



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION

IMPROVE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER
AWARENESS OF IMMUNIZATION
RATES FOR 6th GRADE STUDENTS

Grant County Health District (population 88,000)

TEAM MEMBERS

- Joy Reese – Assessment/Emergency Response Coordinator
(data, planning, documentation)
- Theresa Fuller - Health Educator/Public Information Officer
(education and promotion)
- Belia McPartland - Immunization Coordinator/PH Nurse
(education and provider liaison)
- Carol Schimke - PH Nurse/Nurse
Program Facilitator
(planning, supervision of clinic operations)



PROJECT DESCRIPTION



- Improve healthcare provider awareness of their facility's immunization rates for 6th grade students in Grant County
- Healthcare provider adolescent immunization education, use of Child Profile and CoCASA to track immunizations, missed opportunities, and reminder recall
- Encourage immunization policy change at the Moses Lake School District that will improve the accuracy of school reporting

PROJECT DESCRIPTION



- Why focus on immunization rates of adolescents?
 - The 2008 measles outbreak created an opportunity to engage school nurses and healthcare providers in discussing adolescent immunizations
 - 18 of the 19 measles cases were unvaccinated, including the index case
 - Following the outbreak Grant County Health Officer asked public health staff to improve student immunization rates

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Our project worked with the two Moses Lake middle schools and local healthcare providers
 - ▣ Met with school nurses and discussed immunizations issues
 - ▣ Provided school based immunization clinics during school registration
 - ▣ Healthcare provider education and ‘report card’
 - ▣ Community education using radio and print media



MOST SUCCESSFUL METHODS AND TOOLS



- Our AIM statements and logic model kept our team on task and focused on the project goals
- School immunization data tables created by our assessment coordinator
- Using a team approach – data, education and public health nursing

MOST SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTIONS



- School nurse meet and greets
 - ▣ Gave our staff the opportunity to explain ‘why’ up-to-date Child Profile data is critical during an outbreak investigations
 - ▣ Improved relationships with school nurses and public health staff which has resulted in better cooperation during disease investigations
 - ▣ Chief Moses Middle School now has assigned a staff person to help the secretary cross reference the school data in ‘Skyward’ with our state immunization registry ‘Child Profile’

RESULTS – SHORT TERM



- Increasing percentage of current 6th graders with complete immunization status
- Increased percentage of current 6th graders with improved immunization status through utilization of school-based clinics
- Reduce the percentage of current 6th graders in non-compliant status

