



DEVELOPMENT OF IMMUNIZATION REGISTRIES

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM?

- More than 20% of the Nation's 2-year-olds are not fully up-to-date on immunizations, placing them and others at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Approximately 44% of U.S. children under the age of 6 had two or more vaccinations recorded in a grantee's registry;
- Public health officials cannot easily or quickly determine which communities are at risk of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases resulting from low immunization coverage.
- Because >23% of U.S. children change their doctors by age 2, incomplete records are scattered among different doctors, resulting in both redundant and insufficient vaccination.
- Because the public is increasingly concerned about the adverse health effects associated with vaccination, the Nation needs a state-based registry system that can easily and accurately track issues related to vaccine safety.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and CDC have worked together to identify immunization registries that have developed electronic linkages with WIC agencies.
- A cooperative agreement has been implemented with the American Immunization Registries Association (AIRA) and Every Child By Two (ECBT) to develop and implement Standards of Excellence to provide guidance on how immunization registries can support immunization program goals. These standards will improve collaboration between immunization program staff and registry staff and will help identify ways to support immunization program activities.
- A managed care conference convened in July 2002, resulting in the agreement by managed care organizations to share immunization data with immunization registries.
- A healthcare professional workgroup was initiated by CDC to develop recommendations to increase participation in registry activities and to encourage private provider participation in immunization registries.
- Immunization registries that were designated as sentinel sites (well established, high quality registries with large numbers of records and participation) were able to demonstrate the value of immunization registry data by providing reliable information on the impact of the vaccine shortage on vaccination coverage levels.
- A certification process for immunization registries was developed and piloted.
- The healthcare messaging standard was revised and published by CDC to replace previous CDC guidelines for immunization data transactions. This guide utilizes version 2.3.1 of the Health Level Seven (HL7) standard. The document is available on the web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/registry/hl7guide.pdf>.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

One of the national health objectives for 2010 is to increase to 95 percent the proportion of children under 6 years of age who participate in fully operational immunization registries. To reach this goal, future activities will focus on:

- Increasing the proportion of children and health care providers that participate in registries;
- Ensuring the privacy, confidentiality, and security of registry data;
- Identifying adequate resources and funding for building, implementing, and maintaining immunization registries;
- Ensuring the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of registry data.

For more information on this and other CDC programs, visit www.cdc.gov/programs.

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