



New Mexico Department of Health Immunization Program

Immunization Update

Summer 2005

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Need More Information?

Visit the New Mexico Department of Health Immunization Program Website at:
www.health.state.nm.us/immunize

Providers can get program updates, download schedules and forms, get links to CDC, view county coverage rates and more!

Information for the public is also available, including school schedules and issues of vaccine safety.

New Mexico Immunization Rates Jump to 15th in Nation!

Data released in July from C.D.C.'s National Immunization Survey showed that New Mexico's 4:3:1:3:3 series coverage rate for 19- to 35-month-olds has risen to 83.5%. This improvement in rates brings New Mexico's ranking up to 15th from 44th among all states since the last NIS survey! The DOH would like to recognize the special assistance it has received from the Governor's office and the First Lady, its partnerships with the New Mexico state and local immunization coalitions, and the hard work of all VFC providers, without which this dramatic increase would not have been possible.

VFC Provider Site Visit Results

Each year the Department of Health Immunization Program conducts site visits on VFC providers providing care to almost 90% of New Mexico's children. Though these visits are required by CDC for participation in the VFC program, physicians and other immunization providers often wonder what happens to the information they provide. Results of the VFC visits done in the past year are summarized here, so you as a provider can be better informed about how your practice fits into efforts to immunize New Mexico's children.

VFC visits include an evaluation of each practice's immunization coverage levels, and their vaccine handling and delivery procedures. The compiled results of these visits can tell us how different interventions such as the Done by One schedule and Shots on Time project affect coverage levels.

This past year we also asked providers to rank their satisfaction with the VFC program. The average satisfaction ranking for VFC was **9.1** on a scale of 1 to 10. Twenty percent of practices surveyed said their satisfaction with the program had increased over the past year, 77% said it had stayed the same, and 3% said it had decreased. The availability of free vaccines and the timely delivery of vaccines were cited most as the best things about the program; vaccine shortages and paperwork involved were most often cited as the worst.

The VFC visit is a chance for providers to get their questions answered, and to learn about training opportunities and other VFC resources. This year all VFC providers will receive an information packet including the new **Vaccine Storage and Handling Guide** and **digital thermometers**.

High-Achieving New Mexico VFC Providers

Thirty-five VFC providers received awards in 2005 for coverage above 90% or for the greatest improvement in their district:

Albuquerque Indian Health Service
 Bebe Care, Abq
 First Choice Comm. Hlth. Care, Abq
 Presb. Northside Pediatrics, Abq
 Parveen Pediatric Care, Abq
 Pediatric Associates, Abq
 Presb. Rio Rancho Pediatrics
 Sandia Indian Health Service Clinic
 UNM Family Health Westside, Abq*
 Upplegger & Thomas MDs, Abq
 Young Children's Health Center, Abq
 Tohatchi Health Center*
 Zuni Indian Health Service Hospital
 Pinon Family Practice, Farmington
 Northern Navajo Med. Ctr., Shiprock
 Santa Ana Indian Health Service
 Santo Domingo Health Clinic
 Los Alamos Children's Clinic*
 Hlth Centers North. NM, Espanola
 La Familia Southside, Santa Fe
 Ben Archer Health Center, Hatch
 First Step Pediatrics, Las Cruces
 CASA Alegre Pediatrics, Las Cruces
 Roberto Talamantes MD, Las Cruces
 The Family Clinic, Silver City
 Gila Pediatrics, Silver City
 Alamogordo Pediatric Associates
 Allen Paul MD, Alamogordo
 Socorro Medical Associates*
 BCA Medical Associates, Roswell
 Warren McKelvy MD, Roswell
 Carlsbad Public Health Office*
 Pediatric Health Services, Carlsbad
 While Mountain Medical, Ruidoso
 La Casa de Buena Salud, Portales

*Most improved provider in each Public Health District.

