

# Bridging the Vaccine Gap:

## Assessing Barriers to Implementing Immunization Services via Community Development Organizations

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### Community Connections

- Hosanna House Inc. (HHI) is a nonprofit serving Wilksburg, PA and neighboring municipalities.
  - Provides diverse health care services.
  - Supported by UPMC, private clients, and a variety of donors.
- The Pitt Vaccination and Health Connection Hub (the Hub) is a university-pharmacy affiliated immunization clinic.
  - Community engagement focused on vaccines and wellness.

### Motivation

- Partners connected via intern placement to coordinate immunization services.
- Poster serves as an understanding of:
  - The **immunization need** for the youth population at HHI.
  - The barriers to **accessing immunization services** for this population.
  - The barriers **implementing vaccine services** for a variety of providers.

**“The Hub works to enhance Pitt partnerships in the community through providing needed services to longitudinal partners in the Pittsburgh area.”**

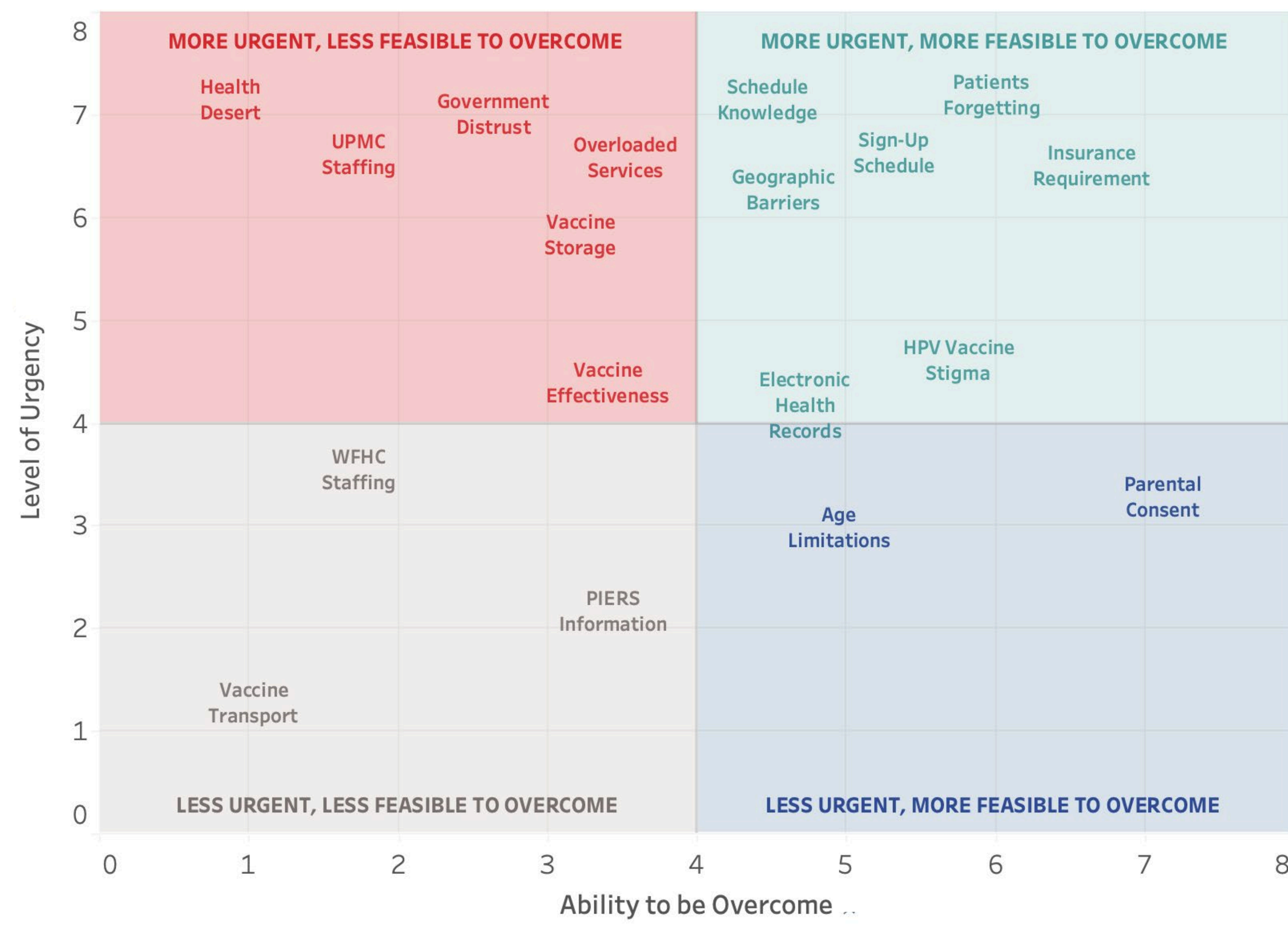
- Dr. Melissa Somma McGivney,  
 Executive Director of the Pitt Vaccination and Health Connection Hub

### Methodology

- HHI immunization records were reviewed to identify lowest rates (by vaccine) in patrons aged 8-17 (n = 81).
- Observed listening session with youth to identify perceived barriers to vaccination (n = 7).
- Spoke with various partners and HHI employees to identify and categorize barriers to immunization services (n = 5).