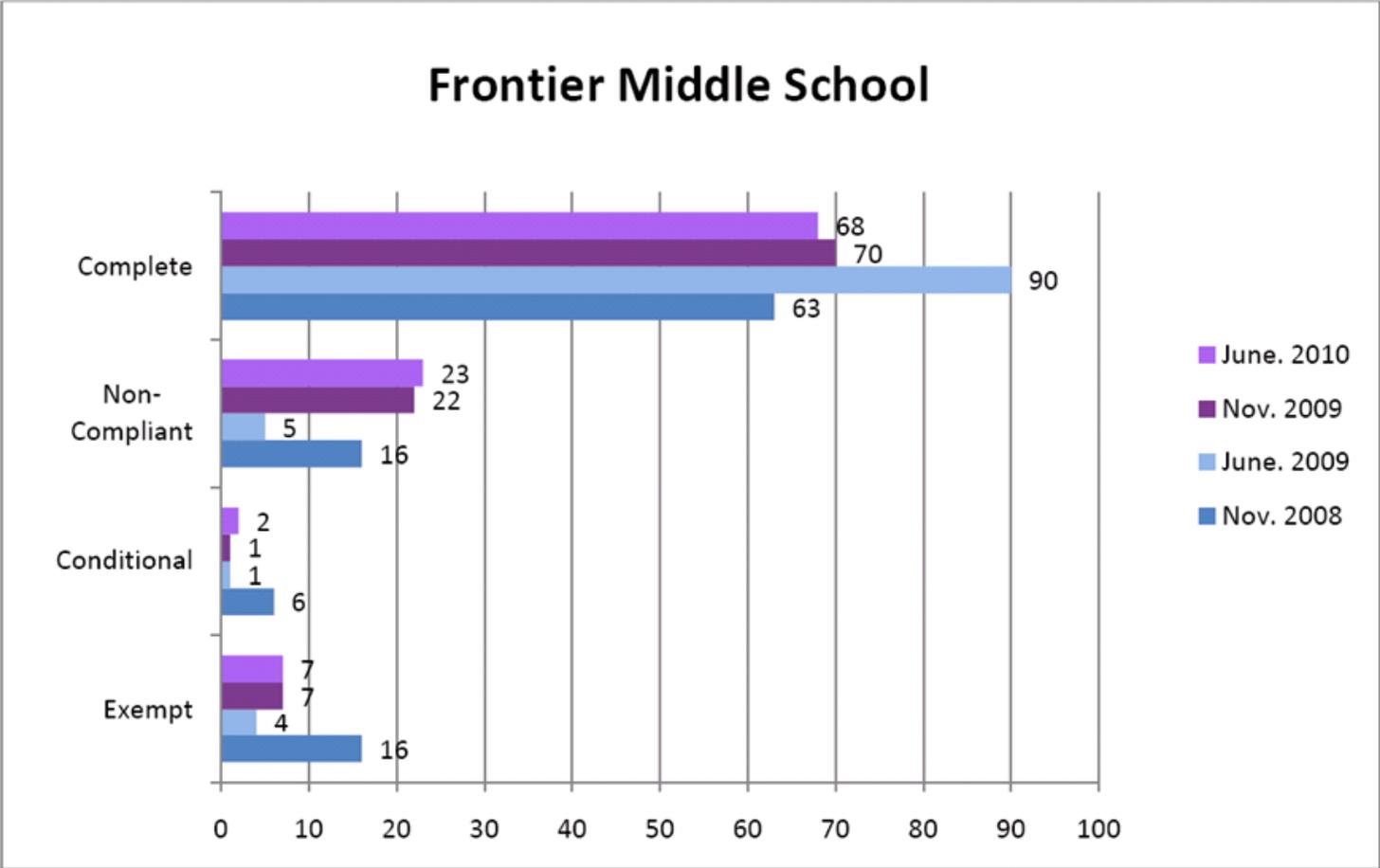
RESULTS – MED TERM



- Increasing percentage of 6th graders who are fully vaccinated based on school-required vaccines
- Increased percentage of 6th graders with improved immunization status through utilization of school-based clinics
- Reduce the percentage of 6th graders in non-compliant status

