

Abstract

Introduction

Vaccinations are one of the most effective public health tools for preventing infectious disease and reducing morbidity and mortality worldwide, yet adult immunization rates continue to fall short of public health targets. This study aims to evaluate community pharmacists' attitudes toward vaccine administration and identify key barriers that influence their ability to provide immunization services.

Methods

A survey-based study was conducted among licensed community pharmacists practicing at CVS and Walmart pharmacies in the Metro East region of Illinois. Participants were recruited via email, and the survey was administered using Qualtrics over a 30-day period. Participants received an initial email requesting participation on December 15th, 2025, and an additional email reminder on December 23rd, 2025. The survey remained open from December 15th, 2025, to January 15th, 2026, for a total of 30 days.

Results

Overall, respondents reported positive attitudes toward immunization services, with 100% agreeing that vaccination is an essential part of the pharmacist's role and that pharmacists play a major role in reducing vaccine-preventable illness. Despite this, many barriers were identified, including staffing shortages, workflow disruptions, time constraints, and pressure to meet vaccination metrics, which negatively impact vaccine delivery.

Conclusion

These findings suggest that while pharmacists are supportive of immunization services, operational challenges significantly limit their ability to provide them safely and effectively. Addressing these barriers through increased staffing, expanded pharmacy technician roles, and workflow improvements, and additional compensation may enhance vaccine delivery and improve immunization rates. Further research with larger and more diverse samples is needed to better understand these challenges and develop effective solutions.