note: Sums to greater than 100% owing to multiple risk categories for some residents.
Vaccinated persons living in Dennis/Middle Township were slightly less likely to have a high-risk condition; less likely to be 65 years or older and more likely to be between 18-49 years. Other indicators were consistent.

Note: Sums to greater than 100% owing to multiple risk categories for some residents.
Vaccinated persons living in Lower Township slightly more likely to be white and less likely to be black. Other indicators were consistent.

**Percentage Residents Vaccinated by Age Group**

- Child <18 yrs: 3%
- 18-49 yrs: 23%
- 50-64 yrs: 36%
- 65+ yrs: 38%

**Percentage of Residents Vaccinated by Gender**

- Female: 56%
- Male: 44%

**Percentage of Residents Vaccinated by Race**

- White: 92%
- Black: 1%
- Other/UNK: 7%

**Percentage of Residents Vaccinated at High Risk for Flu Complications**

- Yes: 81%
- No: 19%

**Percentage of Residents Vaccinated by Risk Group**

- Normal Risk: 19%
- Healthcare worker: 3%
- HH Contact/Caregiver: 8%
- Pregnant Women: 0%
- Chronic condition: 20%
- <5 years: 11%
- 50+ years: 73%

Note: Sums to greater than 100% owing to multiple risk categories for some residents.
Vaccinated persons living in Ocean City were slightly more likely to have a high risk condition; more likely to be between 50-64 years and less likely to be less than 50 or over 65 years of age; slightly more likely to be white. Gender was consistent.

Note: Sums to greater than 100% owing to multiple risk categories for some residents.
Upper Township/Woodbine (n=447)

Vaccinated persons living in Upper Township/Woodbine were slightly less likely to have a high risk condition; less likely to be 65 years or older and more likely to be in all of the under-65 age groups; more likely to be male; more likely to be white and black, and less likely to have an other/unknown race.

Note: Sums to greater than 100% owing to multiple risk categories for some residents.
Wildwoods (North Wildwood, West Wildwood, Wildwood, Wildwood Crest, n=1,255)

Vaccinated persons living in the Wildwoods were slightly more likely to have a high-risk condition; more likely to be 65 years or older and less likely to be between 18-49 or 50-64 years; less likely to be white and more likely to have an other/unknown race. Gender was consistent.

Percentage Residents Vaccinated by Age Group

- Child <18 yrs: 4%
- 18-49 yrs: 20%
- 50-64 yrs: 34%
- 65+ yrs: 42%

Percentage of Residents Vaccinated by Gender

- Male: 45%
- Female: 55%

Percentage of Residents Vaccinated by Race

- White: 87%
- Black: 2%
- Other/UN: 11%

Percentage of Residents Vaccinated at High Risk for Flu Complications

- Yes: 82%
- No: 18%

Percentage of Residents Vaccinated by Risk Group

- 50+ years: 75%
- <5 years: 2%
- Chronic condition: 19%
- Healthcare worker: 3%
- HH Contact/Caregiver: 7%
- Pregnant Women: 0%
- Normal Risk: 18%

Note: Sums to greater than 100% owing to multiple risk categories for some residents.
Appendix C: Marketing Information by Drive-Through Clinic Date

At the November 19, 2006 drive-through clinic, 2,849 (79%) out of 3,594 persons brought a completed consent form to the clinic. At the December 3, 2006 drive-through clinic, 1,408 (75%) out of 1,882 persons brought a completed consent form to the clinic.

The majority of advance consent forms were obtained on both clinic dates from the Herald. For the November clinic, after the Herald, advance forms were obtained from the web and the Atlantic City Press. For the December clinic, after the Herald, advance forms were obtained from the Atlantic City press and the Department of Health.

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8 Responses less than 10 not included.
Additional efforts are needed to promote the need for advance consent forms at the second drive-through clinic.