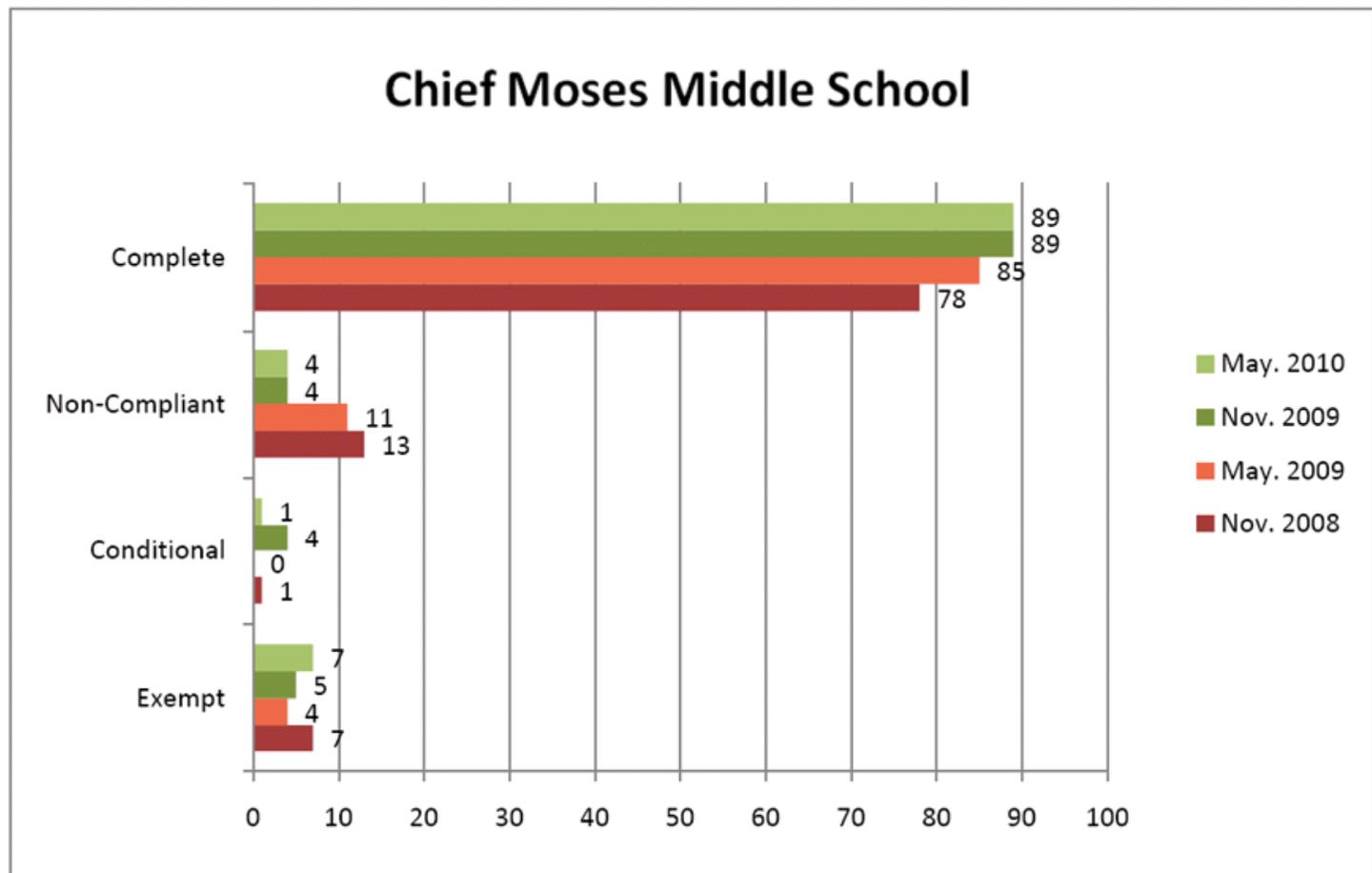
RESULTS

School reported immunization status base line to end of project



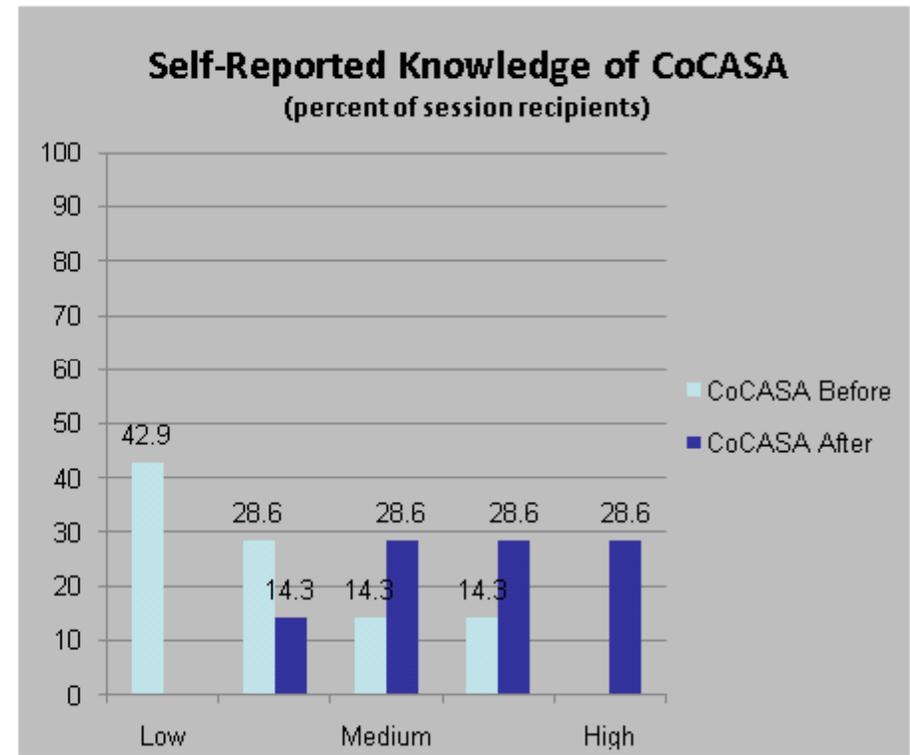
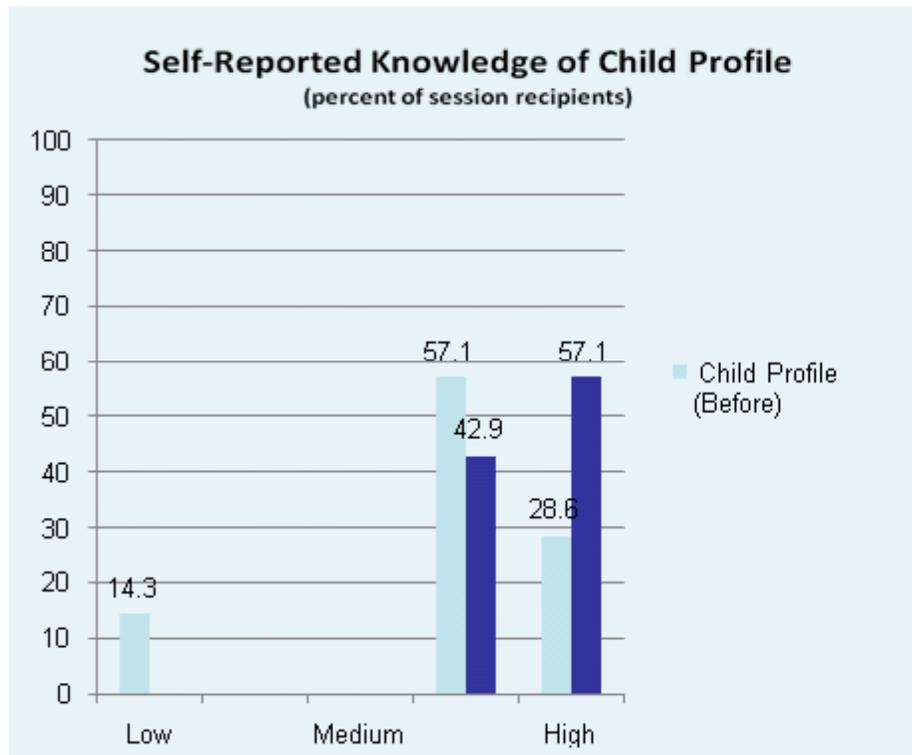
RESULTS