# Barriers to implementing and accessing vaccine services can be overcome through partnership with community-based organizations.

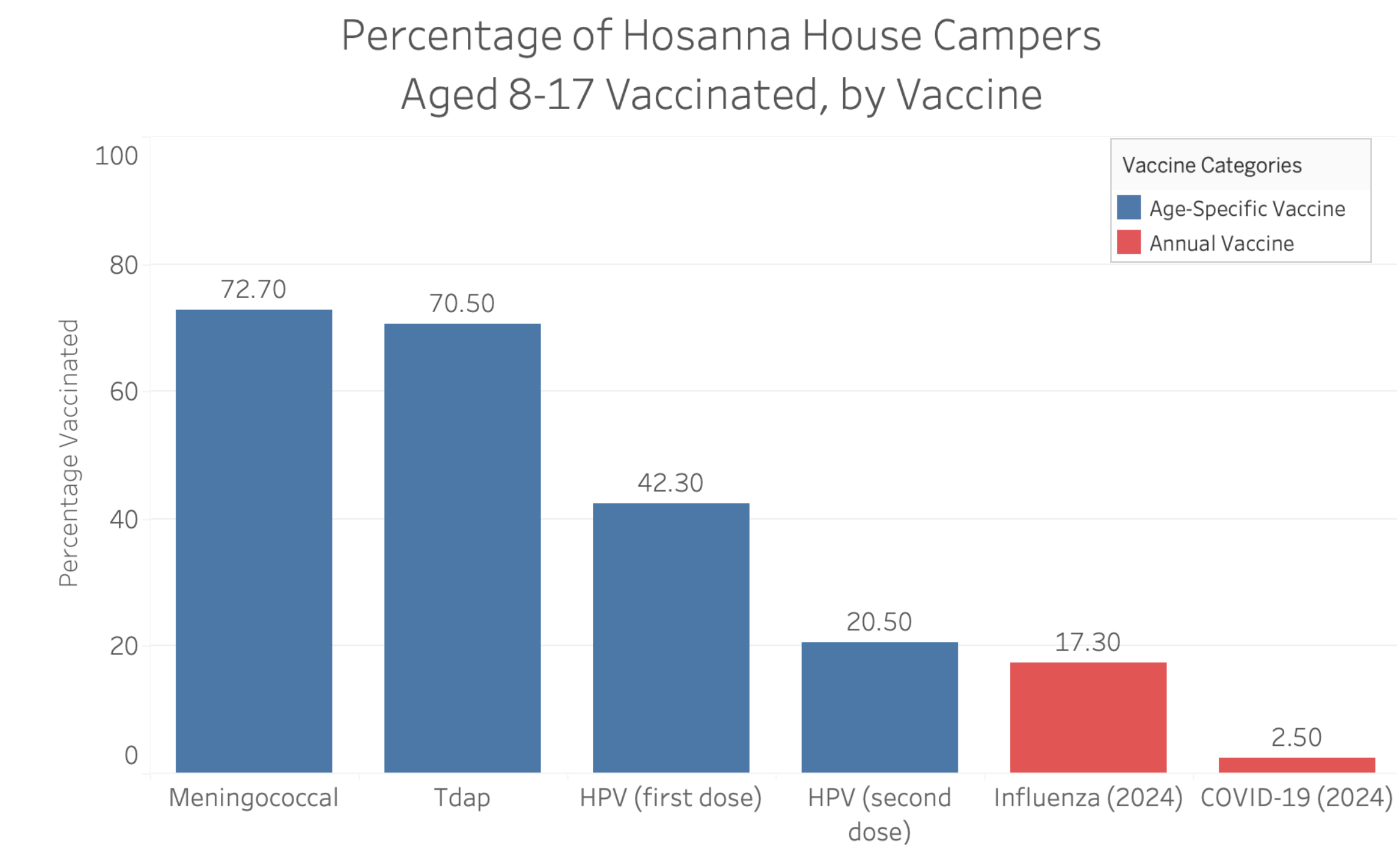
Barriers to Accessing and Implementing Immunization Services



### References



### Results



### Future Action

- Improved access to vaccine services is necessary to reach:
  - National averages (meningococcal, Tdap, HPV, annual influenza)<sup>1, 2</sup>
  - Herd immunity thresholds (COVID-19)<sup>3, 4</sup>
- The established community presence of HHI and the Hub's expertise can help improve vaccination through partnership.
- Informative and consistent messaging through HHI can reduce **government distrust** and **HPV vaccine stigma**.
  - Can also increase **patient knowledge of vaccine schedules and services**.
- Vaccine evaluations can be utilized as an alternative to vaccinations themselves.
  - Addresses **age limitations** and **gaps in PIRS information**.<sup>5, 6</sup>
- UPMC Children's Ronald McDonald Care Mobile **will be utilized** to address need in a small population for 2025.<sup>7</sup>
  - Increased time and partnership between HHI and the Hub **should allow for an expansion** of vaccination services for 2026.
  - Improved pop-up clinic for youth HHI patrons is possible.

### Acknowledgements

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