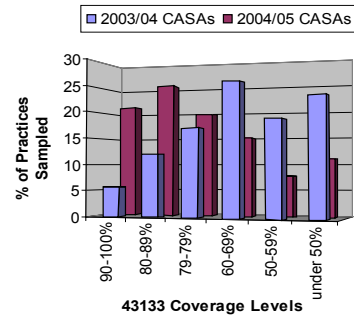
New Mexico's CASA Coverage Rates

New Mexico's overall coverage rate* for 2004/05 based on CASA surveys is 81%, up from 66% in 2003/04. This state rate is based on the combined rates of 193 practices, which have been weighted to account for practice size. Mean rates for single antigens are:

DTaP4: 81%
 Polio3: 90%
 MMR1: 86%
 Hib3: 92%
 HepB3: 90%
 Varicella: 78%

The 4th dose of DTaP rose by 14%, and showed the greatest increase over 2003/04 rates. Still, DTaP4 rates are the lowest and continue to drag down 4:3:1:3:3 rates for many providers.

Coverage Rates*: A Profile



A profile of coverage rates for practices sampled over the past year compared with those sampled the year before shows an increase in the proportion of practices with coverage levels above 70%.

Coverage rates for individual practices varied from 25% to 100%.

*Overall coverage rates reported here are based on the percentage of 2-year-olds who have received 4 doses of DTaP, 3 doses of polio, 1 dose of MMR, 3 doses of Hib, and 3 doses of HepB by 24 months of age. This is different from the NIS which measures these combined doses (the '4:3:1:3:3' rate) for children 19-35 months old.

How the Winners Did It!

2005 VFC award winners were asked to describe what they have done to reach or sustain high coverage levels. Though the question was open-ended, most responses fell into readily identifiable categories of interventions.

Over 80% of winning providers cited at least one strategy to **limit missed opportunities**. These included:

- screening a child's immunization record at every visit, sick or well.
- reviewing charts the day before visits to flag those needing shots.
- routine standing orders for immunizations.
- vaccinating children with a mild illness or those who come as walk-ins.

A majority of winning practices emphasized the importance of **reminder/recall** systems, or of a **collaborative team approach to immunization** involving multiple staff members or institutional partners.

Other strategies cited by several practices included **effective chart management** including an easily accessible consolidated chart record, and use of **computerized information systems** for immunizations.

The Shots on Time Project

As part of the Governor and First Lady's special commitment to improving immunization rates, funds were made available beginning in 2004 to fund specially trained immunization nurses for hands-on assistance to VFC providers. Thirty medical providers in New Mexico have received shot nurse assistance so far.

Results of the project are promising. Early analysis of the project indicates that coverage rates among practices where shot nurses have worked have risen more on average than other practices in the state.

Providers interested in participating in Shots on Time can contact Anne Lutz at 505-827-0219.



First Lady Barbara Richardson with Shots on Time nurses and staff at the July 26, 2005 press conference at Young Children's Health Center in Albuquerque announcing New Mexico's improved immunization rates. From left are CDC Advisor Anne Lutz, First Lady Barbara Richardson, and nurses Marianne Panzini, Jacque Boothe, Rosie Clifford, Getty Johnston (Immunization Coordinator for Districts 1 & 3), Carla Floyd, Laura Grubb, and Sidney Kistin (Vecinos y Vacunas Project).

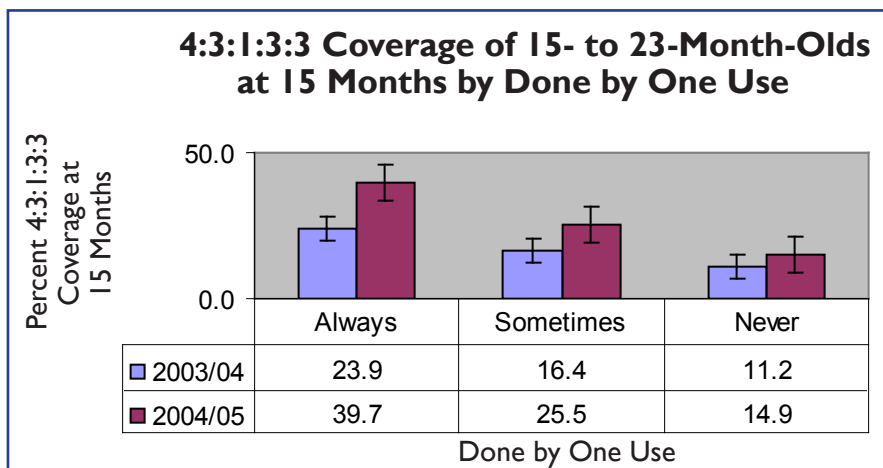
New Mexico's Done by One Schedule: Protecting Children Earlier

The 'Done by One' schedule was introduced in 2003 by the Clinical Prevention Initiative Childhood Immunizations Workgroup. 'Done by One' is an aggressive schedule that allows providers to complete a child's primary immunization series by about 13 months of age.