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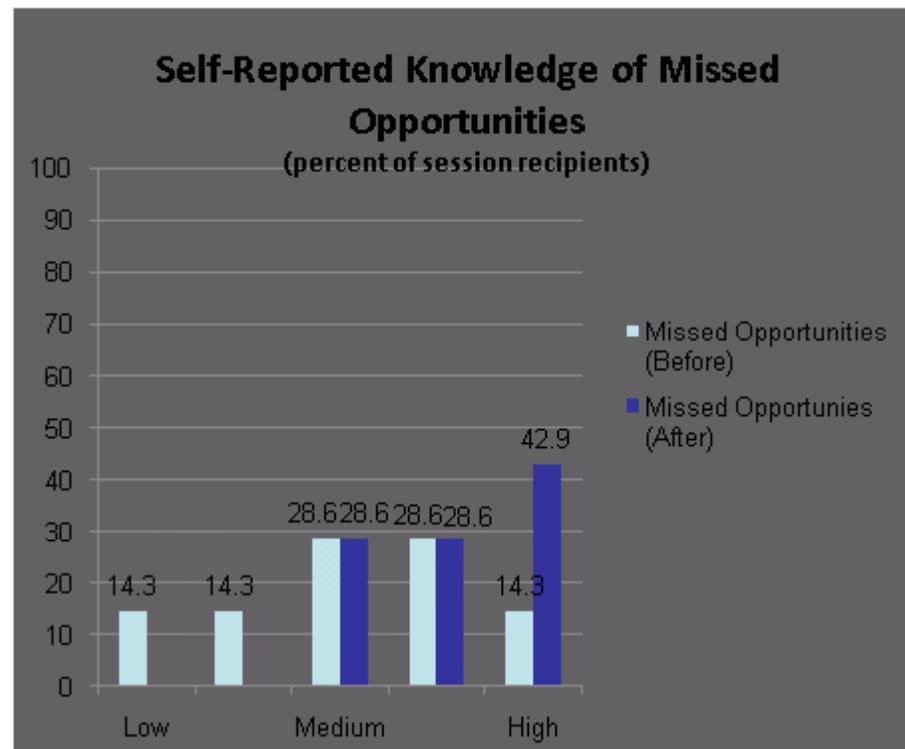
RESULTS

Provider education



RESULTS

Provider education



LESSONS LEARNED



WORKED WELL

- Working directly with the school nurses
- Breaking work into smaller groups: data; education and nursing
- School based immunization clinics were very well received by schools. Validated the importance of timely record keeping

LESSONS LEARNED



DID NOT WORK WELL

- ❑ H1N1 outbreak
- ❑ Staff turnover throughout the project
- ❑ Team initially too small and did not include assessment coordinator or nursing program facilitator
- ❑ School based clinics too costly for GCHD to offer in the future. Although well received by schools it set up an expectation that we'd continue to offer them yearly
- ❑ Needed School District Administration buy-in from the beginning in order to make immunization policy changes at the school level

NEXT STEPS



- Continue to work closely with the school nurses.
- Continue to collect annual immunization reports from the middle schools.
- Share the ‘provider report cards’ with our healthcare provider email distribution list.