SHOTS FOR TOTS AND TEENS

END OF YEAR REPORT 2022
OVERVIEW OF THE 2022 SHOTS FOR TOTS AND TEENS PROGRAM

**Shots for Tots and Teens** (SFTT) is a partnership between Immunize Colorado, Jefferson County Public Health, and Tri-County Health Department (now Adams County Health Department and Arapahoe County Public Health, as of January 2023) to provide free and low-cost vaccines in community settings throughout the year. Since 2002, the Shots for Tots and Teens clinics have been responsible for delivering 45,426 vaccines to 17,560 patients. In 2022, the partnership held 17 clinics that delivered 1,106 vaccines to 479 patients. SFTT clinics continued to administer COVID-19 vaccines to the community, providing 255 COVID-19 vaccine doses (102 adult doses and 153 pediatric doses). The vast majority of all SFTT patients were children (372); the clinics were also able to serve 108 adult patients. The SFTT clinics continued to be an important resource for medically underserved families. 89% (330) of children and 85% (92) of adult patients were un- or under-insured or covered through Medicaid or CHP+. The majority of patients (55%) spoke English, while 32% of patients’ primary language was Spanish and 13% of patients spoke another language other than English or Spanish. The SFTT clinics were able to serve patients in three different communities including Aurora, Arvada, and Westminster.

Shots for Tots and Teens' clinic capacity improved in 2022 after being interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) hosted its Westminster clinic quarterly in January, April, July, and October. TCHD also hosted their Aurora clinic monthly from January through November, but cancelled the December clinic as the Department was preparing to dissolve and split into two brand-new health departments: Arapahoe County Public Health and Adams County Health Department. Jefferson County was able to host two clinics in the later half of the year, providing 115 vaccines total (a slight increase from 2021). In line with pandemic precautions, TCHD and Jefferson County Public Health continued to host their clinics at their office locations (prior to COVID, they held clinics at community fire stations). All three clinic locations provided 255 total COVID-19 vaccines to adults and children in 2022, down from 392 in 2021. The pandemic continued to limit all clinics’ ability to provide additional services like car seat checks and connections to WIC services, as some have done in previous years.

Throughout the year, childhood immunization rates remained well below pre-pandemic levels; according to CDPHE, the number of vaccine doses administered to children and adolescents between March 20, 2022 and August 6, 2022 were down 9% compared to doses administered in that same period in 2019. While this shows that rates have improved since an initial drop of nearly 40% in March and April 2020 compared to that period in 2019, there remains much work to be done to catch kids up on lifesaving vaccinations. This highlights a continued need for individual, community, and policy level engagement and action to improve routine childhood immunization rates in the upcoming year and beyond, and reinforces the critical role community vaccination opportunities like the SFTT clinics continue to play in providing an essential safety net service to families.
Compared to 2021, 2022 Shots for Tots and Teens clinics saw a 24% increase in the number of shots administered to patients (from 891 in 2021 to 1,106 in 2022) and a 12% increase in the total number of patients (from 427 in 2021 to 479 in 2022). There were 17 clinics in 2022, compared to only 13 in 2021. However, in 2021 there were four clinic sites and in 2022 there were only three.

**2022 CLINIC STATISTICS**

Despite gains, Shots for Tots and Teens clinic numbers did not return to pre-pandemic averages in 2022, likely due to the continued impact of the pandemic on local public health resources and capacity. In 2019, before the pandemic, SFTT clinics administered 2,514 shots to 851 patients, indicating a 56% decrease in shots and a 44% decrease in the number of patients from 2019 to 2022. Again, there were four clinic sites, and only three in 2022.

In 2023, Boulder County Public Health has joined the Shots for Tots and Teens program, with their clinics starting in August, bringing the clinic site total back to four. This will hopefully increase the number of shots provided and patients seen in 2023. As Arapahoe County Public Health and Adams County Health Department enter their first year as new health departments, their transitions and any challenges these bring could impact overall clinic numbers.
The majority of Shots for Tots and Teens patients in 2022 spoke English (55%). 32% of patients spoke Spanish and 13% spoke a language other than English or Spanish.

The majority of SFTT clinic patients in 2022 were children, and the majority of children are 4-18 years old (335). There were 9 patients aged 0-11 months, 28 patients aged 12-47 months and 108 patients over 18 years (adults). The Aurora clinic site, which hosted more clinics and saw more patients than the other clinic sites, had the highest number of patients in each age group.
2022 PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of patients (adults and children) at all SFTT clinics were un- or under-insured (278 patients). The second most reported insurance was Medicaid (141 patients), followed by private insurance (67 patients) and CHP+ (3 patients).