To evaluate its impact, the DOH Immunization Program compared coverage rates among practices who identified themselves as 'Always', 'Sometimes', or 'Never'

using 'Done by One'. The graph below compares rates of 4:3:1:3:3 at 15 months of age for 15- to 23-month-olds during 2003-04 and 2004-05. These data show significant increases in immunization coverage at 15 months among practices that say they 'Always' use the DBO schedule.

Follow-up of these practices will help us to determine if these early increases in coverage are predictive of sustained increases in coverage over time.

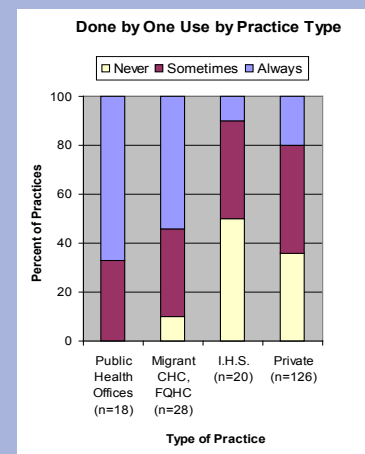


Done by One data shown above are for 96 practices in 2003/04 and 124 practices in 2004/05. Practices were excluded from analysis if they had a sample size <10. Confidence intervals indicate that coverage increases for the 'Always' category are statistically significant, while those for the 'Sometimes' and 'Never' groups are not.

Done by One: Who is Using It?

Seventy percent of VFC providers surveyed between September 2004 to May 2005 say they use the DBO schedule at least part of the time.

Use of DBO varies widely by practice type: 100% of public health offices always or sometimes use DBO, while only 64% of private practices do.



**For more information,
contact the New Mexico
Immunization Program:**

State Program Office

Program Manager

Steve Nickell 827-2463

CDC Public Health Advisor

Anne Lutz 827-0219

VFC Manager

Carly Christian 827-2898

CASA/QI Coordinator

Cynthia Rawn 827-0196

Regional Offices

Regions 1 and 3

Immunization Coordinator

Getty Johnston 873-7438

Disease Prevention Specialist

Denise Ortiz 873-7493

Region 2

To be named 476-2628

Region 4

Immunization Nurses

Suzanne Cox 347-2409

Helen Hall 397-2463

Region 5

Immunization Coordinator

Debby Hanus 528-5104

Immunization Nurse

Millie Aproda 258-3252

Coming up.....

NMSIIS Information

The New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) will be introduced into provider offices beginning in late 2005/early 2006. Information about NMSIIS is now available online at:

www.health.state.nm.us/immunize/nmsiis.html



Please review this site and take the time to fill out the Online Provider Survey. The survey can be directly opened and completed by typing the following address in your Web browser (You must have the free Adobe Reader 7.0 installed [www.adobe.com] to open and complete the survey):

www.health.state.nm.us/immunize/Forms/NMSIISsurvey.pdf

By filling out and submitting this survey, you will assist the NMSIIS team in preparing to bring your practice onto the system.

New Vaccines

Menactra, the meningococcal conjugate vaccine, is now available from the VFC program. This vaccine should be targeted to 11- to 12-year-olds at their pre-adolescent visit, 15-year-olds entering high school, and college freshmen living in dormitories. Soon to be added to VFC are the pertussis booster vaccines, Adacel and Boostrix, which will replace the Td booster. To view or download NM DOH protocols for these and other VFC vaccines, go to:

www.health.state.nm.us/immunize/provider.html



Immunization Program
1190 St. Francis Drive
Harold Runnels Building
Santa Fe, N.M. 87505