



Bethel Rapid Community Assessment (RCA) Vaccination Survey

January 2024

Partnership with:

State of Connecticut Department of Public Health

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Vaccine Task Force

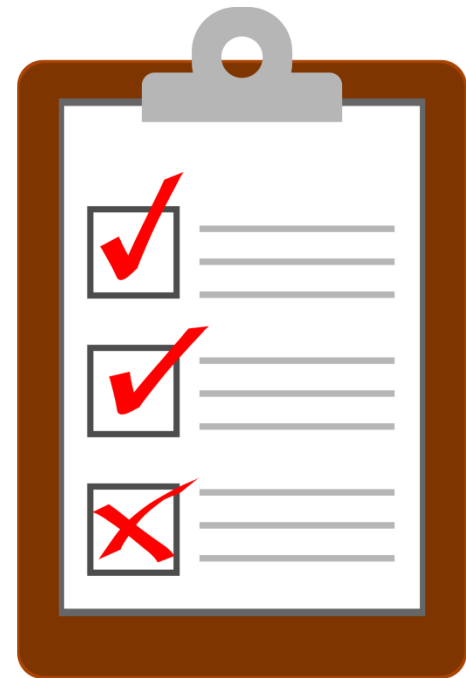
Town of Bethel Leaders

Bethel Public Schools, Bethel Social Services, Bethel Library, Bethel Senior

Center and Bethel Health Department and Town Coalition

VACCINATION CONFIDENCE RAPID COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT (RCA) OVERVIEW

- RCA Steps
- RCA Objectives
- Bethel, CT Demographics
- Vaccination Data
- Methods and Perspectives
- Survey Findings
- What's Working Well
- Challenges
- Areas for Improvement



VACCINATION CONFIDENCE RAPID COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT (RCA) STEPS

- Identify objectives
- Plan for the assessment
- Collect and analyze data
 - Report findings
 - Develop and implement solutions
 - Evaluate success using available data and follow up surveys



RCA OBJECTIVES

- To conduct a Rapid Community Assessment (RCA) with the community to:
 - Assess the vaccination rate among children and adults in Bethel.
 - Understand whether the population groups (children, adolescents, adults) are at risk for low level vaccinations
 - Understand the challenges, barriers and whether there was any decrease associated with childhood vaccination rates for children and adults in Bethel.
 - Understand what the residents and the community think of the vaccines and what deters the community from getting vaccinations recommended for them by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
 - To identify the sources used by the community for vaccine information and vaccine access
 - To develop and implement action plan including vaccine educational campaign, media outreach, vaccine service provider directory and vaccination tracking cards to increase vaccine evidence based knowledge and awareness of resources and services available to all children and adults to obtain vaccinations

BETHEL CT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Population 20,363*
- Age Distribution**

– Under 10:	12%	Age 50 to 59:	18%
– 10 to 19:	15%	Age 60 to 69:	10%
– 20 to 29:	11%	Age 70 to 79:	7%
– 30 to 39:	12%	Age 80 and over	4%
– 40 to 49:	12%		
- Race and Ethnicity*
 - White 69.4%
 - Hispanic or Latino: 12.9%
 - Black or African American: 6.9%
 - Asian: 6.8%
 - Other: 12.9%
- Language:**
 - English 80%
 - Spanish 5%

**United States Census Data (July 1, 2023)*

***Advance CT –CT Data Collaborative 2023 Town Profile-ACS 2017-2021*

Bethel Childhood Vaccination Status

2022-2023 Immunization Rates by School*

School	Type	Vaccination Percentage
Frank A Berry	Kindergarten	97.7
Anna H. Rockwell	Kindergarten	98.9
Bethel Middle School	Middle School	95.7

Note: There was no data for the Bethel High School

*CTDPH as reported to CT DPH Annual School Immunization Survey
<https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/n5kk-6ext>

METHODS AND PERSPECTIVES

Data was collected for Seven (7) Days:

- Total respondents – 369 (Adults with children - 47; Adults only – 322)
- Surveys to be filled out online on town website. (105 were completed)
- Senior center personnel called their client list and filled out surveys. (144 surveys completed)
- Social Services contacted their clients and completed surveys. (90 surveys completed)
- Nurse contacted clients (30 surveys completed)
- Surveys were also available at the Library
- Interviews (2) with Bethel School Superintendent and Bethel School Health Coordinator
- Listening sessions (3) with Bethel Social Services, Bethel First Selectman and Bethel RCA Team
- Danbury Health and Human Services (DHHS) supported and provided valuable technical assistance with the RCA
- Stamford Health Department shared RCA Lessons Learned

Online and Hard Copy Survey Findings

- Barriers to Vaccination
 - 4% - Finding a pediatrician
 - 11% - Getting an appointment
 - 4% - Pediatrician hours
 - 9% - Availability/work schedule
 - Non-English speaking (aka English learners) families were unaware of CT Childhood Vaccination Requirements to enter schools
 - Some adults were unaware of Adult Vaccination schedule
 - Less than 1% of adults reported Adult vaccination fatigue

Online and Hard Copy Survey Findings (con't)

- Parental concerns regarding Vaccine preventable diseases (i.e. Influenza, COVID-19, Monkeypox and Polio)
 - 34% - Somewhat concerned
 - 28% - A little concerned
 - 26% - Not at all concerned
 - 9% - Very concerned
 - 4% - Don't know
- Only two of the parents felt their children were not up to date on vaccines

Adult Questions

- Adult respondents received the following vaccines:
 - COVID: 92%
 - Flu: 84%
 - Pneumonia: 62%
 - Shingles: 56%
 - Tdap: 75%
 - RSV: 25%

WHAT IS WORKING WELL

- CT State law mandates certain vaccinations for school entry resulting in high vaccination rates among Bethel school age children
- High vaccination rates among adult respondents for Covid 19; Flu, Pneumococcal and Tdap vaccines
- Majority of respondents obtain vaccine information from a number of sources including physicians; social media; TV and newspapers; and online
- Majority of adult only respondents reported no difficulty in scheduling vaccines. There are multiple locations where adult vaccines are available: physicians; pharmacies; super markets; senior center, vaccination clinics
- 100% of adults with children respondents indicated that children had a pediatrician
- 98% of adults with children indicated their children had health care
- Vaccination process in Bethel is non-discriminatory (relative to race and ethnicity)

CHALLENGES

Based on respondents:

- Some concern about safety of some vaccines
- Limited knowledge about newer vaccines i.e. RSV, Shingles
- Difficult for some working parents to schedule children's vaccines i.e. work schedules vs. physician's availability
- Families with children new to area lack knowledge about existing vaccination providers, process and requirements to receive vaccination in a timely manner. Even senior population was unaware of some vaccination service providers available in the area.
- New school student enrollment is delayed due to missing vaccinations and/or physicals, especially among Non English speaking (English learner) families who were unaware of CT Childhood Vaccination Requirements for School Attendance

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- Increase dissemination of information in multiple languages about vaccines prior to vaccination season and/or prior to school enrollment. Include physicians, pharmacists; hospitals and clinics; schools; grocery stores; social media outlets; town website; etc.
- Hold vaccination education seminars and clinics at local library; senior center; schools; etc.
- Post general reminders on town website and facebook pages.
- Develop Vaccination Tracking Card
- Develop a Vaccination Service Provider Directory
- Use a mobile vaccination clinic prior to school enrollment, school based health services or other provider
- Re-establish Bethel vaccination services

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Stamford Health Department collaboration

RCA PARTICIPANTS



From left:

Diane Amodeo, Bethel Health Dept (BHD); Lillian Riley, BHD; Lisa Plumb, Senior Center; Laura Vasile, BHD; Jack Grace, IT; Rosemary Cywin, Senior Center; Megan Alworth-Khazadian, Social Services, and Mary O'Leary, (Social Services).

Joan Santucci, BHD Nurse, was unavailable for photo.